

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,
Messrs P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, S A Pengelly and V Steer.
MDDC rep. Cllr A White.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
Members of the Public: Nil.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Mr R A Cook, MDDC rep. Cllr Mrs Letch.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 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

[25/01470/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of four dwellings and one replacement dwelling following demolition of two barns utilising the Class Q fallback position (24/01839/PNCOU)

Location: Blue Violet, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273157 / 98333

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors, email dated 5 November 2025.

Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[25/01178/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of dwelling following demolition of redundant commercial building (Revised Scheme)

Location: Land and building at NGR 273317 100829 (Nymet Cottage), Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273317 / 100829

[25/00810/FULL](#)

Proposal: Change of use of land to graveyard

Location: land at NGR 272673 100644 (West of St Bartholomew's Church) Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272674 / 100668

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 & Nov-Dec issues). However, neither application nor any enquiries had been received to date.

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

Per DCC information conveyed in the Bow and Arrow (Nov/Dec issue) by Cllr Cairney, reported that DCC endorsed a motion proposing a county wide ban on student smartphone use during the school day, effective from September 2026. It aimed to prioritise children's wellbeing by reducing digital distractions, bullying and anxiety in schools. DCC supported the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) campaign. Consultation with schools, parents, governors and pupils would be conducted early 2026. DCC could not enforce the ban but encouraged all schools to adopt aligned policies. Parish Councils whilst not directly responsible, played a role in community engagement and advocacy. Parish Councils were encouraged to actively participate in the consultation process, supporting schools in implementing policies reflective of community values and priorities.

Cllr Cairney had forwarded a report prepared by Cllr DuChesne MBE, MDDC's Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement. It focused on District matters and had been circulated to Members. It included information relating to the Grand Western Canal; recycling (pots & pans now included); Active Mid Devon had teamed up with Libraries Unlimited to support the community's health and wellbeing with a free drop-in event at Tiverton library offering free health checks; Active Mid Devon had welcomed local unpaid carers to a special wellbeing drop-in session at Active Tiverton; MDDC would install barriers at Active Crediton and Active Cullompton following unauthorised encampments at both sites; town and parish councils had been invited to an event 'Filming in Devon' re. potential film locations for future filming of crime drama/period films; Local Government Reorganisation & assets - clarification and advice provided to town/parish councils stating "*With regard to Local Govt. Reorganisation (LGR) all Devon Councils are in the tranche timetabled to go-live on the 1/4/28. This means a shadow authority will be created 12 months prior to this date and will become a decision-making body regarding material financial decisions/transactions of all the constituent councils. Up until this date Mid Devon will still have full decision-making powers with regard to asset sales/disposals, etc.*

As you would imagine the Council has various processes that relate to the sale, disposal, transfer of assets. Our financial regulations dictate who/how these agreements can be made and we also have a Capital Strategy Asset Group (CSAG) who discuss/consider the more significant decisions, before making recommendations to the relevant Committee or Cabinet Member(s). To provide some further assistance I have attached the link to some details shown in our transparency pages on the website [MDDC transparency code assets](#) I am sure you are well aware of the District owned assets in your Towns/Parishes – but if you need any information, please feel free to contact us.

If you are interested in acquiring any key assets in your locality I would recommend, in the first instance, that you contact me, or my Deputy Paul Deal, to have an initial/exploratory conversation to discuss the “art of the possible” and we can then provide you with the necessary processes, timelines, costings, etc. in order to aid your decision making.

As part of these conversations we can also discuss how we may be able to assist you in the funding of these decisions in order to smooth the impact on your precept.” Cllr Cairney's report also included a Meet the Funder event for Community Groups and those who might be able to provide funding, to meet and engage, a new resident's survey was open <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/let-s-talk-mid-devon-residents-survey-2025-now-op> and the final item was events offered by Prosper (business support programme delivered by DCC in partnership with MDDC, EDDC and Exeter City Council) being Bid Writing Masterclass (Crediton 13/11/25), AI and Automation workshop (Exeter 24/11/25) and Packaging & Waste Event (Tiverton 2/12/25).

Addressing Parish Council, Cllr Cairney spoke about Local Government Reorganisation, saying that several ideas/proposals were at various stages of preparation/submission, he commented on worries that some might involve political motivation and commented on cost saying that the exercise would be expensive (costing £millions to change over the system) and that it would not save money, he feared for communities, eg Bow, which possibly may have to combine with other parish councils, also saying that precepts would have to increase.

Bow Play Areas. Parish Council agreed that an approach would be made to MDDC indicating Bow Parish Council's interest in acquiring and running the three play areas, Iter Park, Lilian Close and St Martin's Close/Churchlands.

7. MDDC (Upper Yeo & Taw Ward) Monthly Report.

Cllr Mrs Letch had reported, in Bow and Arrow Nov-Dec 2025 issue, on MDDC's State of the District Debate with Somerset Council colleagues and officers who had recently undergone reorganisation. Somerset Council colleagues had commented the process had been difficult and chaotic, with some unresolved serious problems. Some Somerset parish councils had performed significantly better than the principal authority which had, at points, declared a state of emergency. Cllr Letch conveyed that MDDC suggested that town/parish councils now assess which properties and facilities they would be happy to take on and step forward with proposals to avoid closure of important non-statutory services after MDDC stops existing.

Cllr Mrs Letch also conveyed that MDDC recycling now included pots and pans.

Cllr White added that the motocross track, at East Langford, had been subject to MDDC Planning Enforcement action and was being issued with a cease and desist notice given it had (allegedly) breached noise levels and the 14-day limit, etc. Noise enforcement action was currently being taken.

Bow Conservation Area. Cllr White mentioned MDDC's Appraisal and Management Plan and would send a draft to the Clerk. It was scheduled to be considered by MDDC in January and by Cabinet in February. Parish Council would discuss it at the Parish Council meeting in January 2026.

The Shire, Bow. Cllr White would follow up the matter with the MDDC Planning case officer.

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

Vehicle, silver Volkswagen reg. no. WV55WPO, had been removed.

Another vehicle, silver Volkswagen reg. no. GK09RPX, untaxed (SORN, MoT expired 17/7/25) also had a formal MDDC Notice dated 3 November 2025, affixed to the windscreen. Removal of second vehicle awaited

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

Updates and further information received, subsequent to the last Parish Council meeting, included -

a) MDDC press release, 'Devon councils announce proposal for new local government structure for the county', published on behalf of the district councils of Devon. Refer to email, dated 16/10/2025, circulated to Members.

b) DALC/DCC Briefing Announcement LGR, remote via Zoom, on 20 October, 2pm-3pm. DCC's Cabinet Member for Local Government Reorganisation, Cllr Paul Arnott, and senior DCC staff members, presented the briefing on DCC's LGR plans. The recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns7Ei6CwCn4&t=187s> and the presentation slides <https://devonalc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/LGR-DALC-Presentation-Devon.pdf> had been circulated to Parish Councillors, refer to email dated 23/10/2025.

c) MDDC Invitation: Devon Local Government Reorganisation – Stakeholder Briefing & Feedback Session, remote via Teams, dedicated session for town and parish councils, on 6 November at 6:00pm. Refer email dated 24.10.2025.

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.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Cllr Cairney had met DCC Highways Local Neighbourhood Officer, Mr Tucker, the previous week and had been advised that the VAS "can move ahead". Mr Tucker had advised Cllr Cairney that DCC would install two posts – installation awaited.

Other Highway matters. South West Water current A3072 road closures (SWW connecting properties from Bow Waterworks to SWW supply) was irksome to residents and the travelling public: official diversion lengthy and local byroads quickly became congested by large vehicle usage, causing long delays. The several closures, incl for SWW emergency sewer works, was adversely impacting Bow Garden Centre, hence some weekend work was likely to be changed to overnight work.

Devon County Council RoadMap, Autumn/Winter 2025 [newsletter](#) - Highway updates in your area. Circulated.

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. **Parish Precept 2026-2027.**

MDDC precept documentation (letter, interactive calculation form and Request for Payment 2026/27 pro forma) had been received. The submission deadline for submitting the precept request to MDDC was 23 January 2026. Given the low attendance, agreed that the matter be deferred to the Parish Council meeting in January 2026.

13. **Correspondence**

Kier, for South West Water, (second) notification of road closure Staton Rd (nr 3 Tozers), 27/10/25-31/10/25.

Kier, for South West Water, (first) notification of road closure Staton Rd (nr 3 Tozers), 19/01/26-23/01/26.

MDDC, residents' [survey 2025](#) open, closing date 8 December.

MDDC, free parking, on five Saturdays, at one car park at Crediton (St Saviour's Way), Tiverton & Cullompton.

MDDC, recycle pumpkins this Halloween, recycle more, latest side waste data August to September 2025, info.

MDDC, Prosper programme, latest workshop series available for Mid Devon businesses.

MDDC Press Release, observance of Armistice Day with the Royal British Legion, 11 November.

MDDC Press Release, Screen Devon, filming in Mid Devon, information event at Uffculme on 28 November.

MDDC Press Release, responding to unauthorised encampment MDDC to install height barriers at two leisure sites.

MDDC Press Release, investigating complaints re. an odour in the Tiverton area.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC supported DCC in it's bid for upgrading works at Cullompton's Junction 28 of M5.

MDDC Press Release, free drop-in event health checks at Tiverton Library 7 November 10:00am - 4:00pm

MDDC Press Release, Active Mid Devon hosts wellbeing drop-in for unpaid carers at Active Tiverton.

The Pensions Regulator, workplace pensions re-enrolment, third anniversary of previous re-enrolment April 2026.

Tor Support, Okehampton, requesting financial support.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, driving while distracted, video.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Plymouth school children urge motorists: "Drive carefully and keep us safe!".

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Neighbourhood Watch has partnered with Future-Proof Estate Planning (FPEP), info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, police received several reports of bogus cold callers in Crediton area, warning/advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, mobile phone theft awareness campaign, survey.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, urgent need to recruit more digital forensic officers to work in police forces.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, new crime reporting online tool welcomed by Devon seaside town businesses.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, local Neighbourhood Team will be at Crediton Library 16 October 1:30pm to 2:30pm.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner award, praises multi-skilled responders who are unique to Devon & C'will

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall Police launch police boat Neptune.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, new scam alert: Protect yourself from payment diversion fraud when buying a new property.

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

DCC, Devon Countryside Access Forum, recruiting to fill places on the DCAF, applications invited.

DCC, Devon Climate Emergency October [newsletter](#)

NALC, Nominations open for 2025 governance elections.

Devon Communities Together, AGM and Rural Transport Poverty + Q & A, Bridestowe 26 November.

Devon Communities Together, Devon Community Learning courses 'Training Tuesday'.

Publications: DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, DAAT [newsletter](#) (November 2025), RDUH One Devon (October) newsletter, Healthwatch Devon e-bulletin and DCC news round-up Connectme.

14. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,189.14, Current a/c £33,774.18

MDDC £6,500.00, (50% of precept for 2025/2026 of £13,000.00), credited to current a/c on 06.10.2025

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Edworthy Media (new Lenovo laptop computer) £598.80

GDM Cleaning (bus shelter glass clean 10.10.2025) £8.00

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £43.80 (Nov & Dec 2025) £43.80

15. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Village field footpath streetlight. Mr Nicks advised that Mark Burrow Electrical had advised that a new head unit is required, costing £400. Parish Council indicated it's likely agreement.

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:50pm.