

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 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, R P Edworthy, S A Pengelly, D Pocock and V Steer.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
Members of the Public: Nil.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: MDDC rep. Cllr Mrs Letch and Mr T J Hamilton.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2025, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read and were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[25/01287/LBC](#)

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for minor amendment approved under 24/01742/LBC to include an additional window in the utility room.

Location: Paddocks Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273352 / 100832

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors, refer email dated 22 September 2025. Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS

Nil

5. **Casual Vacancy.**

The vacancy, due to be filled by co-option, had been advertised; a Notice had been posted on the notice board and published in the Bow and Arrow (Sept-Oct issue). The Bow Community Hub facebook site had also been requested to publish it. To date, neither an application nor any enquiries had been received.

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

Cllr Cairney, per his submission to the Bow & Arrow (Sept-Oct '25 issue), had conveyed that the Minister for the Future of Roads, Lilian Greenwood MP, had been in Devon to see the innovations being used to repair roads. She had said that Devon's 'Dragon Patchers' are one of the many great examples of using new technology to repair roads faster. Devon would trial a pothole repair blitz as part of the £83 million road maintenance programme. Devon Highway teams would carry out a repair blitz on potholes, where all potholes would be filled, rather than just dealing with safety defects in a few trial areas of the county. Although exact details still to be agreed, the pilot would be used to establish the budget implications of changing maintenance procedures.

Cllr Cairney also supplied a copy of a report with it's main focus on district matters. It included - Planning, alleged breach of planning control - unauthorised engineering works. A case, at Uffculme, would go to Public Enquiry in October.

National Policy Update. Government's commitment to national housing delivery target of 1.5 million homes remained. Government had not indicated that it was reconsidering it's position on Local Government Reorganisation or changed the timeline.

It appeared that a few likely proposals were being worked up by Devon authorities for submission to government

a) 4:5:1 model supported by 8 of the 11 councils (incl. Mid Devon)

b) Plymouth proposal, indicating a wish to expand by taking in 13 parishes in the west of South Hams

c) Exeter proposal, wishing to become a unitary authority, with remainder of Devon as one/two administrative areas.

d) County council proposal for one single council covering the whole of Devon, leaving Plymouth as an existing unitary (possibly also leaving Torbay).

All proposals would be assessed against criteria set by government.

A full formal public consultation exercise would be conducted in 2026 as part of the LGR process.

URL link, <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/resource/scrutiny-and-lgr-a-practice-guide/> courtesy of Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, was a useful read.

State of the District Debate. LGR was the main feature, with updates from the CEO and the Leader also with contributions from Somerset Council and the chair of DALC. Addressed also had been governance and financial implications, incl. assets management and budgetary considerations. URL link showing Mid Devon's assets <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/access-to-information/transparency-code/> (a work in progress).

Pots and pans recycling. Following a trial, collections had commenced from 15 September.

Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee. The committee met 6 October, outcome to be reported later. A children's book about the Grand Western Canal was due to be published in January.

Free workshops for Mid Devon Businesses. Prosper, a UK Shared Prosperity Funded business support programme, delivered by DCC in partnership with Mid Devon District Council, East Devon District Council and Exeter City Council, would host a series of free masterclasses.

7. **Untaxed Vehicle (silver Volkswagen reg. no. WV55WPO), Jackman Car Park.**

Mid Devon District Council had been notified and had been requested to arrange removal of the vehicle, a MDDC officer had visited the site and had affixed a formal Notice, dated 12 September 2025, to the windscreen. It granted seven days for the vehicle to be removed. Vehicle removal was currently awaited.

8. **Parish Council Computer.**

Mr P P W Edworthy declared a DPI and Mr R P Edworthy declared a personal (close family relative of Mr P P W Edworthy) interest, both left the meeting. Two local firms had been requested to provide quotations for a new laptop computer with Windows 11, incl. software, data transfer, etc. One firm had responded – Edworthy Media had provided three different laptop options with costs. Recommended was a Lenovo V15 Intel Core i5 laptop, due to increased longevity and efficiency, at £499.00 + vat £99.80, total £598.80. Other options had poorer longevity with a maximum of only three years before efficiency decreased. Members accepted the recommendation and agreed to proceed.

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

Events and information available since the last Parish Council meeting:

DALC Connect Event: LGR, on 10 September 2025. The video and presentation slides of the event had been supplied and circulated to Members, email dated 11 September 2025.

DCC had unveiled it's 'leading' option for local government change, refer link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/a-stronger-future-shaped-by-communities-devon-unveils-leading-option-for-local-government-change/>

MDDC State of the District Debate, on 17 September 2025, provided information, copies of the presentation slides had been supplied and were circulated to Members, refer email dated 23 September 2025. Questions, with responses, submitted in advance of the State of the District debate had been circulated, refer email dated 4 October 2025.

A few different options, without universal agreement across the county, were being worked on in readiness for submission to central government by 28 November. Cllr Cairney commented that the Labour government had initiated reorganisation but that it would likely prove expensive. Exeter's plan involved extending it's boundary and taking in towns, eg Exmouth and some east Devon parishes, Dawlish and Crediton with some surrounding parishes (possibly intending to increase housing provision). Costs were likely to be very high. It was possible some parish councils could group together, possibly in combination accepting some devolved services.

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

Speeding A3072 western approach to village (DCC suggested highway works), Burston Cross area. Still nothing had been heard or received. Cllr Cairney would meet DCC Highway Neighbourhood Officer Mr Tucker, next week. *Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* Nothing had been received from DCC. Cllr Cairney would meet DCC Highway Neighbourhood Officer, Mr Tucker, next week. Since awaiting the VAS, another three-vehicle accident had occurred late September, on the A3072 in the vicinity of the Co-op shop, involving ambulances and the police – that accident might have been avoided if DCC had authorised the long-requested VAS to be installed.

Other Highway matters. The A3072 had been closed for four (13-16 October) days, for South West Water to deal with an emergency sewer blockage issue, nr Hillsboro/Part Godfreys. The emergency road closure had provoked myriad complaints (inconvenience of a long diversion route and the chaos created in all local back roads as traffic congested).

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**

MDDC, Questions (with responses) submitted in advance of the State of District debate.

MDDC, State of the District Debate event, materials and resources, for reference (email dated 23/09/25).

MDDC, pots and pans collections starting 15/09/25, Recycle More, latest side waste data.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Council's working together ahead of Local Government changes.

MDDC Press Release, track your health with Active Mid Devon's updated Health Seekers programme.

MDDC Press Release, Rural Affairs - theft of farm machinery, agricultural vehicles/plant/tools, information.

MDDC Press Release, Active Mid Devon to host drop-in session for unpaid carers, Tiverton 01/10/25.

MDDC Press Release, local voluntary community groups invited to meet grant funders, Tiverton on 22/10/25.

MDDC Press Release, Council supports Cullompton's Autumn Festival with free parking, on 11/10/25.

MDDC Press Release, launch of permanent recycling collections for unusable metal pots and pans from 15/09/25.

DAAT, Community Landing Sites, info.

Bow Village Hall, no longer able to accept cheque payments from 01/12/2025 (circumstances beyond their control)

Devon and Cornwall Alert, online webinar Stop Loan Sharks & Cyber Protect, 26/11/25.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Prisoners Building Homes to revolutionise housebuilding with innovative AI tool.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, romance fraud warning, romance scammers create fake profiles, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, pioneering new support to deter young people from crime.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, new campaign, Project Nighteye, to help tackle violence against women and girls.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police working with DeterTech, Devon Cricket Foundation and Cornwall Cricket as part of a joint initiative to prevent burglary and be a deterrent, since 01/03/25, 36 sports clubs in Devon & Cornwall burgled.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's mission to tackle violence against women and young girls (VAWG).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, student safety: protect young people from fraud and cyber crime.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, police raise awareness around spiking (national spiking awareness week).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, parking scam via Text, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, fraud and forgery (eg bogus callers, courier fraud, cyber crime) update, which local people had highlighted as a concern on the priority survey.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner launches new CCTV fund scheme to reduce crime in towns and villages.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police offer motorists with communication needs free seatbelt covers.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and Communities surgery, 18/09/25 at Morrisons, Mill Street, Crediton.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner backs recruitment drive to increase PCSO numbers in Devon & Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, warning to protect your pension from fraud.

DALC, autumn training and events e-bulletin.

DALC, invitation to attend DALC's AGM on Wednesday 1 October 2025 at Exeter Racecourse, agenda pack.

NALC, nominations opened for 2025 governance elections, nomination period closes 31/10/2025.

Devon Communities Together, training information.

Publications: DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, DAAT newsletter (October 2025) and DCC news round-up Connectme.

13. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,189.14, Current a/c £28,485.12

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Bow Village Hall (hire of meeting venue April - September 2025 inclusive) £46.90

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £205.50 qtr. ending 30/09/25 £954.50

H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Jul - Sep 2025) £187.25

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £19.75

14. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Bow Waterworks. Mr Steer enquired on progress towards leak repair work at Water Lane. A second estimate, from usual contractor, Hi-Tec, had been received. It was significantly less than the first estimate and had been accepted. Bow Waterworks could afford that cost. A date for the work, from Hi-Tec, was currently awaited.

(ii) Faulty streetlight, Bow village field. Cllr Cairney had received a comment that streetlight no.3, along the footpath around the field, was faulty. Mark Burrows Electrical, with Natonal Grid, was addressing the issue. Cllr Cairney suggested an industrial solar light might be suitable.

15. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 12 November 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.