

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8 JULY 2026 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr S A Pengelly in the Chair,
Messrs P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, T J Hamilton, C D Nicks and D Pocock.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
MDDC re. Cllr A White.
Members of the Public: three (part only)
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

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

1. **Public Open Forum.**

Three Members of Bow Village Centre Association (BVCA) were introduced and welcomed. The BVCA Chairman provided an overview of the history of BVCA – when the former CP school was sold, the future sports/recreation field, Burston Meadow, was purchased. To ensure that the new sports/recreation field was not sold, to safeguard it for future generations, the BVCA was formed. It's Charity Commission purpose/objects being to 'help provide facilities and support for local groups'. BVCA encompassed local charities, including Heart of Devon (being discontinued), the Bow and Arrow and Bow Historical society. A field committee had been formed which paid running costs. The original lease for the field showed an annual rental sum, the intention had been for that to be reviewed and become a peppercorn rent after 2019. BVCA had attempted to have the lease amended but had encountered difficulties. There had been meeting(s) with solicitors which had not progressed. The current two holding/custodian trustees were happy to relinquish their role. BVCA had investigated becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC) but the charity aspect complicated it, so was proving difficult. Options for the future needed to be considered; Bow Parish Council becoming the custodian trustee of Burston Meadow was an option. BVCA enquired whether Parish Council would accept owning Burston Meadow as an Asset (not as custodian trustee) with the current committee continuing to run it. The Charity Commission would need to approve dissolving the existing arrangement. One suggestion was that the Parish Council be a corporate trustee and to maintain the objects as originally set out. BVCA intimated that, rather than seeking Charity Commission advice, that a lawyer's advice would be sought. Parish Council requested that clarification be sought on what options/mechanisms a lawyer would suggest so that Parish Council take over the land only and that BVCA wish to wind up. Those options, once established, would need to be presented to Parish Council.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2026, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read and were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

- (i) New Automated External Defibrillator and cabinet, village hall. The Devon County Council Locality Budget fund application for £1,500.00 had been successful. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Cairney for supporting both the project and the Locality Budget application.
- (ii) Banking, Unity Trust Bank. The Chairman's enquiries were in hand. The Clerk had spoken to Unity Trust Bank, which provided accounts for organisations, charities, councils, etc that were all online. Depositing cheques was via a NatWest branch or by post (Freepost). Fees, for balances under £100,000, were £7.00 monthly, no transaction fees applied. Paper statements were available. BACS procedure awaited clarification.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

Nil

MDDC DECISIONS

Nil

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

Cllr Cairney had reported, via the Bow and Arrow (Jul-Aug 2026 issue), on libraries, their role in the community and the challenges (funding) faced. DCC had agreed to adopt a Transformation Model for Libraries to ensure protection of core services in Exeter and key population centres. The Transformation Model would involve strengthening Exeter library, as a flagship hub, and reduce costs (also supporting smaller libraries through partnerships and community involvement) whilst ensuring that libraries across Exeter and Devon remain sustainable, accessible and relevant.

Cllr Cairney also spoke about a BT group in Crediton, AbilityNet, supporting a range of users (older, disabled, etc people) seeking help and support with technology.

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

Mid Devon District Council's App, launched in June, was available to download; it provided quick access to reporting issues, council news, service updates, contacting councillors, etc..

Elections. Uncertainty existed regarding the term for the next town/parish elections. Hitherto, district and town/parish councils had four-year terms with synchronised election dates, which was cost efficient. However, it was expected that new shadow unitary elections would take place in 2027, as with town/parish councils, but would serve an initial five-year term thereby town/parish council elections would fall out of alignment with principal authorities in Devon (next town/parish elections would be 2031, with unitary elections in 2032). DALC had advised that districts would make representation to government for a five-year term for parish/town councils from 2027, to ensure that elections remain in alignment. Or, unitary elections might be delayed.

7. **Bow Village Centre Association.**

BVCA would be requested to provide Parish Council with the various options for a future role, after BVCA had obtained formal advice.

8. **Mid Devon District Council, Transfer of Assets.**

Three Expressions of Interest, relating to Bow's three play areas owned/managed by Mid Devon District Council, viz Iter Park, St Martins Close and Lilian Close, had been submitted to MDDC in June. MDDC's response, with the Heads of Terms, awaited.

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

Mid Devon District Council Conservation officers had announced the six-week public consultation, from 1 July to 26 August 2026, with a public drop-in session at the Community Room of Bow village hall on 29 July, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, when officers would be present to answer any questions. The Clerk had notified Bow Parish Councillors (email dated 1 July) and referred members to MDDC's Let's Talk Mid Devon <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk> webpage. MDDC had been asked but would not be issuing any publicity for the public event.

10. **MDDC New Local Plan, 'Plan Mid Devon' 2026–2046.**

The Clerk had supplied Members with all available information and links to online information. The Scoping consultation closed on 10 July 2026. Linked with the new Plan, was the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), website link <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment/>. It showed submissions made for each of the parishes within mid Devon. Specific for Bow parish submissions <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/358242/appendix-3b-west-bow-2026.pdf>

Bow Parish Council would have opportunity to comment when MDDC consultation opened early next year. Members would give consideration to the five Bow submissions made in response to the 'Call for Sites' in 2021 and 2025 (MDDC had combined one submission from Bow Parish Council with an alternative option submitted for the same site).

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

Parish Road Warden Scheme. Another short piece had been in the Bow and Arrow but, to date, no volunteers had expressed an interest.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Device delivery awaited, anticipated in August. An application to DCC Locality Budget Fund for £500.00, per Cllr Cairney's recommendation, had not yet received a response.

Yellow and white line repainting. Cllr Cairney advised that DCC had put DYL repainting 'on the list'.

'Abandoned' car, Burston layby. MDDC would be requested to remove the navy blue BMW. The layby had been marked 'Closed', loads of earth/spoil had been left/dumped there, no further information yet available.

12. **Monitoring of Services**

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

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

13. **Correspondence**

MDDC, Important legislative change affecting the publication of Members' personal information. All town/parish councillors were required to complete new Registers of Interest, refer email dated 1/7/26.

MDDC, Waste & Recycling, Uffculme site tours (27/8/26, 10/9/26 & 24/9/26), new Depot configuration and in-cab technology, earlier start times for collections during heatwaves.

MDDC, Press Release, new strategic sustainability grants to support community climate and nature action.

MDDC, Press Release, Mid Devon Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) published.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, spoofed phone numbers, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in our communities.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, warning to organisations to protect themselves from ransomware.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, why you must NEVER share a verification code.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Neighbourhood Watch hosts two webinars during ASB Awareness Week.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, celebrating the role of neighbourhood policing.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, OUR NEWS, June 2026.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Courier fraud alert: Over 70s targeted as courier fraud exceeds £21 million in 2025.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: Mental health reforms are long overdue.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Arrest made following Mid Devon animal welfare warrant.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, 55 million suspicious emails reported by the public.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Specialist victim support for people with disabilities.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: Strong leadership has never been more important.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL LIFE - The Best Way to Stop Cybercriminals.

Devon Communities Together, Devon Community Learning, Training Tuesday, course info.

Publications: Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events-newsletter, DCC Devon Climate Emergency newsletters ([June](#) & [July](#)), RDUH One Devon (June) bulletin and DCC news round-up Connectme.

14. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,268.74, Current a/c £34,163.90

Interest (credited annually) £79.60 credited to deposit a/c on 24/05/2026

Vat refund £509.84 credited to current a/c on 26/05/2026

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £204.61 qtr. ending 30/06/26 £953.61

H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Apr-Jun 2026) £187.25

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £29.41

15. **Any Other Business.**

(i) The Chairman had received an enquiry reference the play area situate the village field, a parishioner understood that the play area arrangement 'would expire in three years'. Unlike the three play areas elsewhere in the village which were owned/managed by Mid Devon District Council (with possible transfer of assets to Parish Council), the village field play area site was owned by Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee and the lease to Mid Devon District Council, having expired, MDDC had handed back responsibility to the owners in 2022.

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm