
**Minutes of the Meeting of Bures Sportsground Committee
held on 8th September 2025 at Bures Community Centre**

Present: Cllrs Jackson, Jones, Giles, Keeble-Fox, Shackell, Welch. Chris Crace, Bures Cricket Club and Glen Taylor, Bures Football Club

1.09.25 Apologies for absence Philip Gough

2.09.25 Register of Interests and Dispensation Requests none received

3.09.25 Public Forum no issues raised

4.09.25 Minutes of the meeting of 7th July 2025 confirmed and signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

5.09.25 Matters arising which do not appear elsewhere on the agenda

a. Copper Beech from Perrywoods Nursery – concern was expressed as the tree looks in a poor state due to the drought.

6.09.25 Police and Anti-social behaviour

a. PSPO and dog fouling offence Update – no update from Rachael Young, Community Safety Manager for Babergh

b. Eyes Artwork Project – no update from PC McKenna and PC Ramdhanie. Note: email received from PC McKenna explaining that the Eyes Artwork project did not proceed.

c. CCTV The engineer from I-HT came out as agreed at the last meeting. The cost was £114.00. A lead was changed and all except the cameras on the Football Clubhouse and Cricket pavilion then worked. It was concluded that the power to those cameras had been switched off. The clubs were contacted and asked to put the power on.

d. Any incidents to report - no incidents of ASB were reported between July and the date of the meeting. However, there were several occasions when there were large groups of youngsters by the landing stage and barbecue and, on one occasion, the lifebelts were removed from their housings.

7.09.25 Projects

a. **Skateboard project** - work had begun before the last meeting but progress was then delayed by Bures Music Festival as the fencing prevented access to the site. There was concern over the curing of the concrete in the extreme heat but no problem was reported. A further delay was caused when the fun box and grind rail section was returned by the galvanisers and found to be distorted. The work was completed on 12th August and a meeting between Peter Sander, Bryan Longman, Gill Jackson, Sue Jones and Mike Welsh took place on 18th. Snagging issues were identified. The Playquip teams came out on the 20th and tidied the site. Peter explained that the specialist paint would need reapplying at least twice to ensure that it adheres. This will be carried out without extra charge.

Cllr Jackson submitted an illustrated report to Entrust together with details of the process and feedback on working with the grant awarding body. Entrust released the second allocation of the grant on 3rd September and the final payment was made to Playquip.

The cost of the project came in below expectations meaning funds were available to provide a sign and a bin. Darral Derrick of Atlas Print designed a sign. An Enovert sign from the grant awarding body will also be displayed.

Bin It was agreed that a Glasdon Topsy 'Please give me your litter' bin at £218 in red be purchased.

b. **Youth Shelter** – discussion took place regarding the re-installation of the shelter. There is insufficient space beyond the new skateboard area. Possibilities are where the Morphus currently stands or near the children's play area. Members were asked to consider options for a decision to be made at the November meeting.

c. **Morphus climbing wall** – Peter Sander looked at the wall when at site for the Skateboard Area meeting. He suggested removing the fibreglass and replacing with HDPE with climbing holds attached. A quote for this work is not possible unless some of the fibreglass is removed to allow assessment of the frame. Playquip could also supply and fix two steel table tennis tables to replace the Morphus at a cost of £2,188.00 each. One table tennis table could be sited on the concrete pad previously used for the cricket nets.

The demand for the climbing wall needs to be assessed before a decision is made regarding proceeding with HDPE sheets.

Cllr Jackson to speak to Angela Haymond at Enover about grant possibilities.

Enover publicity officer has asked for further information in order to prepare a press release.

Cllr Giles offered to obtain views from young people.

8.09.25 Car Park

a. Painting of the yellow hatched box and lines – this work was completed by Kevin Baxter using the thermoplastic strips. The Community Centre requested that the hatching be extended towards the gate with lines beyond. The total cost was divided between the Community Centre and the Sportsground.

9.09.25 Football Club Matters

a. Glen Taylor explained that the pitches are in poor condition. The Summer drought and heavy use of the ground has exacerbated the problem. The FA surveyed the ground with a view to a six year management plan being implemented. This would include spiking, seeding and fertilizing as previously but with the addition of watering. Possibilities regarding the supply of water are being investigated. These include extraction of water from the river to manage the pitches, storage tanks for water, irrigating using a bowser or pump.

10.09.25 Cricket Club Matters

a. Re-thatching of roof - Chris Crace reported the fund raising for the thatching being close to completion at £30,000. The club had been advised by the thatcher to allow £2,000 extra in case the project goes over. The work is due to be carried out in March.

b. Vehicles driving from Wharf Lane to the pavilion – cricket club members have been reminded to drive slowly across the field. The possibility of players using the car park as the football club do was discussed.

11.09.25 Tennis Club Matters

a. Philip Gough sent thanks from the Tennis Club to Cllr Lee Norton and his colleague, Will, who have replaced the Ball-stop net.

12.09.25 Correspondence

a. Invasive climber - a letter was sent to the owner of Jonrosa but there had been no response.

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- b. Don Loveless Memorial bench – There was no response to the first letter and the bench deteriorated further and had to be removed. The memorial plaque was returned to the family.
 - c. New memorial benches – Following a piece in the Bures magazine offering places for memorial benches on the recreation ground there have been two responses. It is hoped that benches in memory of Basil and Pat Pilgrim and Les and Vic Sayer may be installed in due course.

13.09.25 Events / Bookings

- a. Bures Primary School Summer Fete 6th September - fine weather helped to make this a success. The field was left tidy.
- b. BMF 9th- 13th July 2025 – The event was very successful with no incidents being reported and the ground left clean and tidy afterwards.
- c. Coracle Event – 9th August 2025 – Catherine, Admin from RST, was happy with how the event went and with the link to the Bures market.
- d. Sudbury 2 Sea – 13th September 2025 – event planned to link with Bures market.

14.09.25 Finance

- a. Finance & Budget Monitoring Report – circulated
- b. To note bank reconciliation report and verifying bank statements – circulated and signed by Chairman and non-signatory member.
- c. Food vendor contracts – Brittens Bites and White Gold. The meeting agreed that both contracts should continue.

15.09.25 Audit Matters

- a. Internal Audit 2025-26 – BB Associates engagement letter
- b. Internal Audit 2025-26 – 6th October Cllrs Keeble-Fox and Welsh to attend.

16.09.25 Policies None to consider this meeting

17.09.25 Sports Ground Inspections and maintenance

- a. Councillor's report – Cllr Shackell reported the safety surfacing around the equipment in both play areas raising at the edges and further shrinkage from the battening. Nigel Norton to be asked to advise. There was no dog mess seen which was pleasing. However, it is likely that the responsible dog owners are picking up after those less so. The bag dispensers are not always filled. It was suggested that red bags from supermarket home deliveries could be used. The weeds in the Pike's Marsh Play Area continue to be an issue. Cllr Shackell noted the paint coming off the new Skateboard equipment – see item 7.09.25 a
- b. To report on items raised from previous inspections – ball stop net now fixed.
- c. Play Inspection Company Report – no items from this report being actioned.
- d. Items requiring maintenance - mesh in front of the Coronation shelter reported to Nigel
- e. Volunteer tasks - Cllr Keeble-Fox kindly cleaned the benches and retreated them. Cllr Jackson and Ken Jackson cleaned the Coronation shelter and Cllr Norton replaced the ball-stop net. Many thanks to all involved. There are one or two benches still to be treated and a cill to be replaced in the Coronation shelter.

18.09.25 To report on Contract works

- a. To report on works completed: grass cutting, grounds maintenance - weeds around the CC need attention. Nigel Norton to be advised.
- b. Operational Inspection reports – July report circulated. August report awaited.

19.09.25 Brief information & exchange for next agenda items

It was reported that a man had been practising golf near the riverbank. Golf is not permitted due to the danger from the balls. The golfer was advised of this.

Date of next meetings: 10th November 2025 to be held at Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm - Cllr Shackell gave his apologies
Future dates booked: 12th January 2026, 9th March 2026