

## **Minutes of Bures Joint Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Bures Community Centre at 7.30pm**

**Present:** BHPC: Cllrs J Chambers, J Child, M Elder, S Keeble-Fox, S Manning, R Shackell, M Welch  
BSMPC: Cllrs J Aries, T Fairbairn, G Jackson, S Jones, J McCrory  
Cllr D Holland (Braintree DC, Cllr I Reece (Babergh DC), Cllr J Finch (Suffolk CC), R Hamilton (Chair of Bures NHP Steering Group), Louise Mason (Daniel Baird Foundation), Jonathan Peake (DBF Volunteer), Sgt O Williams (Suffolk Police, PC B McKenna (Suffolk Police, M Smith (Suffolk NHW)  
plus 23 members of the public

**Also in attendance:** Mrs J Wright (Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council),  
Mrs G Turner (Clerk to Bures St Mary Parish Council)

**In the Chair:** Cllr Jan Aries (Bures St Mary Parish Council Chairman)  
Cllr Richard Shackell (Bures Hamlet Parish Council Chairman)

### **Welcome**

Cllr Aries welcomed everyone to the Joint Annual Parish Meeting of Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary. Community groups had been invited to showcase their efforts via information stands around the main hall - Bures in Bloom, Station Adopters, SpeedWatch, Transition Group, Open Gardens, Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Rights of Way, St Mary's Church, the Baptist Church and a Volunteering table on behalf of the parish councils. Refreshments served prior to the start of the main meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr P Schwier (ECC) and K Money (Mt Bures Clerk).

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Joint Annual Parish Meeting of Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were confirmed and signed (previously circulated).

### **Suffolk Police Report:**

Sgt Olly Williams gave a short presentation on behalf of his Community Policing Team covering Rural Sudbury North. Beat Officers have been introduced since December 2023 bringing a greater interaction with the public and schools in the area. Particular to Bures he introduced his colleague PC Brendan McKenna who covers the area on a daily basis. Sgt Williams advised residents to report all incidents however minor, either online or via 101. He stressed that Bures, statistically remained a safe area to live however the team will continue to support as and when ASB incidents arise. Sgt Williams introduced the Suffolk NHW Local Officer, Mark Smith and stressed the need for a volunteer to cover Bures St Mary. The public in attendance thanked the Officers with a round of applause.

### **Bures Hamlet Parish Council Annual Report 2024/25**

After many years of as a member of BHPC Ken McAndrew has stepped down. The council wishes to extend thanks for his dedicated service and in particular wishes to recognise his recent participation and valued input during the development of the Bures Neighbourhood plan. This year council welcomed two new councillors, Maggie Elder and John Child. John is a relatively new resident to the village and very recent recruit to the council. Both parish councils also wish to extend thanks to all residents who throughout the year have kindly volunteered to help with various projects such as general tidying up, bench and infrastructure upkeep and renovation, planting and weeding, etc.

Money is always a constraint, so volunteering is key to keeping our village beautiful. If you can spare any time, please sign our volunteer register expressing your intent.

### **Station Hill Gardens**

This year saw the fruition of the Station Hill Garden renewal project. The parish council wishes to extend its special thanks to our Parish Clerk, Jenny Wright who initiated and led the scheme and to Ruth and Colin Lorking who chose the plants, planted and maintain the garden.

### **Water Lane Flood Management**

The ongoing issue of flooding in and around Water Lane continues to be monitored by the Essex County Council Watercourse Regulator. As many will have seen throughout the year there have been extensive works undertaken to repair/ upgrade the drainage system in and around Water Lane and the Station Hill Road junction. The regulator is also looking at mitigations to reduce the water at its source which is thought to be up Parsonage Hill, Lamarsh Hill and Ferriers Lane. These investigations are ongoing.

### **Speed Management**

Speeding remains an issue with many residents. During the year the council commissioned a weeklong speed survey on Colchester Road, a key area of concern. The results demonstrated that most vehicles were compliant with the prescribed speed limit and the few, less than 5%, that weren't were still below national speed tolerance limits. Resultant is that Essex Highways have stated that no further mitigations are required. Mindful of Essex Highways action the Parish Council are still looking to progress an application for a pedestrian crossing at the millennium gate. We require as much data to support any application so are looking to collect signatures of support from residents.

### **Parking**

The parish council is continually looking at ways to alleviate parking issues particularly during village events such as the monthly market. The first market this year saw the introduction of signage directing the usage of the station car park and a subsequent refund of the parking fee. Uptake demonstrated this as being successful with a marked reduction in on street parking. Station Hill/ Water Lane parking issues created through a reluctance to use the station car park during weekdays is currently being discussed with North Essex Parking Partnership with the consideration of introducing single yellow timed parking controls. Occasionally we can be victims of our own success. The recent and gratefully appreciated resurfacing of Bridge Street resulted in the renewal of old faded parking lines. This appears to have had the negative effect of people seeking alternative places for on street parking.

### **Planning**

The parish council continues to monitor and respond to all planning applications. We have no jurisdiction in the planning process but can and do provide consultee comments. We also lobby the Braintree District Council (BDC) planning department in all cases where it is considered there has been an infringement or contravention of planning rules. We also note the valued support we receive from our local district councillor, David Holland. There are currently two instances where planning rules have been broken both of which have been notified to the BDC planning enforcement team who are currently taking the appropriate action. Again, Councillor Holland is assisting in the pursuance of our applications.

### **Sports Ground**

Life expired and damaged fencing in the car park has been replaced. A village-based contractor was awarded the contract. Due to cost and logistical constraints EV charging points at the car park will not be pursued. Pothole patching has been completed, and it is hoped to increase the life of the current car park surface by an estimated 10 years.

New “In and Out” signage has been installed. Some pieces of life expired play equipment have been repaired/ upgraded. Throughout the year consideration has been given to extending the current skateboard ramps to create two 1/4 pipes and a new fun box with grind rail situated centrally between the ramps. A design has been proposed and options for funding are currently being pursued. The sports ground committee continue to work with the football club to alleviate parking problems on a Saturday. The committee wishes to note and acknowledge how proactive the club has been in trying to resolve the issue.

### **Bures St Mary Parish Council Annual Report 2024/25**

This report refers largely to the Bures Joint Parish Action Plan for the past year which is drawn up by the two Parish Councils. Reviewed annually, it sets out our short- and medium-term aspirations for the village. The BSM Parish Council meets every two months on a Thursday evening here in the Community Centre in the Garrad Room. Members of the public are always welcome; the agenda is usually very busy and some perennial issues seem like permanent items and can, at times, be a challenge to resolve.

#### **Highways**

Highway matters have kept both the Clerk and the Council well occupied over the past year. Prolonged water leaks, road closures and persistent potholes understandably try everyone's patience but the Parish Council determinedly pursues some of these matters, working closely with our County Councillor, James Finch. The B1508 between Cornard and Bures has been included in the SCC rotation use of an ANPR to monitor motorists' speeds. Unfortunately, there was a significant setback to this initiative when all three units along the B1508 were vandalised and dumped. As stated in the Joint Parish Plan, a councillor now attends the Suffolk Enhanced Partnership which meets periodically to discuss all matters relating to public bus services across the area. If any resident has an issue regarding the bus services, please share these concerns with the Parish Council so that they may be addressed at the next SEP meeting.

#### **Community SpeedWatch**

SpeedWatch can only take place with the continued support of a brilliant but very small team of volunteers. In order to continue monitoring the speed of traffic at the Millennium Crossing and by Holly Barn on the Sudbury Road, more helpers are very much needed. The site at the Holly Barn has been stood down for the time being due to the lack of volunteers. Regrettably, Sudbury Town Council has also decided to discontinue managing the Speed Indicator Devices for all outlying villages. The STC team provided a much-valued service, at a cost obviously to the Parish Council, but we are plan to resume the coverage on the Sudbury Road, Nayland Road and Cuckoo Hill on a volunteering basis. This is obviously not without some risk on the B1508 site in particular. The SID does not influence serial speeders but acts as a very helpful prompt for generally compliant drivers who have just not noticed that they need to adjust their speed. We have endeavoured to raise the public concern with Suffolk County Council Highways about the increase in HGVs driving through the village. Video evidence has been passed onto the department but recent surveys have shown that the majority of HGVs (5 to 1) are in fact using the A134. The Parish Councils have recently joined a working party with nearby parishes, Wormingford, Fordham and beyond, to monitor the impact of HGVs on the community and the fabric of the highways. We have also agreed to collaborate with Little Cornard on a similar exercise to monitor especially the anticipated HGV traffic involved in the National Grid Reinforcement Project.

## **Community**

Parish Councillors now regularly attend the Bures Market each month to engage with residents in a more accessible way, to make themselves known and to listen to concerns and suggestions. We are very happy to take issues raised to the bi-monthly meetings as before. When available, the police officer assigned to Bures St Mary, PC Brendan McKenna, tries to also attend the monthly markets which provides a great opportunity to address any current issues in the village. Both Parish Councils will continue to work closely with their respective Constabularies, especially over the busy summer period when the village attracts more visitors. As well as our own Jenny Wright for Bures Hamlet, we also link closely with Mark Smith, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for Little Cornard, to keep up to date with any ongoing incidents or problems. Mark is always on the lookout for volunteers to join him in expanding this valuable network across our communities to keep us all safe and secure. At the APM last year, it was asked if the Parish Councils had any plans to install staunch kits in the village. A few months later, Bures Hamlet received an offer from County Councillor Schwier of three bleed kits donated by the charity known as the Daniel Baird Foundation. We are delighted this evening to welcome Louise Mason who will explain later the background to this generous offer. It has been decided to create a first aid station here on the Sportsground by installing one of the donated bleed kits next to the defibrillator on the Football Club building. The second kit will be installed inside the telephone kiosk housing the defibrillator next to the Post Office. The location for the third kit is still to be decided. The Parish Councils are very grateful to County Councillor Schwier and County Councillor Finch for both kindly agreeing to fund the cabinets in which to house the kits. The bleed kits are an important addition to the existing emergency provision in the village.

## **Environment**

The Parish Councils continue to support wildflower schemes and tree planting around the village wherever the opportunity presents itself. This can involve a difficult balance between safety, convenience and what looks aesthetically pleasing whilst being environmentally sensitive. We are very grateful to Andrew Ward of the Environment Agency who has supplied wild flower seed for distribution at key locations around the village. The Parish Council is consulted on any work involving trees in the village. There are a number of trees protected by a Tree Protection Order. We are grateful to Ken Jackson, our Tree Warden, for his advice concerning such matters. Sadly, the diagnosis of an incurable fungus attacking the Copper Beech tree by the Three Horseshoes P.H. meant that it was necessary to reduce the canopy of this very special tree in the interest of public safety and to remove any risk to adjacent properties. Over the coming months, the Parish Council will be consulting with Babergh District Council on granting other trees in the village, the protection of a TPO. Many trees, currently unprotected, have been identified as important in the Neighbourhood Plan and these would benefit in the future of being given this extra protection. For those on foot, Councillors monitor and try to keep our PRowS accessible with the help of our team of contractors. We are especially grateful to our team of contractors who all work very hard to keep both sides of the village looking well-tended and cared for. Access to our lovely surrounding countryside is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. We are grateful to local landowners for maintaining the permissive paths which make an important contribution to the existing network. The affairs of the Joint Cemetery Authority, under Jenny Wright's careful eye, are overseen by representatives from the two Parish Councils. The Cemetery also provides a pleasant place to walk, much appreciated by many. Our contractors continue to care for the grounds on a rolling maintenance programme spread over the year.

The wildflower area is becoming established in the grounds and, over time, should produce a carpet of colour for pollinators. Despite our best efforts to protect them, the standpipes seem particularly vulnerable in the cold weather, so it has reluctantly been agreed to shut off the water supply in future over the winter months. We hope that this will not cause undue inconvenience. The Joint Sportsground Committee has been in conversation with the County Electric Vehicle Plug-In Team to explore the possibility of installing charge points in the Community Centre car park. This was decided to be impractical but we have been assured that Babergh District Council is currently investigating the possibility of installing EV charging units in or around the Tawneys Ride / Claypits area and we look forward to news on the progress of this initiative.

### **Projects**

The bus shelter on Bridge Street has been missed by many since its removal last May due to rot attacking its fixing timbers. The Suffolk Enhanced Partnership, which supports the improvement of all local bus services operating in the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Local Transport Authority, has agreed in principle to help with the replacement costs for a new structure with some new capital funding soon to become available specifically to improve infrastructure. We will also be submitting another bid in the forthcoming round of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from Babergh District Council. Unfortunately, the delay of yet another year means inevitably that costs will very likely have increased in excess of last year's quotation of just over £16,000. The Parish Councils would like to thank District Councillor Reece on behalf of the Bures Cricket Club for her contribution to another important community project. Isabelle has kindly donated £1000 from her Locality Budget to the Pavillion Rethatch Project.

### **Planning**

The proposal for the development of the former Chambers Bus Yard was submitted in March 2024. The developers have been addressing the planning conditions over the last year and it is anticipated that the Full Planning application will be considered by the Planning Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> April. This date has to be confirmed but indicates that the village may begin to see real activity on the site in the coming months.

### **Conclusion**

Georgie Turner officially took up the position as Clerk to the Joint Sportsground Committee in September 2023. She then took on the mantle of Parish Clerk in January 2024. She has worked tirelessly in guiding and supporting the Bures St Mary Parish Councillors in their work for our community, often going above and beyond the role of a Parish Clerk. We are very sorry to see her leave the position at the end of this month and wish her every success in her future endeavours. We will be welcoming Mr Keith Money from 1<sup>st</sup> April and hope that he settles into his new role with us. He is also Parish Clerk for Mount Bures and Little Cornard so it is hoped that this will lead to even more inter-parish collaboration in the months ahead. Both Richard and I would like to thank our respective team of councillors and our two Clerks for their commitment to the community over the past year, and, as always, for their contribution, patience and good humour. We are also very appreciative of the advice, guidance and support given by our County Councillor, James Finch, and Isabelle Reece, the District Councillor. We are confident that they will continue to ensure that the voice of the local community is heard in the months of change to come.

## Bures Hamlet Parish Council Financial Reports

Balance as at 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 13,441.64

Includes

Retention Fund 5,000.00

NHP final balance 0.00

**Parish precept to Braintree District Council for financial year 2024/25: £32,817.00**

Remains the same as previous financial year.

**Parish Element of Band D Tax Rate (2024/25: £98.21) 2025/26: £98.04**

### Allocation of Parish Budget:

	2024/25	2025/26
Cemetery Authority	£5,500	£5,500
Sportsground	£8,000	£8,000
Clerk's salary	£7,800	£8,650
Lighting	£500	£500
Insurance	£660	£600
Training	£500	£500
Hall hire	£175	£200
Auditors	£450	£550
Administration	£1,000	£1,250
Subscriptions	£500	£500
Elections	£1,000	£1,000
Donations/parish items	£500	£500
Repairs	£500	£500
Projects	£1,500	£2,000
Grounds Maintenance	£5,000	£6,000
Gritting/flooding	£500	£500
Jubilee Grove maintenance	£1,000	£1,000

The parish council receives a BDC Street Cleansing grant £881.70, an Eastlight Community Housing grant £690.26 and ECC Rights of Way grant £435.73. These grants are to offset ground maintenance costs met by the parish council. The Christmas Lights fund is held in Bures St Mary Parish Council accounts and currently stands at £840.06 when VAT claim received. Administration figure includes changeover of HMRC finances from Clerk to Out sourced plus use of Dropbox for security of files. £2,000 has been earmarked in 2025/26 for future lighting improvements at Parsonage Hill. The Bures NHP fund is held in the Bures Hamlet Parish Council accounts. A preliminary grant of £3,942 was received during 2021/22. A further grant of £3,695 received in July 2022. A third and final grant of £10,000 received in 2023/24. All monies have now been spent. £5,000 grant from the BDC Community Garden Fund received to cover further improvements to the Station Hill Garden project. All monies have been spent with a grant end date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Thank you for the donations received from residents to sponsor the upkeep of the garden for the coming year.

## Bures St Mary Parish Council Financial Report

**Balances as at 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025** **16,718.47**

**Includes**

<b>Christmas Lights Fund</b>	<b>840.06</b>
<b>Jubilee Fund reserved</b>	<b>410.00</b>
<b>Elections Fund</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Bus Shelter Fund</b>	<b>385.00</b>
<b>CIL Fund balance</b>	<b>3,428.60</b>

**Parish precept to Babergh District Council for financial year 2025/26 : £32,500**

An increase of £65.00 on the previous financial year.

**Parish Element of Band D Tax Rate: £79.98 for 2025/26 (£80.77 for 2024/25)**

### **Allocation of Parish Budget:**

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Cemetery Authority	£5,500	£5,500
Bures Community Centre	£0.00	£0.00
Sportsground	£8,000	£7,500
Clerk's salary	£7,909	£9,250
Lighting	£500	£600
Lighting Loan	Nil	Nil
Insurance	£750	£800
Training	£300	£250
Hall hire	£160	£180
Auditors	£450	£410
Administration	£600	£600
Subscriptions	£500	£500
Elections	£1,000	£0
Grounds Maintenance	£7,000	£8,000
Gritting	£250	£200
Donations/parish items	£500	£250
Repairs	£200	£150
Speed Indicator (SID)	£500	£0

The parish council receives a Street Cleansing Grant from Babergh District Council (£1,783.64 to offset costs paid for the Parish Street Cleansing Contractor.). The parish council have not received any additional CIL funding this year. Current CIL Funds allocated to the Bridge Street bus shelter. The Christmas Lights Fund currently stands at £840.06 which is administered by Bures St Mary Parish Council. The Bures NHP fund currently stands at nil. This is administered by Bures Hamlet Parish Council. A £385 donation from Bures Common Land Trust from their events has been received to go towards the bus shelter, Bridge Street.

## **James Finch Suffolk County Councillor**

### **Annual Report Summary 2025 – 10 Key Activities for the year**

**New Independent Chair appointed to drive forward SEND reform** – April 23 Suffolk County Council can announce that Kathryn Boulton has been appointed as the new independent chair of the Local Area Partnership's SEND Improvement Board. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision is delivered by the Local Area Partnership in Suffolk, which includes Suffolk County Council, NHS Suffolk and North-East Essex Integrated Care Board and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board. The SEND Improvement Board was set up in response to the inspection of SEND services in Suffolk in November 2023. Councillors approved an extra £9.1 million for SEND services in July 2024. In January 25 - Department for Education welcomes SEND improvements and evidence of impact, but all recognises there are still challenges to overcome.

**Over 400 Suffolk roads set for upgrade as largest ever surfacing project gets underway** – May 2024 Residents across Suffolk are set to benefit from 421 newly surfaced roads this year (1 April – 31 March)- almost doubling the number of roads completed last year, as Suffolk Highways' largest ever resurfacing programmes got underway. This will be completed in early April 25.

**East of England local authorities collaborate to appeal for more Foster Families** - June 7000 in care - 150 new per month. Eleven local authorities across the East of England have joined forces in a bid to collectively recruit more foster carers to look after some of the region's most vulnerable children. Suffolk is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month. The ~~is~~ has led to having access to powerful new films promoting the importance of local fostering. – on the Suffolk website. Visit [fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](https://fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk) ➤ Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together. Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of Full Council on 11th July. The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the numbers of young people offending, supporting the council's ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe. Each year the Suffolk Youth Justice Management Board produces a Youth Justice Plan for Suffolk.

**Council's shock at £600m Sunnica solar farm go-ahead in West Suffolk** – August 2024 – post election Suffolk County Council has expressed its extreme disappointment that a huge solar farm has been approved in West Suffolk. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband MP, has announced that approval had been granted for the Development Consent Order, as proposed by Sunnica Ltd. The project will see 2,792 acres of solar panels and battery storage, installed across parts of West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. – Surrounding 3 villages. Suffolk residents will be able to access electric vehicles on a short-term basis, from next summer September announcement. A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the tender process beginning this autumn. Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge. Members of the public interested in this project are urged to sign up to the mailing list to receive updates as the project progresses – search: Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs - Mailing List.



**Solar Together launches in Suffolk** – September 2024 - Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers. Over 3000 residents had signed up by October 24 Richard from Bures, near Sudbury, recently shared his experience with Solar Together Suffolk and said: "Excellent! Solar Together Suffolk took all the hassle of finding a provider, and the group-buying secured me a better discount than trying to do this on my own. It was a no-brainer."

**Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to 'step up'** - October 24 – 12 months on from Storm Babet. SCC set to agree £1.5 million to deliver first phase of works identified in initial flood investigation reports. Authority calls on Government to recognise ongoing impact of Storm Babet and fund £20 million of further prevention work urgently needed. Extensive work already completed since Storm Babet including more than 111,000 drains cleared and significant road repairs.

**Suffolk County Council to consider Devolution and Local Council Reorganisation** - Suffolk County Council held an extraordinary meeting of councillors, and a meeting of its Cabinet, to debate and decide on whether or not to put Suffolk forward for the government's new devolution and reorganisation programme. The government has required that formal notice be given if Suffolk wishes to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme by 10 January 2025. Therefore, the meetings, saw all 75 Councillors debate and vote on a proposal to recommend Suffolk is at the front of the queue. Following the Full Council meeting, the Cabinet made the final decision.

**Council's budget prioritises vulnerable residents and essential services**

Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposed budget for 2025/26, with a strong focus on supporting vulnerable residents across the county. Under the proposals, the council's net budget would rise by 6.7%, from £752.9 million in 2024/25 to £803.7 million in 2025/26. Key allocations include: ⌚ £18.1 million extra for children's services, ensuring continued support for young people and families in need. ⌚ £35.2 million extra for adult care, aimed at addressing the growing demand for social care services. To help fund these essential services, the council is proposing a 4.99% rise in Council Tax. This would consist of a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and an additional 2% specifically for adult care services.

Cllr Finch noted that the pending Bridge Street bridge repairs has been delayed to the summer of 2026 and more information will be given out in due course.

In conclusion he thanked all the Parish Council members and parishioners for their support to him during the year.

**Guest Speaker: Louise Mason, Daniel Baird Foundation**

Louise and her colleague Jonathan (a First Responder) gave a brief outline on the Daniel Baird Foundation. Knife crime has surged and Louise noted that even a DIY accident may require the urgent need of a bleed kit to be used. She stressed how easy it is now for youngsters to obtain a weapon but was keen to get the message across that it is not good to carry a knife. A Bleed Kit demonstration will be held by Louise in the School Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm All residents welcome to attend.

### **Guest Speaker: Robin Hamilton, Chair of Bures Joint NHP Steering Group**

Robin gave a short presentation on the progress of the Bures Joint Neighbourhood Plan. A display stand in the hall for this evening's event is available for residents to view the progression of the plan. Following the defeat of Gladman's approach to develop a large area of land in the village a Steering Group including parish council members and volunteers rallied together to create a NHP for Bures which gives some legal weight in future planning decisions.

The draft plan has been sanctioned by both parish councils and can be found on the Bures NHP website. Policies and Design Codes are included in the draft which accepts the need for some housing and in particular affordable housing. The draft plan has now been forwarded to the two district councils for approval and a public referendum will follow in approximately 6 months' time. Robin thanked all volunteers for their hard work in getting the draft plan through the long process.

### **Public Questions/Comments**

1) An increase in building creates more flooding issues especially at Parsonage Hill.

It is also extremely dangerous for a pedestrian to cross from the hill into Station Hill.

Response – this has been noted and both issues are currently being followed up.

2) Could a traffic survey be undertaken by Highways along the Sudbury Road?

Response – this has been noted and will be followed up.

3) Could a third bleed kit be placed at the station?

Response - Clerk is currently following this up with Greater Anglia.

4) Will the new bus shelter be as aesthetically pleasing as the old one?

Response – the parish council is keen to have like for like but this will require financial support from the District Council.

5) Could the village have defibrillator training?

Response – there has been training before but Cllr McCrory is happy to run a further session.

6) How long will the NHP last for?

Response – Until 2037.

7) What weight will it give against planning applications?

Response – this is debatable; however, Bures would be much more vulnerable to developers without a NHP.

8) Could the poor state of Ferriers Lane with running water across bottom section, dogs mess and overgrown hedges be looked at?

Response – the EA has investigated for contamination in the stream however the parish council will follow up these raised matters with the landowner.

9) Ken Jackson noted that the Bures Transition Group AGM is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm at the Community Centre. All welcome to attend.

Both Chairmen proceeded to thank all those present for attending the meeting.

A thanks from the public was expressed to the Parish Councils and Clerks.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm