

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2025 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,
Messrs R A Cook, P P W Edworthy, T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly and V Steer.
Members of the Public: Nil.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Messrs R P Edworthy and T J Vanstone, DCC rep. Cllr Letch,
MDDC reps. Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr White.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2024, having been circulated in advance were taken as read, confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. Bow residents had complained to Cllr Letch at DCC's stance not to repair the lychgate structure but simply to clear it away if it fell over or was destroyed in a storm. DCC had advised that, if Parish Council so chose, it could accept FULL responsibility for the structure, it would need to be added to the parish Assets Register and full public liability insurance would need to be put in place. Members were not supportive of Parish Council accepting full responsibility for it.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[24/01677/CLU](#)

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition 6 of Planning Permission CD.4703 for a period in excess of ten years.

Location: Hilddown Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273160 / 99407

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 25 November 2024

Members confirmed that the dwelling had been occupied in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition for a period well in excess of ten years

[24/01739/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of single storey side/rear extension and internal alterations to existing ground floor layout following demolition of existing single storey extension.

Location: Paddocks Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273352 / 100832

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 6 December 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01742/LBC](#)

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the erection of single storey side/rear extension and internal alterations to existing ground floor layout following demolition of existing single storey extension.

Location: Paddocks Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273352 / 100832

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 6 December 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01595/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of two-storey side extension

Location: The Dairy, Coxmoor, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 270337 / 99628

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 9 December 2024.

Application approved.

PROPOSED AND GRANTED NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT

[24/01662/NMA](#)

Proposal: Non Material Amendment for 13/00481/FULL to allow for the design of the double doors to be fully glazed without glazing bars

Location: 2 The Old School House, Station Road, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272207 / 101748

FOR INFORMATION

[24/01839/PNCOU](#)

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of two agricultural buildings to four dwellings under Class Q

Location: Blue Violet, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273157 / 98333

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 29 December 2024.

No comment made.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[24/01295/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of dwelling following demolition of redundant commercial building

Location: Land and Building at NGR 273316 100828 (Nymet Cottage) Bow, Crediton.

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273317 / 100829

[24/01194/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Re-roofing of dwelling; replacement of fascia and guttering; replacement of front door and porch cover

Location: Kenaden House, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272207 / 101748

[24/01595/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and installation of rooflight in existing roof

Location: 8 Godfreys Garden, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272158 / 101557

[24/01554/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Installation of 12 kw air source heat pump

Location: Kenaden House, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272207 / 101748

5. **DCC (Crediton Rural Division) Monthly Report.**

Cllr Letch's reports for November 2024 and December 2024 had been electronically circulated to Members, emails dated 27 November 2024 and 21 December 2024 respectively.

November

Cllr Letch, referring to his health, conveyed that his energy levels were depleted leading to missed Parish Council meetings.

The half-year budget showed the council running an overspend of £4 million but which was £2 million less than the previous month. The government's budget had provided financial challenges. Budget holders needed to reduce costs whilst maintaining services.

Increase in On Street rapid charging EV points – DCC had indicated that rural areas would be well catered for. Work should start spring 2025.

Devon Rail Forum had stated that passenger numbers had increased. There were plans to introduce a loop near Umlerleigh, which would increase train numbers.

DCC Cabinet had discussed the Highways contract, it had been decided to opt for a term maintenance contract. The contract, due to be signed in March 2027, would still require further discussion and analysis.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (rollout of fast broadband) which it had been hoped would be completed by now, however, the target had moved to 2030.

Grit-salt bins in Bow. Cllr Letch said they all needed checking (the clerk regularly checked all salt-grit bins in October/November each year).

December

The draft regulations for the Combined County Authority (Devon County and Torbay) had been put before Parliament indicating it would go ahead. There was an upfront grant of £16 million, half of which would be spent on affordable housing.

The County Finance Team had been working on a best estimate budget for 2025/26 which was complicated by government's announced reforms of local government funding. Providing services cost more in rural areas but government intended reducing the rural services delivery grant by £10 million, also to be reduced was the recovery grant of £2.5 million and the social care grant by £6 million. The total impact of the reductions outweighed the increases in various areas.

Cllr Letch had met with Highways senior officers shortly after storm Darragh hit Devon. The emergency call centre received over 700 calls over the weekend, 300 of which reported fallen trees. DCC had dispatched 24 teams to deal with the problem. DCC had a good contract with emergency teams, currently the emergency budget was not overspent.

The Ministry of Transport had awarded £10 million to DCC towards its Bus Improvement Plan. There were plans to purchase more buses and to improve rural services.

Recycling and waste appeared to be improving, meaning more is earned from selling recycled material and spending less on landfill.

Governments English Devolution White Paper – responses needed to be in by 10 January. The new Combined Council Authority (linking Devon County with Torbay) was in place. The eight district councils were not supportive of the White Paper content.

Locality Fund. Cllr Letch had some unspent funds (£1,177) and would welcome spending it as soon as possible.

6. **MDDC (Upper Yeo & Taw Ward) Monthly Report.**

Cllr Mrs Letch's report for November 2024 had been electronically circulated to Members, email dated 25 November 2024.

Christmas 24-hour free parking, would be available in the council's long stay car parks over five Saturdays.

Transport, members and residents had the opportunity to participate in current consultations on transport and active travel infrastructure including cycling and walking route proposals, eg Boniface Trail. Consultations, which included the Boniface Trail which had two options to choose between, Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4, ended at end of November.

Green Impact Fund. Introduced by Government, grants between £5,000 to £50,000 were available to support local businesses and community organisations adopting sustainable practices and technologies. Applications to be submitted by 29 November.

MDDC error in social rent calculations. Historical underpayment and overpayment had been identified in MDDC's social tenants' rents. MDDC was apologetic and was working towards correcting the error.

Planning Portal Maintenance. The service would not be available on 4 & 5 December.

7. **Casual Vacancy.**

A Notice of Vacancy, with directions if election requested, had been published in November 2024. MDDC Elections Dept had not received any letters, within the prescribed timeframe, requesting an election. Therefore, the vacancy could proceed to be filled by co-option. One expression of interest was to hand; following discussion, Mr D Pocock was co-opted. MDDC would be informed accordingly.

(i) To elect representative to serve on Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee. Mr Cook was appointed to serve as Parish Council's representative on Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee. Thanks to Mr Cook.

(ii) To elect representative to serve on Den Brook Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee. Mr Pengelly was elected to serve on Den Brook Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee. Thanks to Mr Pengelly.

8. **Bow Village Hall Hire Agreement and Key Holder Agreement.**

Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee had issued an Agreement, for signature and return, to hirers of the village hall premises. A copy of said paperwork had been supplied to Members. Of the agreement, para. 11 stated "The Licensee confirms that they have received a copy of the Bow Village Hall and Field Care policy, H & S policies and Safeguarding policy, understand it, and undertake to follow the policies for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults at the Premises." Parish Council had not received copies of the policies, the policies were not included on the website and the Clerk had sought to obtain copies of the Care Policy, H & S and Safeguarding policy but, to date, these had not been forthcoming by Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee. Therefore, as such, documentation could not be signed, to hold in abeyance.

Mr Nicks produced copies of grass cutting invoices for Bow Village Field, which the Clerk had requested of Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee Treasurer. Further consideration would be needed.

9. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

Speeding A3072 western approach to village (DCC suggested highway works), Burston Cross area. Still nothing had been heard/received from DCC.

Community Speed Watch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic). Bow Community Speed Watch group had conducted three sessions between 06/11/2024 and 06/12/2024. Data captured was in line with existing data, already in hand.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Nothing further had been received, nor had DCC's quotation for supply and installation of two posts been received despite a couple of reminders having been sent since Parish Council's previous meeting. Mr Cook still awaited information with reference to Road Warden training.

Other Highway matters. Beyond the general pothole situation and poor road surface at Bow Mill Lane, no other highway matters were raised. Matters raised at the November meeting had been promptly reported and had been resolved, or work was well in hand.

10. **Monitoring of Services**

D.C.C. Service satisfactory – comment would not be submitted.

M.D.D.C. Service satisfactory – comment would not be submitted.

11. **Parish Precept 2025-2026.**

MDDC documentation, including interactive calculation form, had been received. The submission deadline for submitting the precept request was 22 January 2025. Members, reviewing precept sums over recent years, considered finances and budget. Considered also was the associated financial impact on local householders' Council Tax bills. Members needed to consider anticipated expenditure: to allow for a potential annual grant for grass cutting of Bow Village Field (incl. the play areas) would be in the region of £1,400. It was therefore agreed to increase the current precept of £12,000 by £1,000 (increase of 8.33%) to £13,000 for the year 2025–2026.

Precepts of £10,000.00 and over were paid in two instalments, 50% April and 50% October. It was agreed that the Devon Association of Local Councils subscription be deducted from the precept

12. **Correspondence**

Santander, interest rate on treasurer's savings account to go down to 1.00% on 4 March 2025.

EDF Energy, energy costs set to change from 1 January 2025.

MDDC Press Release, Public consultation (20/11/24-10/1/25) opens for Tiverton's Eastern Urban Extension.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC awarded £671,000 as part of Devon & Torbay devolution deal, funding to be used for care leaver accommodation www.middevon.gov.uk/funding-for-care-leaver-accommodation-welcomed/

MDDC Press Release, Free parking in long-stay car parks in run up to Christmas, on five Saturdays.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Residents' Survey 2024, <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/residents-survey-2024>

MDDC, latest side waste statistics, late November to mid December, plus maximise recycling this Christmas.

MDDC, Launch of the Green Impact Fund, info.

MDDC, Centrica offering grants of up to £100k for net zero energy projects in the South West.

MDDC Press Release, council rent charges error, <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/council-rent-charges-error/>

MDDC Press Release, Tiverton celebrates a successful Swan Trail auction on 7 November 2024.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Leisure investing £760,000, improvements and charges.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Housing's support for anti-social behaviour awareness week 2024.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Leisure continues improvements with Cullompton gym refit.

MDDC Press Release, Crediton Town Centre Masterplan adopted www.middevon.gov.uk/crediton-town-centre-masterplan-adopted/

MDDC Press Release, New trees planted to enhance environment at Blundell's Road, Tiverton.

MDDC Press Release, Business support and funding schemes for businesses in Mid Devon, info.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC working with developer & housing assoc to secure affordable homes for local people.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC acquires St George's Court housing development for social housing.

DALC, Meet the Leader Event, Mid Devon, New Hall, Tiverton, on 10 December 2024.

Kier, notification of road closure, nr junction for Mill Lane to nr Grantlands, 20/02/2025.

DCC, Storm Bert (23/11/24) update.

DCC, Flood Risk Management, requesting info on local flooding arising from Storm Bert (23/11/24-25/11/24).

Director of activibeas.com promoting a "things to do" platform for events, <https://activibeas.com/add>

Devon and Cornwall Alert, 'We all deserve to feel safe on our roads' says Commissioner chair of [Vision Zero South West Road Safety Partnership](#)

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Neighbourhood Watch - BT Digital Voice switch over project (volunteers needed).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Join our crime prevention & safety online webinars, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, National Road Safety Week from 17-23 November 2024.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Volunteer vehicle checking opportunity at Exeter or Police Cullompton Station.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police support national knife crime campaign 'Sceptre'.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Staying safe during severe weather events, info.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cybercrime Survey.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Meet local officers, Homeleigh Garden Centre 19/12/24 & Crediton Library 16/1/25.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall Police and regional police partners crack down on County Lines.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, newsletter [OUR NEWS](#) December edition.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Advice issued after series of burglaries and vehicle thefts in Devon.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Appeal for witnesses after farm machinery stolen from Whiddon Down plus advice.
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Building on partnerships which delivered for our communities in 2024.
 Landing Site Manager, DAAT, statistics for 2024 with night time missions plus Christmas greetings.
 Devon Communities Together, Devon Environment Foundation, win a holiday and support Devon's nature.
 Devon Communities Together, Christmas greetings.
 Mel Stride MP, Christmas Greetings.
Publications: DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin (+ Christmas greetings), NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, [ONE Devon bulletin](#) November and [ONE Devon bulletin](#) December, NALC Events newsletter, Devon Climate Emergency December [newsletter](#), and DCC news round-up Connectme.

13. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,105.07, Current a/c £27,123.47
 ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT
 Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £140.25 qtr. ending 31/12/24) £889.25
 H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Oct-Dec 2024) £187.25
 EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £0.00 (account in credit)

14. **Any Other Business.**

Nil

15. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm