

BURES SPORTSGROUND COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Sportsground Committee Meeting held 9th March 2026

Present: Cllrs Jackson (in the chair) Jones, Giles, Shackell, Welch, Keeble-Fox, Chris Crace, Cricket Club, Philip Gough, Tennis Club.

1.3.26 Apologies for absence Cllr Norton (holiday) Glen Taylor, Football Club rep. (away on business) Apologies accepted.

2.3.26 Register of Interests and Dispensation Requests no 'Pecuniary' and 'Non pecuniary' interests and Dispensation requests were registered

3.3.26 Public Forum nothing raised

4.3.26 Minutes of the meeting of 12th January 2026 confirmed and signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

5.3.26 Matters arising which do not appear elsewhere on the agenda

- a. Spiro-whirl roundabout - The additional cost of the fitting of the new bearings by Playquip was negotiated from £480 down to £285. Wicksteed did not accept responsibility.
- b. Youth shelter – it was agreed that, subject to there being space available, the shelter would be installed beyond the wheeled sport area.
- c. Memorial benches – The Chair will be meeting Susan Ashdown on 27th March.

6.3.26 Police and Anti-social behaviour

- a. CCTV – Richard Shackell It was reported that there were many different options available. S-Type Security offered a similar package to the previous system. It was agreed that we would not proceed with that. Cllr Shackell agreed to put together a sheet of several options and circulate. Cameras would be needed on the Community Centre and the Football Clubhouse but sites at the entrances where there is no power source were also discussed. Battery powered options are possible. It was agreed that a package could be bought for up to £500.
- b. PSPO Update – update from Rachael Young, Community Safety Manager for Babergh Rachael has replied to say the matter has been discussed and Babergh wish to meet with all stakeholders to review the situation. Cllr Keeble-Fox agreed to meet Rachael during the week beginning 23rd March.
- c. The Chair received a phone call on 5th March from PC Brendan McKenna informing her that there had been an arrest in connection with the arson attacks. The suspect is currently on bail. Chris Crace informed the meeting that the person was only arrested for the barn fire and not the pavilion fire or any of the other fires relating to the sportsground.

7.3.26 Wheeled Sport Area

- a. Concrete grinding and filling of the expansion joint – all work has been completed. It was reported that the area is now well-used by children.

8.3.26 Football Club Matters

- a. Fun day has been arranged for 6th June.

9.3.26 Cricket Club Matters

a. Pavilion - Chris Crace has had favourable responses from grant awarding bodies but full applications can not proceed until planning permission has been granted and quotes obtained.

10.3.26 Tennis Club Matters

a. The Tennis Club season will begin at the end of the month. There will be club nights on Mondays and matches on Wednesdays.

11.3.26 Income generation

a. Recycling credits

Small electricals bins – will stay on site. No credit payments have been paid for these historically so will be no change.

Paper and cards bins (blue) – These will be removed over the course of the summer/autumn 2026. The waste management officers will be in touch with each site to discuss the impact of the change.

Glass banks – Will continue to stay in place to be used, however, no credit payments will be made for the glass collected. Also the contractor may decide to take the banks away if the demand drops. The Chair has agreed to the bottle banks being reduced/removed from June 2026 when the new better recycling at home scheme starts.

Textile banks – They will stay in place to be used, however, no credit payments will be made. Babergh are in talks with the contractor at the moment to see if the responsibility for these banks could be passed to the individual sites who would enter an arrangement direct with them and would then be able to claim any income generated directly from the contractor.

b. Royal Mail and In-post Lockers Royal Mail were ready to come out to site. Meeting was deferred due to members asking for the decision to wait until more was known about the future of the Post Office. There has been no response from In-Post. The meeting agreed that we should proceed with the site visit by Royal Mail with the possibility of adding In-Post at a later date. It was reported that Central Stores offers an In-Post service inside the shop. The Royal Mail lockers require power. Chris Crace agreed that power could be supplied from the green box. It was suggested that a regular sum be paid to the Cricket Club by the Sportsground Committee if this scheme proceeds.

12.3.26 Events / Bookings

a. Bures Music Festival 6th -12th July + setting up and taking down time

b. Football Club Fun Day 6th June

c. School Summer Fete – unclear whether the school will be holding a fete this June as they held one in September.

13.3.26 Correspondence

a. Request from Bures School to use the courts for tennis coaching Tuesdays for 5 weeks from 24th March. The school is very grateful for our support with this.

b. S-Type Security - Cllr Shackell spoke to the company. It was agreed that there would be no further contact for the time being.

c. Email received from a resident requesting that a paddle ball court be installed on the courts. Some of those present had experience playing the sport. It was reported that there were courts opening in several places locally, including at Old Joes in Cornard and at the former garden centre in Aldham. With this in mind and also with no funds to allocate to such a scheme, it was agreed that a reply would be sent explaining that the request would not be met.

14.3.26 Finance

- a. Finance & Budget Monitoring Report – circulated
- b. To note bank reconciliation report and verifying bank statements – circulated signed by Chairman and non-signatory member.
- c. Rents – towards grass cutting for Football and Cricket and towards maintenance for Tennis and Pickleball. Last year’s rents for Cricket and Football were £750.00. Discussion took place on all four rents. The courts maintenance costs £750 a year with PSS (a comparative quote was sought from Suffolk Tennis Courts. It came in at £2,040. The meeting agreed to stay with PSS. It was proposed by Cllr Shackell, seconded by Cllr Welch and agreed by the meeting that for 2026-7, the Football Club be asked for £750, the Pickleball for £200 and the Tennis Club for £100. Pickle ball invoice would need to be sent to Earls Colne as the players in Bures operate as a satellite to that club.
- d. Jenny Wright, the Responsible Financial Officer for the Sportsground Committee has signed the Internal Audit forms from BB as agreed at a previous meeting.

15.3.26 Sports Ground Inspections and maintenance

- a. Councillor’s report – Lee Norton Car park fence near the Walks board and fence to the bridge both need repair. Cllr Norton queried whether the green goals should be removed as they do not meet current safety standards. It was agreed that a decision would wait until this year’s Annual Play Inspection Company check had taken place. If the report recommends removal, this would be done.
- b. To report on items raised from previous inspections – the fence to the bridge and the litter bin near the Coronation shelter were reported at the last meeting. Neither piece of work has been completed. The Chair agreed to ask Nigel Norton to undertake the work.
- c. Play Inspection Company Report – not yet received
- d. Items requiring maintenance - Playquip are due to complete the safety surfacing work in April
- e. Volunteer tasks – Cllr Giles will be painting the play equipment when the weather is suitable. Paint to be sought and purchased.

16.3.26 To report on Contract works

- a. To report on works completed: grass cutting, grounds maintenance - all in order
- b. Operational Inspection reports – The rubber edging round the trampoline in the junior playground has been partially pulled up again. Nigel will monitor.

17.3.26 Brief information & exchange for next agenda items

Date of next meeting: 11th May 2026 to be held at Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm

Future dates booked: 13th July 2026