

BURES SPORTSGROUND COMMITTEE
Minutes of Sportsground Committee Meeting

Thursday 16th March 2023, the Garrad Room, Bures Community Centre

Present: Cllr G Jackson (chair) Cllr M Welch, Cllr T Saer, Cllr L Norton Cllr S Pentney and Philip Gough joined the meeting late.

1.3.23 Apologies for absence Cllr R Shackell (unwell), Cllr S Pentney apologised that she would be late due to attending a rehearsal. Philip Gough apologised that he had been detained. Chris Crace sent apologies. Since the last meeting Cllr D Monk had resigned from Bures Hamlet Parish Council. The chair had sent a card and flowers thanking her for her work for the Sportsground Committee.

2.3.23 Register of Interests and Dispensation Requests

Cllr T Saer ongoing interest in the Hobby Horse refreshments

3.3.23 Public Forum no members of the public were present

4.3.23 Minutes Minutes of the last meeting confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.3.23 Matters arising which do not appear elsewhere on the agenda

a. Private security Kyle Porter no longer works for Titans Security. Aaron Willis has emailed to check the cover required. He has been invited to join the meeting with the police, councillors and Peter Watson Babergh Community Safety Officer. It was agreed that the meeting should be held in April.

b. Wicksteed Dino domain fault Cllr Welsh has been in contact with Wicksteed. Their suggestion is to drill a hole in the chequerplate platform and paint over to prevent rust. Cllr M Welch has not accepted this solution and has requested a site visit by Wicksteed. The chair thanked Cllr Welsh for the way he had conducted the contact with Wicksteed. He had made it quite clear that he understood the construction of the item and that the fault was with the chequer plate and was not a manufacturing fault.

6.3.23 Football Club Matters No issues raised by the club. See item 13 a.

7.3.23 Cricket Club Matters No issued raised

8.3.23 Tennis Club Matters

a. Sports Courts Project The preparatory work took place week beginning 6th February and the new surface was laid the following week. The surface needed two weeks without being walked on to 'cure' and the gate has since been unlocked. New nets were fitted.

Philip Gough met with Mrs Butcher and Mr McGrath to discuss the lines for tennis and pickle ball. It was agreed that the tennis lines would be white and the most prominent but there was an issue over whether tennis and pickle ball could be played in the same direction to avoid balls from pickle ball going on to the tennis court. The Chair has requested a drawing showing how the lines will work together.

The dark green finish, lines and binder coat are due to go down at the beginning of May. The cost to date is 35,760.66 with a further £4,362.45 + VAT due on completion.

b. LTA membership Clarification is being sought as to whether Bures Tennis Club can benefit from LTA insurance if they join the Suffolk branch.

9.3.23 Pikes Marsh play area

a. Maintenance checks Cllr Saer presented the checks at the meeting. The mushrooms are still badly in need of repainting.

10.3.23 Correspondence

a. Future of The Hobby Horse Cllr T Saer reported that she wished to let the Hobby Horse to a third party for the 2023 season. The meeting agreed that this was acceptable in the terms of the contract and this remains with Cllr Saer. All present agreed to seek a suitable person to run the Hobby Horse. In the event of no one being found, the contract will need to be put out to tender again. It was stressed that the preferred option would be for the Hobby Horse to continue.

b. Goalkeeping classes Mike Onslow, owner of a goalkeeping coaching company has requested details on the use of the Bures rec for classes.

11.3.23 Events / Bookings

a. BMF 2023 Hire form – The Hire Form agreed at the last meeting has been signed by George Bruxner and Cllr G Jackson and is now held on file.

12.3.23 Finance

a. Finance & Budget Monitoring Report circulated

b. Bank reconciliation report and verifying bank statements agreed and signed by Chairman and Cllr Norton.

c. Insurance The quotation for renewal was £935.47. This comprised £790.60 Premium, £94.87 Insurance Premium Tax and £50 admin fee. The amount set in the Budget was £880.00.

There was discussion as to whether it was necessary to insure the play equipment. Theft was considered highly unlikely. The only circumstance when a large claim may be made was thought to be fire. However, the materials used in the manufacture would not easily catch fire.

The buildings and benches are both more able to be damaged, possibly stolen or involved in a fire. It was agreed that these items should be covered.

The Chair reported that other Parish Councils do not insure the equipment. They have public liability insurance and provide a list of the equipment for the risk to be calculated.

Philip Gough agreed to speak to the insurers about the relative costs of public liability, buildings and benches cover over the current quote where all equipment and fences were included.

A decision needs to be reached before the next meeting as the new period of insurance is from the beginning of May. It was agreed that the final decision on the level of cover and the amount to be paid would be made by majority view taken via email but that the amount budgeted should not be exceeded.

13.3.23 Sports Ground Inspections and maintenance

- a. Councillor's report – Cllr Norton** A bench by the cricket pitch was reported to be loose, there was litter along the river bank and a paving slab near the hall presented a trip hazard. It was also reported that discarded tins of paint from white lining were littering the hedge behind the clubhouse. The club will be contacted and asked to clear this.
- b. Items raised from previous inspections.** Some painting and bench treatment will be needed when the weather improves. Raised surfacing see PIC Report
- c. Play Inspection Company report** The only item for attention is the trip hazard caused by raised corners of the safety surfacing under the horizontal bars. Contractor Nigel Norton has lifted the corners to relay but the surface is still not lying flat. The surfacing will need replacement when funds allow.
- d. Car park fence** - It was agreed that the plan to plant a hedge and install Armco fencing to match the field side of the car park. It was acknowledged that it was almost at the end of the planting season for the hedge. There was also the issue of having the car park clear where the work was needed. Cllr Norton agreed to ask Adam Norton to create a trench for planting the hedge. It was suggested that during the school holidays would be best and that cones would be needed to keep the area clear of cars.

14.3.23 To report on Contract works

- a. Grass cutting, grounds maintenance** – first cuts in the playground areas have been carried out. Regular maintenance completed according to contracts.
- b. Operational Inspection reports** – Reports from Nigel Norton on the Play Equipment have been received. No issues requiring attention.

15. Brief information & exchange for next agenda items none raised

Date of next meeting: 11th May to be held in the Garrad Room, Nayland Road at 7.30pm

Future dates booked: 13th July, 14th September 2023.