

**Minutes of the Bures Sportsground Committee Meeting 13th July 2026
held in the Committee Room, Bures Community Centre**

Present: Cllrs Jackson (in the chair), Jones, Bures St Mary; Welch, Shackell, Bures Hamlet; Chris Crace, Mark Porter, Cricket Club; Philip Gough, Tennis Club, Rachel Everitt (Clerk)

1.7.26 Apologies for absence

Cllr Giles, work commitment; Glen Taylor. Apologies were accepted by the committee. It was noted that Cllr Keeble Fox had resigned. A thank you letter will be sent to Cllr Keeble-Fox for the valuable contribution she made to the committee.

2.7.26 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the year July 2026 - July 2027

Cllr Jones proposed and Cllr Shackell seconded that Cllr Jackson be Chair for the year. Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Shackell seconded that Cllr Welch be Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Both Cllrs accepted the proposals.

3.7.26 Register of Interests and Dispensation Requests

No 'Pecuniary' or 'Non-pecuniary' interests and Dispensation requests received.

4.7.26 Public Forum Nothing raised.

5.7.26 Minutes of the meeting of 9th March 2026 confirmed and signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

6.7.26 Matters arising which do not appear elsewhere on the agenda

- a. Youth shelter – The cricket club has no objections to where it currently sits.
- b. Memorial benches - The oak bench in memory of Basil and Pat Pilgrim was installed by the Millennium path on 15th May and the bench in memory of Les and Vic Sayer was installed on 28th May.

7.7.26 Police and Anti-social behaviour

- a. **Log of incidents** - Still awaiting a list of crime numbers.

Response from Sgt Williams 29th June

- a. PC 555 Amos-Brown and PC 1424 Shelley have visited the shop today and engaged with them regarding the thefts – these will be progressed from CCTV along with crime prevention advice issued. Crime has been recorded in regards to the Portaloo being pushed over and Essex have public order crimes to investigate along Colchester Road.
- b. Suffolk and Essex liaising around crimes committed on both sides of the border. CCTV stills have been gathered, and it appears these are mainly Colchester children from CCTV and Essex NPT are engaging for these persons to be dealt with. Likely coming in from Colchester train station.
- c. Essex and Suffolk looking at joint patrols with vast number of children who have caused the issues coming from Essex / Train station.
- d. PSPO to be discussed at next meeting with council.
- e. Environment agency to be spoken to as they may have bylaws to stop the jumping from the bridges which could decrease demand given this is a focal point for the area.
- f. During Bures Music Festival officers have been ring fenced for priority patrols outside of the perimeter.

- g. I have spoken to the rural crime Sgt as Dedham have similar issues albeit on a bigger scale, I will touch base with him to see if there is anything else we can look at.

Meeting with PC Amos-Brown and PC Shelley and Vicki Sergeant and Ricahrd Godfrey Babergh ASB Officers 2nd July.

Portaloo - has been removed having been upended on two occasions and awaiting its possible reinstatement if anchorage is possible

PC Amos-Brown: to supply posters with the 'eyes image'.

Victoria advised that the Suffolk County Council would not allow anti-climb grease to be applied to the top surface of the bridge. Victoria advised that a PSPO cannot be applied to underage offenders so is of no use when the perpetrators are mainly just kids.

The youngsters from Essex who caused the fight resulting in an arrest are the same individuals involved in the hammer incident. They now have ASB orders not to return to the area.

Easy access to the village from Colchester and Sudbury via Bures Hamlet railway station.

A multi-agency meeting is to be arranged with the Essex/Suffolk Police, the Transport Police, ASB Officers from Essex and Suffolk. Parish Councils will be notified of the details and included. Richard recommended looking at installing a CCTV mast with an anti-climb cage. The Parish Council would have to fund.

Victoria suggested increasing the signage about CCTV.

The Sportsground Committee has employed private security patrols in the past. This option may be re-visited, subject to funding considerations.

Littering/Waste disposal - an additional trade waste bin on order for the BBQ area.

Bures Music Festival 8th-12th July held on the Sportsground. The festival has its own security arrangements for inside the event. Police patrols also ring-fenced to cover the event. No Dispersal Order has been drafted.

Bures St Mary and Bures Hamlet Parish Councils will discuss the response to ASB issues in Bures at the meeting on 16th July. Bures Sportsground Committee has £500 allocated for Security in the budget. It may be that some of the underspend from the Clerk's salary is also spent on security depending on the information from Richard Godfrey and on the outcome of the meeting on 16th July. No decision taken at this meeting.

b. MTM Portaloo - Billy Smart, MTM advised that the portaloo can not be secured with ground anchors. The only solution suggested was a wooden structure with the portaloo situated inside. It was noted that various groups of people use the portaloo regularly and find it useful. Cllr Jackson will explore the cost of wooden or steel frames.

c. CCTV and trail cameras - The parent of a child threatened on the rec offered a trail camera to help monitor the area. Cllr Giles offered to fix it but it was then decided that the camera should be trialled in a different situation before deciding on the installation on the Sportsground. Alasdair Hodgkins of Sarala, Halstead recommended trail cameras. However, Suffolk Police and Babergh ASB Officers recommended a mast with anti-climb protection. The cost of the West Suffolk system is high. If it is a standalone camera near the cricket building then the cost is £3,500 per annum to cover monitoring and maintenance. A camera in the car park and building is around £6,000 for install and £3,000 per annum for monitoring and maintenance. Richard Godfrey, Babergh DC offered to obtain information on systems used elsewhere that may be suitable in Bures. It was raised that a stand alone camera will have a solar panel and control system half way down the mast which could become a target and potentially easy to break. There is currently a budget of £500 for security available and external funding could be explored. It was agreed to wait for Richard Godfrey's information about if the CCTV has been beneficial in other areas and pursue options and funding once received.

d. Waste - Two additional wheelie bins have been chained to the Black Poplar. An additional trade waste bin has been ordered. The cost will be £10.44 per empty for the seasonal agreement. Many thanks to the regular litter pickers who clear the area after large numbers of young people have visited and have left large quantities of rubbish.

e. Byelaws – There are byelaws regarding wearing clothing at public bathing places and in parks. However, the system to implement is cumbersome and not easily adapted to the situation in Bures. A better solution would be for the shops to refuse to serve people unless wearing clothing. Cllr Aries and the police have suggested this to Sinniah Thusithan but he has not been receptive to the idea.

8.7.26 Safety Surfacing repairs

Playquip have now repaired the surfacing for the roundabout and the cradle swing. The surfacing for the bars and original swings was deemed too old to mend. Playquip also secured the edging for the trampoline.

9.7.26 Football Club Matters

a. Damage to roof of lean-to - Young children were found playing with roofing material that appeared to have come from the back of the clubhouse. There was a concern that it may be asbestos material. Fortunately, it was found to be concrete and the pieces removed.

10.7.26 Cricket Club Matters

a. Demolition of the remains of the pavilion, planning application for the new – The Cricket Club are applying for various grants. Currently they are working on CIL money for £100,000 and they require the lease to run for a minimum of 10 years otherwise the application is dismissed. They advised that they are unable to submit quotes until the planning is approved. Preliminary planning has been approved but the Parish Council has not had site of the planning application. Costing of the new pavilion has been explored based on the preliminary plans which came to £350,000 plus VAT but that was including demolition which has already been completed.

b. Lease – The 25 year lease from 2009 was revisited as the club needed at least 10 years on the lease to be considered for grants being sought. The original lease refers to the old pavilion. The new lease refers to the land on which the new pavilion will stand. To ensure the lease is valid, the committee needs to have a copy of the new pavilion footprint and where it will sit on the field. Mr Crace gave assurance that Rupert Tozer will share this. The lease was signed by Cllr Jackson on behalf of Bures St Mary and by Cllr Shackell on behalf of Bures Hamlet and by Christopher Crace and Mark Brewer for Bures Cricket Club. The site plan will be added in order to make the lease valid.

11.7.26 Tennis Club Matters

a. The matches are slightly behind as they have been rearranged due to the world cup. Mr Gough has also swept up a pile of leaves this evening.

12.7.26 Pickle ball Matters

a. Insurance –Pickle ball players queried whether the Sportsground insurance covers them whilst playing on the courts. Our insurers have advised that, if an incident occurs during a session organised by the Pickle Ball group, the group needs their own insurance cover.

13.7.26 Income generation

a. Food vendors – Payments from White Gold are up to date. Brittens Bites have not contacted to resume trading despite now having their new vehicle. Chickpea catering has not responded about trading in the carpark.

b. Royal Mail and In-post Lockers - Royal Mail lockers are now in The Eight Bells carpark. Today, Cllr Jackson has received correspondence from Royal Mail who will be in touch within the next 14 days about putting them in the community centre carpark behind the fence which was damaged today by a dark Volvo type SUV.

14.7.26 Events / Bookings

a. Bures Music Festival - The event concluded yesterday evening. It was well organised and many residents and others enjoyed the event. An incident occurred when a fight broke out at 9.30pm on Saturday 11th July. This was dealt with by the security team. It was noted that the police were in attendance during the afternoons but not seen during the evenings.

b. Coracle event – no news from Catherine, The River Stour Trust at the time of the meeting.

c. Sudbury to the Sea - no news from Catherine, The River Stour Trust at the time of the meeting.

15.7.26 Correspondence

a. re ASB see 6.7.26 - Several residents have contacted regarding incidents on the rec and expressing their concern for the safety of fellow residents. There has also been concern that calls to the police switch from Suffolk to Essex when using 101 on the field. There was also communication via social media. It was noted that this is not official contact.

b. Thank you letter – a letter was sent to Cliff Whitfield thanking him for clearing litter on a daily basis.

c. Request from Bank House Tea Rooms to put an advertising bicycle by the fence - agreed by the committee and Cllr Jackson will check with the trustees about putting one on the common too.

16.7.26 Finance

a. Finance & Budget Monitoring Report – signed by the Chair and Cllr Welch

b. To note bank reconciliation report and verifying bank statements – signed by the Chair and Cllr Welch.

17.7.26 Sports Ground Inspections and maintenance

a. Councillor's report – Cllr Jones

Laurel hedge needs trimming. Trip hazard by slide. Leaves to be swept off the courts, completed this evening. Graffiti on lifebelt housing. Signs of wear on ramp at wheeled sport area. Brambles through fences and grass quite long at Pikes Marsh. It was raised that the branches of the trees along the millenium footpath are quite low and need to be trimmed.

b. To report on items raised from previous inspections see c

c. Play Inspection Company Report – medium risk items to be addressed

Adult gym – parts have been received but not fitted.

Voyager has been painted by volunteers – Cllrs Giles, Keeble-Fox and Jackson

Trampoline – surround has been glued down by Playquip

Basketball net has been removed by Cllr Giles who found it to be rusty and broken when he went to reattach it.

Wheeled sport area – no current issues.

d. Items requiring maintenance - surfacing repairs have been carried out by Playquip, fences mended by Nigel Norton.

e. Volunteer tasks – painting of play equipment was started before the Music Festival. Another date will be set.

18.7.26 To report on Contract works

a. To report on works completed: grass cutting, grounds maintenance - all contracted work carried out as required.

b. Operational Inspection reports – The May report from Nigel Norton was shared prior to the meeting. June's will be circulated.

19.7.26 Brief information & exchange for next agenda items

None raised.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Date of next meeting: 14th Sept 2026 to be held at Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm

Future dates booked: 9th Nov 2026. 11th Jan and 8th March 2027