

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9 APRIL 2025 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: MDDC reps. Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr White and Mr P P W Edworthy.

With regret, the sad passing of DCC representative Cllr Frank Letch MBE, also Chairman of Mid Devon District Council, who had passed away on 8 April 2025, had been announced. Parish Council's condolences would be conveyed to Cllr Mrs Letch. A Book of Condolence had been opened at MDDC, Phoenix House, Tiverton.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025, having been circulated in advance were taken as read, confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS
INFORMATION ONLY

[25/00465/PNAG](#)

Proposal: Prior notification for the erection of roof over existing silage clamp

Location: Land at NGR 270964 100112 Butterlands Park Farm, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 270980 / 100120

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 1 April 2025.

Noted.

INFORMATION ONLY

[25/00469/PNAG](#)

Proposal: Prior notification for the erection of roof over existing dung store

Location: Land at NGR 271004 100122 Butterlands Park Farm, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 270980 / 100120

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 1 April 2025.

Noted.

[25/00420/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Formation of hard standing for the parking of vehicles to include EV charging point

Location: Barns Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272267 / 101734

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 1 April 2025.

Following brief discussion, Parish Council's response was No Comment.

MDDC DECISIONS

Nil

Unauthorised residential mobile home, The Shire, field abutting A3072, east of Burston Caravan Sales.

Information re. presence of additional caravan on site (advertised online as an Air bnb holiday let in 2024) had been conveyed to Mid Devon District Council Planning Enforcement officers. MDDC's advice was awaited.

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

A report had not been received for March 2025.

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

A report had not been received for March 2025.

7. **Annual Audit, Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024-2025 Form 2.**

PKF Littlejohn LLP, appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA), as the external auditor of smaller authorities for the five financial years from 2022/23 to 2026/27, had issued instructions for completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/2025. The Clerk had supplied a copy of exemption qualifying criteria to Parish Councillors. Bow Parish Council met prescribed qualifying criteria for the financial year 2024/25, for self-certification as exempt from a limited assurance review by the external auditor under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. Members agreed that Parish Council would self-certify. The AGAR Form 2 Certificate of Exemption was duly signed (wet signatures required), submission deadline was 30 June 2025.

AGAR Form 2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement required Parish Council completion and Section 2 Accounting Statements required Parish Council approval after the Annual Internal Audit Report had been received, following the internal independent audit. Mr Weeks would carry out the internal independent audit. Completion of both Section 1 Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 Accounting Statements was in hand.

Other supporting documentation required, viz. Bank Reconciliation and Analysis of Significant Variances were in hand with the Clerk. Preparation of the Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights would be completed at the appropriate juncture. Documentation needed to be published on a public website by 1 July 2025.

8. **DCC Election, 1 May 2025.**

Devon County Council had 58 electoral divisions with 60 members (two divisions each had two members).

One member would be elected for the Crediton electoral division (parishes included Bow, Cheriton Bishop, Clannaborough, Colebrooke, Copplestone, Crediton, Crediton Hamlets & Hittisleigh). Key information, including dates for registering to vote, date for postal vote and date for proxy vote, had been issued.

Notices, of the election and of persons standing nominated, had been published and posted.

The election had been contested with the poll due to take place on Thursday, 1 May 2025 from 7:00am to 10:00pm

Persons standing nominated were Charles Errington Beazley (Reform), Jim Cairney (Liberal Democrat), Angus Howie (Conservative), Wesley Mitchell (Heritage Party), Robert Harper Rickey (Green) and Paul Michael Vincent (Labour).

A press release, entitled Your Vote, Your Voice – Key information for the upcoming local elections, had been issued.

9. **Local Government Reorganisation, English Devolution White Paper.**

A joint letter, from Leaders of seven of the eight Devon District Councils, to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Mr McMahon MP, with accompanying 26-page Interim Plan, had been issued and published. A copy had been circulated to Bow Parish Councillors on 22 March 2025. The letter expressed deep concern reference the process and the timetable being imposed on Devon. The Districts requested sight of evidence that government devolution proposals would solve the financial crisis in Adult and Children's Social Care. Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) had hosted two Devolution update remote meetings, via Zoom, to provide updates on what was known at that point. The Smaller Councils (Bow Parish Council is a Smaller Council) meeting had been held on 8 April, 10:00am–11:30am. Regrettably, neither the Clerk nor any Bow Parish Councillors had been able to attend.

10. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

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

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). An email, setting out very brief history of Parish Council's quest for a VAS, had been sent to Mel Stride MP. He had acknowledged the email and sent a further email advising that he had referred the matter to DCC and that when he was in receipt of information, he would advise Parish Council accordingly.

Other Highway matters

Pothole inspection. Mr Steer had reported a pothole to DCC and, by chance, had witnessed a DCC inspector attend and assess it prior to notifying Mr Steer that said pothole did not meet qualifying criteria for repair.

Copplestone, temporary traffic lights. Cllr White had worked with DCC to address the vexed issue of temporary traffic lights in the centre of Copplestone (changing the one-way system given dangerous Cross Hotel structure which awaited demolition), causing very long tailbacks and adding to journey times, particularly at both ends of the working day. Cllr White had worked to regularise traffic flows, adjusting t/light timings, to cater for peak commuter traffic, in alternate directions, at each end of the working day.

Eroded road marking, Tesco roundabout, Crediton, arrow. The A377 lane with the eroded arrow, east of Crediton Tesco roundabout was causing confusion, posing a hazard and needed repainting.

11. Monitoring of Services

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

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

12. Correspondence

DCC, changes to Devon's bus services from 20 April 2025, information on [Travel Devon website](#)

MDDC Press Release, Let's Talk Mid Devon 2024 – the results.

MDDC Press Release, new food & craft markets launch at Tiverton pannier market.

MDDC Press Release, Council issues update regarding rent calculations error.

MDDC Press Release, new features added to the Council's self-service portal

MDDC Press Release, local firms encouraged to attend Council's free Business Rates information event.

MDDC Press Release, budget and council tax set for 2025/2026.

MDDC Press Release, [Survey](#) 11/3/25-25/4/25 open for Mid Devon businesses.

MDDC, latest set of side waste results, review of unauthorised bins, pots and pans trial underway,

MDDC, raising money from scrap metal, idea (Templeton Parsh Council).

DAAT, DAA landing sites - Summer Events, information.

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

Devon Communities Together, new training from Devon Community Learning

Devon Communities Together, cancer screening in Devon - who's eligible and what's involved, information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, don't fall foul of the fatal five, national campaign highlighting most common causes of fatal and serious road traffic collisions.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and residents to meet, Newton St Cyres 24 April 2025 10:00am to 12:00noon

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner says Devon & Cornwall Police complaints handling 'unacceptable'.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, new police campaign encourages people to report non-contact sexual offences.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, dog walkers reminded to Take The Lead and keep canines under control.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Action Fraud, over 35,000 account hackings reported in 2024, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cracking down on cannabis cultivation.

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, [newsletter](#) (March 2025).

Hospiscare, request for financial support.

EDF Energy, energy costs changing from 1 April 2025.

Publications: DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC

Events newsletter, Devon Climate Emergency March [newsletter](#) and DCC news round-up Connectme.

13. Finance.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,105.07, Current a/c £23,569.05

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

MDDC (Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2025/2026 Jackman Car Park) £0.00 (invoice issued at £454.09, Small Business Relief reduced to nil)

14. Any Other Business.

(i) Bow Waterworks. Some Members had received comments/complaints from Bow Water Users concerning poor supply, given a possible leak or loss of water from an unknown source. Trustees were investigating the difficult situation. Five-litre drinking water containers were being delivered to a few Users and a bowser had been arranged

(ii) MDDC Planning training. A MDDC email detailing Planning training (housing targets, Planning & Infrastructure Bill, MDDC Local Plan), offering in person or remote training, had just been received and circulated to Members.

Mr Steer expressed an interest in the training, preferring the in person option.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:35pm.