

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2026 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr T J Hamilton and Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,
Messrs D Pocock and V Steer.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
Members of the Public: Nil.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Messrs R A Cook, P P W Edworthy and S A Pengelly and MDDC rep. A White.

In the Chairman's absence, Mr Hamilton was nominated to chair the meeting pending the Chairman's arrival. Mr Hamilton took the chair, Mr Nicks joined the meeting at 7:45pm.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

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

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Untaxed vehicle, silver Volkswagen reg. no. GK09RPX, Jackman car park. The vehicle had been removed (whether by the keeper or by Mid Devon District Council was unknown).

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

Nil

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVAL

25/01287/LBC

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

Location: Paddocks Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273352 / 100832

5. **Casual Vacancy.**

The vacancy remained, it needed to be filled by co-option. The vacancy was being advertised on the notice board as well as having been advertised in the Bow and Arrow (Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb issues). To date, neither application nor enquiries received.

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

Cllr Cairney had reported, via Bow and Arrow (Jan/Feb 2026 issue) the situation reference Local Government Reorganisation, conveying background, proposals submitted with government key criteria and timelines of the elements of the whole process. In addition to which he commented to Parish Council that Exeter City Council might have seen and used the LGR situation as an opportunity to not hold elections (due May 2026 for Exeter City Council) given that if elections were to be held that the Green party would be likely to take over – Exeter City Council was currently voting on whether to hold elections. With the Labour party in power in government, it looked likely that Labour stronghold councils would vote for elections to be postponed. DCC's leader was critical of proposals which could lead to elections being postponed in Exeter and Plymouth, describing the proposal put forward by a government minister as 'undemocratic and incredibly dangerous'. Cllr Cairney said it was sad that party politics appeared to be playing a role in LGR. Cllr Cairney continued saying if a four unitary authority scenario succeeded, the administrative centre for an area described as Coast and Countryside (outside Exeter, Plymouth & Torbay) was unclear. Consultation on proposals submitted was anticipated in the coming weeks.

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

Monthly report not to hand but Cllr Cairney briefly reported. He conveyed that any parishes with a railway

station would be likely to have more housing developed within their parish. He further commented that the Boniface Trail, a 12km new walking and cycling route planned to link Exeter and Crediton, was progressing. The aim was to deliver a safer, sustainable travel corridor along the busy A377. The preferred alignment was currently being considered; it would run adjacent to the A377 for most of its length, diverting between Newton St Cyres and Langford where quiet lanes would be used given physical constraints of buildings/structures along A377, before connecting to Exeter St David's via Cowley Bridge Road.

8. Bow Conservation Area, Appraisal and Management Plan.

A copy of MDDC's Bow Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) had not been received. Enquiries of Cllr White and Cllr Keable, DCC & MDDC Cabinet Member, revealed that a draft had been prepared and would be available towards the end of January, it had been scheduled for consideration by MDDC Cabinet on 19 February 2026 with a formal recommendation to approve the draft for public consultation. To await copy of draft CAAMP.

9. Parish Council Bank.

Santander had notified customers, who were formerly Alliance & Leicester customers, of changes; new cheque books and paying-in books were necessary. The current cheque book could only be used to 15 January 2026. Revised Terms and Conditions had been issued. Santander had also introduced monthly bank charges.

10. Local Government Reorganisation, English Devolution White Paper.

All further information and updates received, with URL links, had been circulated to Members.

- a) MDDC press release, 'Councils to consider final proposals for the future of local services in Devon', <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/councils-to-consider-final-proposals-for-the-future-of-local-services-in-devon/>
- b) A new website had been created, [Home | Reimagining Devon](#)
- c) A video had been created by seven of the eleven district councils, entitled Reimagining Devon – Believe in Better <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QzssXMwQP8&t=70s>
- d) Proposal, Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better, view at www.reimaginingdevon.org Refer email dtd 17/11/25.
- e) MDDC press release, business case for local services submitted to Government by seven of Devon's 11 councils as a combined submission [District councils submit proposal for reimagined local government in Devon.](#)
- f) Devon Association of Local Councils update –
[Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\) - Devon](#)
[Local Government Reorganisation - Exeter City Council](#)
[Proposal - Torbay Council](#)

11. Bow Play Areas, Iter Park, Lilian Close and St Martin's Close/Churchlands.

Given the advent of Local Government Reorganisation, Parish Council had written expressing its interest in the acquisition and future running of Bow's three play areas Iter Park, Lilian Close and St Martin's Close/Churchlands. MDDC responded advising that play areas situate Lilian Close and St Martin's Close were smaller and were on MDDC's list for closure in 'managed decline', commenting that other destination play areas in Bow, Iter Park and the village field, could serve the residents of the sites to be closed. MDDC was considering future options for the assets once decommissioned. MDDC further commented that Iter Park play area is in better condition and is more regularly maintained. Parish Council briefly discussed also agreeing that Bow residents would not be consulted on the future of Bow's play areas.

MDDC had also forwarded a schedule of Bow's litter bin collection within the parish. It was unknown whether town/parish councils would be charged, post Local Government Reorganisation, for litter bin servicing.

12. 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, again, to tour and inspect the parishes. On the occasions they had toured Bow, Mr Tucker specifically checked whether the two posts on which the device would be mounted had been installed by DCC – which they hadn't! Cllr Cairney would continue to pursue the matter with Mr Tucker.

Other Highway matters. Winter weather had adversely affected multiple roads with numerous new potholes forming and existing ones worsening. The unclassified road from Bow Pound to Bow Church and beyond had widespread deterioration and required patching.

13. Monitoring of Services

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

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

14. Parish Precept 2026-2027.

Parish Council discussed and considered the precept for 2026-2027 with consideration given to the budget, financial commitments, balanced with Bow residents' ability to pay. The Clerk commented that automated external defibrillators (AEDs) had a life expectancy of some eight to ten years – the AED situate Bow village hall, having been installed in 2015, was due for replacing. Members indicated their wish to replace it, costs for a replacement would be established. Cllr Cairney advised applying for a DCC Locality Budget grant of £1,500 towards the new AED. After discussion, on the proposal of Mr Nicks, seconded by Mr Hamilton, it was agreed to increase the precept by £1,000, from £13,000 set for the year 2025-2026, to £14,000 (increase of 7.69%). It was also agreed to deduct the Devon Association of Local Council's subscription for 2026-2027, from the precept.

15. Correspondence

MDDC, invitation to Planning training for town and parish councils, on 26/3/26 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, Microsoft Teams or in person at Phoenix House. To book places by 16/3/2026.

MDDC, Garden waste service to collect Christmas trees up to 31 January 2026.

MDDC, consultation on Caravan site and mobile homes, draft policy <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/caravan-site-policy-closing-date-8/4/2026>. Agreed that Bow Parish Council would not respond to the consultation.

MDDC, Tiverton Work Hub opens.

MDDC Press Release, New access gates to be installed at Active Crediton and Active Tiverton.

The Pensions Regulator, workplace pensions 3-year anniversary, re-enrolment April 2026, re-declaration Sept 2026

EDF Energy, Ofgem's price cap changes information plus copy of new Terms and Conditions.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, REPORT FRAUD (to report cybercrime, fraud) replaces Action Fraud, from 4/12/2025.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: year of significant successes to be followed by major police reforms.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner to serve as Independent to continue 'fight for Devon and Cornwall'.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Annual Cybercrime Survey.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, alcoholic drink spiking, warning and reporting, information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Christmas thanks and best wishes for 2026.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, high value machinery stolen in recent Devon & C'wll sports club burglaries, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner launched her annual budget survey, [Your Safety, Your Say](#)

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Dogs (Protection of Livestock) legislation revisions, info for dog owners & walkers.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Op Scorpion (collaboration between South West's five police forces) made 100+ arrests.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cyber, phishing information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police target drivers passing horses dangerously, information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Op Drive Insured tackles uninsured vehicles on roads, initiative.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, cyber security, free extra security for online accounts with 2-Step Verification, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon and Cornwall police supporting White Ribbon Day, 25/11/2025.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Redeployment of 121 officers to frontline roles, to strengthen policing, welcomed.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Urgent need to tackle 'unimaginable' tragedy and hurt caused by collisions in Devon and Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, 260+ pubs offer free drinks to 'Lift Legends' at Christmas.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Illegal to ride an e-scooter on a public road, incl. pavements, parks and cycle lanes.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Beware of winter fuel payment scams, information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Online shopping fraud warning and advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Sceptre - national knife crime initiative - knife surrender bins at police stations, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, museum of historical archives and memorabilia of policing in Devon and Cornwall + film.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Mid Devon man charged with charity box theft offences in Crediton and Okehampton.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police support week of action to take a stand against retail crime.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez, public transport safety must become a priority.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, [OUR NEWS](#) (November 2025) and [OUR NEWS](#) (December 2025) newsletters.

DALC, New Year Training and Events e-bulletin.

DCC, [Devon Climate Emergency](#) December and [January](#) newsletters.

DAAT, thanks for community support (now 207 landing sites in Devon) throughout 2025 and Season's greetings.

Mel Stride MP, Christmas greetings to Clerk and Parish Councillors.

NALC, voting open for 2025 governance elections.

Devon Communities Together, Devon Community Learning Bulletin, courses (various) information.

Devon Communities Together, Christmas greetings from Devon Communities Together.

Devon Communities Together, Training Tuesday, training courses information.

Sovereign Play Equipment, Christmas greetings.

The Plastic Company, Christmas greetings.

The Plastic Company, provide eco-friendly, recycled plastic street furniture (advert).

Interpreting and Translation Linguists Collective, invitation to join LC Conference & International Mother Language Day Celebration 2026.

Publications: Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, Healthwatch DPT festive e-bulletin, RDUH One Devon (November, [December](#) & [January](#)) newsletter and DCC news round-up Connectme.

16. Finance.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,189.14, Current a/c £33,123.58

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £161.44 qtr. ending 31/12/2025 £910.44

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

17. Any Other Business.

Nil

18. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:15pm