

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026 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, T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly,  
D Pocock and V Steer.  
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.  
MDDC rep. Mrs N Letch.  
Members of the Public: Nil.  
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

**Apologies:** Nil

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2026, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[26/00138/CLU](#)

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of a building for a period in excess of four years

Location: Land and building at NGR 272724 100370 (Upper Barn) Nymet Farm, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 318270 / 117089

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors, refer email dated 2 February 2026.

Parish Council did not have any observations to make.

[26/00140/CLU](#)

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of a building for a period in excess of four years

Location: Building at NGR 272662 100274 (Lower Barn) Nymet Farm, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272662 / 100274

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors, email dated 4 February 2026.

Parish Council did not have any observations to make.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

Nil

Some Parish Councillors had received enquiries concerning the motocross track which had been proposed at East Langford in June 2021; the application had subsequently been withdrawn August 2021. The track was reportedly being used occasionally. Planning's '28-day rule' (reduced to 14 days for motorcycle racing) for using land or buildings for an alternative use without the need for formal planning consent, applied. Enquiries included whether the constructed/developed track was permitted to endure (with usage limited to 14 days per year) in the absence of any formal planning consent. It was suggested that land would need to be restored to original status/condition. Cllr White had been addressing the case with MDDC Planning Enforcement Officers.

5. **Casual Vacancy.**

Despite advertisements, on the notice board and in the Bow and Arrow (September/October 2025, November/December 2025 and January/February 2026 issues), to date neither applications nor any enquiries had been received. The vacancy, which needed to be filled by co-option, would continue.

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

Cllr Cairney discussed the issue of roads and potholes; many Devon roads, particularly rural roads, were badly affected by numerous potholes. Winter weather, excessive rainfall over winter months coupled with limited freeze/thaw conditions, had exacerbated the quantity and sizes of potholes and road conditions. Cllr Cairney said that some 750 potholes were reported daily and that DCC would include an additional £10 million in the budget to repair potholes. Cllr Cairney suggested that a local road warden (necessary training was available free via DCC) be appointed who could assist with pothole repair. Parish Council to advertise in the Bow and Arrow for volunteers to the suggested road warden role. Parish Council had previously attempted to set up a Bow road warden scheme but lacked volunteers. Cllr Cairney also advised that he had received comments from a Bow haulage business that yellow lines in Bow needed repainting (this had been recognised by Parish Council and duly reported to DCC on a few previous occasions over recent years but without DCC taking action). It was reported that vehicles parked at Water Lane had prevented an emergency fire engine from getting through to attend a fire at Serstone, on 1 February. Cllr Cairney would refer the matter to the local Neighbourhood Highways officer. Given badly eroded yellow lines, parking enforcement action could not be taken. The need for white line repainting as well, at Bow, had also been reported to DCC. Cllr Cairney also advised that the government had announced that it would cover the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) financial deficits of councils.

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

No report to hand.

8. **Bow Conservation Area, Appraisal and Management Plan.**

MDDC's draft copy of Bow's Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP), due late January, had not yet been received, Cllr Keable (cc Cllr White) had been reminded. It appeared that Parish Council would not have opportunity to consider the CAAMP ahead of the public consultation exercise. To await Bow's CAAMP.

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

Statutory consultation had begun, views were sought on the five proposals the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to submit proposals for unitary local government for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. Statutory consultation dates were 5 February 2026 to 26 March 2026. All required information was shown on the government website, refer link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay> The Clerk had conveyed information to Bow Parish Councillors, refer email dated 6 February 2026.

The Clerk had attended a remote Zoom meeting on 9 February, hosted by Devon Association of Local Councils, with main presentation by Somerset Council (copy of recording and slides not yet available). A recommendation, that preparation is key, was that devolving services/facilities needed to start ahead of D-Day, using a Memorandum of Understanding to detail transfer of assets, etc. Parish Council would await government's decision.

10. **Automated External Defibrillator (AED), North Elevation of Village Hall.**

Bow Parish Council had three AEDs: all Cardiac Science Powerheart G5 semi-automatic devices, with the Nymet Tracey AED also having the additional feature of a CPR device, which had added slightly to its cost. It was agreed that the AED, currently 10+ years old, on the exterior wall of the village hall, would be replaced with a new, same make and model, device with CPRD feature. The Clerk had ascertained costs, most competitive being from Defib Warehouse – Cardiac Science Powerheart G5 semi-automatic with CPR at £1,230.00 (£1,025 + vat) and Aivia 200 outdoor unlocked cabinet £540.00 (£450.00 + vat). Electrical installation costs would be in addition. Members agreed to proceed with purchase of AED with CPR device, also applying for a DCC Locality Budget grant of £1,500.

11. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

*Speeding A3072 western approach to village (DCC suggested highway works), Burston Cross area.* Having waited for DCC to consult with Parish Council on the DCC suggested works for some 4+ years, without receiving contact or any information, the matter would be dropped.

*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* Cllr Cairney had, again, spoken to the local Highway Neighbourhood officer concerning installation of the two posts. Given time elapsed, up to date costs for the device and associated elements, would be required and obtained.

*Other Highway matters.* The road towards Hilldown was reportedly in a very poor state, however it was also reported that DCC had said that no action would be taken.

12. **Monitoring of Services**

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

M.D.D.C. Some refuse collections had been delayed – understood to be crew sickness related.

13. **Correspondence**

MDDC, Local Government Reorganisation consultation now live, dates 5 February 2026 to 26 March 2026.

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

MDDC, Press Release, residents urged to dispose of batteries safely to reduce fire and environmental risks.

MDDC, Press Release, free Business Rates information event for local firms, 22 February 2026 at Tiverton.

MDDC Press Release, Council donates more than £3,300 to local housing charity (CHAT).

DCC, Flood Risk Management, Storm Chandra Flooding 26–27 January 2026. DCC requested local flood info.

Kier, Notification of Road Closure, road from Bow Station Cross to Hillerton Cross, 12/05/2026, from 18:30 - 23:00.

DAAT, wet weather and Community Landing Sites, requesting info. re flooding etc of site (Bow site not flooded).

The Pensions Regulator, workplace pensions 3-year anniversary, re-enrolment April 2026, re-declaration by September 2026.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Improved support for survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner highlights the significant impact police reforms will have in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, computer hacking, information and advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: Collaboration is key for improving community safety.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Report Fraud (for reporting cyber-crime and fraud) launches, replacing Action Fraud.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Rural Affairs officers welcome new law to crack down on livestock attacks.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Scam Alert: fake parking fine messages, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Tackling Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in Devon and Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, City College, Plymouth, students create impactful video about knife crime.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cold callers offering roofing/guttering work, warning/awareness highlighted.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: Delight at Government's first road safety strategy in a decade.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police Commissioner fears policing services at risk amid funding uncertainty.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, cyber awareness info and guidance.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Crediton Night Bus Service for 2025 and 2026.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, [OUR NEWS](#) (January) and [OUR NEWS](#) (February) newsletters.

DALC, Help shape the future of Devon's library, consultation (survey) closes 22 February 2026.

DALC, New Year Training and Events e-bulletin.

DCC, Devon Climate Emergency, [February newsletter](#).

Devon Communities Together, Our impact, covering October-December 2025, with Infographic.

Devon Communities Together, Devon Community Learning (training, courses, info) bulletin

*Publications:* DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter,

Healthwatch Devon Plymouth & Torbay e-bulletin, RDUH [One Devon](#) (February) newsletter and DCC news round-up Connectme.

14. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,189.14, Current a/c £32,025.89

Santander stated that interest rate on deposit a/c would reduce from 1% to 0.80%, effective 2 April 2026.

ACCOUNT AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

MDDC (RoSPA annual play area inspection, village field) £100.80

15. **Any Other Business.**

Nil

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

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

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:40pm.