

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2025 AT 7:30PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,  
Messrs T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly, D Pocock and T J Vanstone.  
Members of the Public: Nil.  
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

**Apologies:** Messrs R A Cook, R P Edworthy and V Steer,  
DCC rep. Cllr Cairney, MDDC reps. Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr White.

1. **To Elect Chairman.**

The Clerk called for nominations. Mr Nicks was proposed by Mr Vanstone and seconded by Mr Hamilton. Mr Nicks was willing to stand. Without any other nominations forthcoming and all being agreed, Mr Nicks was declared elected. The Declaration of Acceptance was completed and signed.

2. **To Elect Vice Chairman.**

Nominations for the post of Vice Chairman were invited. Mr Pengelly was nominated by Mr Hamilton and seconded by Mr Pocock. Mr Pengelly was willing to stand. Without any other nominations forthcoming and all being agreed, Mr Pengelly was declared elected.

Mr Vanstone, who had served as Vice Chairman for some years, did not wish to stand and indicated that he was seriously considering resigning from Parish Council. He submitted that Bow was a 'can do' village but also felt that it lacked support from higher authorities. He said that he had become a Parish Councillor and would have liked to have been able to make a difference but had become disillusioned as he felt that Parish Council had been stopped from doing good; examples were cited where Parish Council had been unable to achieve aims. He was not party political but had become tired of local and national government. He would write his letter of resignation.

3. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

4. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held after the Annual Assembly on 9 April 2025, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

5. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

6. **DCC Election.**

At the poll held on 1 May 2025, Cllr Jim Cairney, Liberal Democrat, gained the Crediton electoral division seat. No single party had overall control of Devon County Council - Liberal Democrats 27 seats, Reform UK 18 seats, Conservative Party 7 seats, Green Party 6 seats, Independent candidates 2 seats and Labour Party 0 seats.

7. **The Late Cllr Frank Letch MBE.**

MDDC Leader, Cllr Luke Taylor, along with colleagues, had issued and released a tribute to Cllr Frank Letch MBE, <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/a-tribute-to-councillor-frank-leitch-mbe/>

A memorial service was due to be held on Friday 16 May 2025 at 2:00pm at the Church of the Holy Cross, Crediton.

8. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

Revised Drawings and Revised Information

[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 9 May 2025.

Approved

Revised Drawings and Revised Information

[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 9 May 2025.

Approved

MDDC DECISIONS

AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

No Objection – Prior Approval Not Required

[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

AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

No Objection – Prior Approval Not Required

[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

9. **Parish Council Meetings for Forthcoming Council Year.**

Monthly meetings ex. August and December (unless required for Planning purposes), on second Wednesdays of each month, with the Community Room of Bow Village Hall as the preferred venue, remained the preference. Meetings would therefore be held on 11 June, 9 July, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November, 14 January, 11 February, 11 March and 8 April. Venue to be booked accordingly.

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

A report had not been received for April 2025.

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

A report had not been received for April 2025.

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

The completed Certificate of Exemption had been signed and submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP on 14 April (deadline 30 June 2025), it had also been published on Parish Council's website. Mr Weeks would undertake the internal independent audit which was currently being arranged. AGAR Form 2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement required Parish Council completion and AGAR Form 2 Section 2 Accounting Statements required Parish Council approval after the Annual Internal Audit Report had been received. Bank Reconciliation pro forma had been completed by the Clerk/RFO. The Explanation of Variances had also been completed by the Clerk/RFO, the explanation for 'high' reserves: Box 7 (balance c/fwd) is more than twice Box 2 (annual precept) because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year-end, would show Improve highway (A3072) safety, at western approach to Bow village – in consideration of possibility of installing lighting.

13. **V.A.T. For Year 2024-2025.**

A sum of £318.03 had been reclaimed online, by the Clerk, on 17 April 2025. HMR&C refund was awaited.

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

A recording, Youtube video, of DALC's Larger and Smaller Council meetings held 1 April and 8 April, was available. A copy of the Smaller Councils meeting had been circulated to Bow Parish Councillors. It comprised a brief recap of the limited information known at that point and opened for questions. Initial questions raised by the 13 parishes bordering Plymouth unitary authority regarded their possible dissolution – Plymouth proposed to 'stretch' into the South Hams to take on 13 parish councils and Ivybridge town council. Questions to DALC reference Plymouth's apparent 'land grab', referred to NALC who had issued legal advice – that parish councils are statutory bodies, would remain as such in perpetuity, that legislation would be necessary to abolish them and there wasn't any

indication of that. Other comments/questions included the creation of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA), that town/parish councillors would need to 'step up' regarding challenges ahead, that clerks would have more work/hours (with salary reviews) prompting questions on whether clerks needed an official qualification (CiLCA), with concerns expressed by small councils whether they could both recruit and afford a suitable clerk. Clerks to be mindful of any skills and training needed. It was said that town/parish councils should not expect assistance from district councils in the acceptance of devolved functions (leisure centres, play areas, etc). Towns/parishes needed to consider the Assets of their parishes – establish who owned it, decide what the parish wanted and how it could be managed and funded. If town/parish councils did not accept devolved functions, they would 'disappear'. Parish Council briefly considered MDDC owned Bow play areas – preferences, in terms of ownership, management, etc going forward required consideration. Similarly, grass verge trimming carried out by district councils needed checking as to responsibility and consideration.

15. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

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

*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* A response from Sir Mel Stride MP included DCC's comments to him, being "County Council officers have liaised with the Parish Council and local County Councillor on this matter. It was understood that they were exploring a joint purchase with a neighbouring community. The County Council is awaiting confirmation of this and details of the proposed location(s) for the sign for approval. It would appear that there has been a misunderstanding on this action, and Council officers will now contact the Parish Clerk to liaise and ensure the request progresses."

Some years previous, Parish Council had considered a shared/joint VAS acquisition but DCC was aware Parish Council was proceeding independently and the proposed locations for the VAS had been approved on 9 July 2024! To await DCC's contact.

*Other Highway matters.* No issues raised.

16. **Monitoring of Services**

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

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

17. **Correspondence**

MDDC, Clerks and Councillors invitation to raising the VE Day 80 Flag on 8 May 2025 9.00am at MDDC, Tiverton.

MDDC, Planning training (in house or remote via teams) offered to all town/parish councils.

MDDC Press Release, Housing rent error – regulator's Judgement.

MDDC Press Release, dive in to Active Mid Devon's new app - leisure centre customers can benefit from new app.

MDDC Press Release, Active Mid Devon introduces discounts to carers.

MDDC Press Release, property landlords, opportunity to attend Landlord Networking Event, 14/5/25 Cullompton.

MDDC Press Release, Road Closure Copplestone – update.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon achieves best-ever waste and recycling results.

MDDC Press Release, grants now available to help Mid Devon businesses go green.

DAAT, DAA Bow Landing site - Annual Re survey - Wednesday 14th May 2025.

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, latest news from the Royal Devon: May 2025.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, message from the Commissioner: Combined efforts to tackle ASB are succeeding.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, 110 more boots on the ground thanks to £4.7m neighbourhood policing grant.

Devon and Cornwall Alert Action Fraud stay vigilant for ticket fraud ahead of top events and concerts this summer

Devon and Cornwall Alert, parking awareness and safe vehicle access, advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, corrupt construction and energy company employees jailed for bribery and fraud linked to Cranbrook development.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, [OUR NEWS](#) May 2025.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, £1m hotspot policing scheme extended to new areas in Devon & Cornwall.

*Publications:* Clerks and Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, Devon Climate Emergency April [newsletter](#) and May [newsletter](#) and DCC news round-up Connectme.

18. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,105.07, Current a/c £29,565.43

MDDC 50% of Precept for 2025-26 (of £13,000 less DALC subscription) £5,996.38 credited to current a/c

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

GDM Cleaning (bus shelter glass clean 10.4.2025) £8.00

Community First (insurance ren'l premium due 01/06/2025) £212.03

19. **Any Other Business.**

(i) MDDC raising the VE Day 80 Flag on 8 May 2025 at 9.00am at MDDC, Tiverton. Mr Pengelly, representing Crediton Royal British Legion, had attended the ceremony at Phoenix House. He had met the Chairman of the Council.

20. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall (subject to venue availability).

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