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

Present: Mr S A Pengelly in the Chair,
Messrs R A Cook, T J Hamilton and V Steer.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
Members of the Public: None
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.
Apologies: Mr D Pocock.

1. **Public Open Forum**.
No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes**.
The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 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) MDDC Community Asset Transfer programme, update. MDDC advised all expressions of interest had been reviewed, following which all had been categorised (three categories); (i) meets MDDC criteria and to progress, (ii) do not currently meet MDDC criteria, MDDC unwilling to progress, (iii) may be capable of progressing but are complex. MDDC's report would be considered by Cabinet in October, following the decision MDDC would contact those councils whose proposals are approved, also conveying that it would be unlikely that all cases would be completed within the desired timeframe.
(ii) Banking, Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk's further communication with Unity Trust Bank included required Parish Council decisions on the sums to be placed into each of the two (current & deposit) new accounts from the present total of approx. £40,000 – Members wished for same sums, as currently held by Santander, to be the opening balances and of the savings account options (Instant Access or Fixed Term of 32 or 95 day Notice) Members opted for an Instant Access a/c. Signatories would need to capture and upload a photograph of their signature.

4. **Planning**
APPLICATIONS
Nil

MDDC DECISIONS
APPROVAL
26/01027/HOUSE
Proposal: Erection of a rear extension following removal of existing conservatory
Location: 7 Nymet Avenue Bow Crediton
Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272088 / 101316

5. **DCC (Crediton Rural Division) Monthly Report.**
Cllr Cairney delivered his report.
Devon Carers. DCC leaflets, highlighting DCC sought carers for foster children, were passed to the Clerk.
Local Government Review. A large sum of money had so far been wasted in the now paused process.
Play equipment. The cost of play area equipment had been discussed with MDDC cabinet member for Parish and Community Engagement, Cllr Gwen Duchesne MBE.
Highway repair work & blocked drains funding. DCC had obtained additional £4.5 million for road repair and drain clearing work. Bow Parish Councillors commented on the number of blocked drains all along the main road in Bow, with underground inter-connecting pipework not being cleared when chambers sucked out, hence many drain chambers fill with water and overflow, detrimental to road surfaces.
Local road closures (BT). Some roads would be closed for BT to erect new poles.
Road repair work. Discussion ensued about the quality and standards of DCC road repair process; members commented on associated inspections with there appearing to be a lack of compliance with directions, DCC management checks (or lack thereof) were questioned.
Regular tour/inspection of parish by DCC Neighbourhood Highway officer and County Councillor Cairney. Bow Parish Council Chairman had initially been invited but that had not transpired. One tarmac patch had been carried out at Bow Mill Lane and some work was reported to have been carried out near Collatons.

6. **MDDC (Upper Yeo & Taw Ward) Monthly Report.**
   Neither Ward Member present; no report to hand.

7. **New AED & Cabinet, Refresher Training**.
   Parish Councillor Mr Nicks was not present and costs information was not yet available.

8. **Bow Village Centre Association (BVCA).**
   Nothing further had been heard/received from BVCA reference future trusteeship of Burston Meadow recreation ground. It was understood that BVCA was making legal enquiries as to available options.
   Bow Parish Council Chairman had attended the recent Burston Meadow Recreation Ground AGM. Zeal Monachorum Parish Council's current agenda and minutes spoke about Zeal Monachoum residents having allotments at Burston Meadow. If allotments were to become available Bow residents would also need to be considered, however, given the small financial return on allotments Burston Meadow Recreation Ground Committee appeared unlikely to be making allotment space available.

9. **Community Emergency Hubs**.
   MDDC Resilience Officer, Mr Dyson, had intended attending the meeting to deliver his presentation but an unforeseen issue prevented his attendance, which was being re-scheduled.

10. **Play Areas, Bow Village Field.**
    Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee had arranged and instructed Mr S Edworthy to pressure wash safety surfacing of the play areas situate Bow Village Field. The work had been carried out with the invoice, at £500.00, issued to Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee. However, Parish Council's representative on the Committee had been passed the invoice by the Committee!! Seemingly, other quotations ahead of the work, had not been sought. If Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee wished to apply for a donation towards the cost, the Committee would need to make a written application and, together with a copy of the Committee's most recent annual accounts, submit that to the Clerk for Parish Council consideration.
    Parish Councillors had not yet inspected safety surfacing of play areas.

11. **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), English Devolution White Paper**.
    Government announced a pause to the LGR process and a review, in Devon (+ 13 other areas), on 7 September 2026. A new bid had been proposed to merge Torridge and North Devon councils which had been considered on 2 October 2026 but had been rejected. Cllr Cairney advised that much work and finance had been invested in the LGR process thus far, with it all now being very uncertain. Further developments awaited in due course.

12. **Mid Devon District Council Forward Planning, Local Green Space Consultation.**
    MDDC Forward Planning had issued a consultation document re. local green space, to town and parish councils. As part of the evidence gathering for the new Local Plan, MDDC would undertake a review of Local Green Space designations, inviting town and parish councils to nominate any additional green spaces which they consider might meet national requirements for designation as Local Green Space. Consultation ran from 17 September with the deadline recently extended from 30 October to 7 January 2027. The main purpose was to identify new Local Green Space; town/parish councils did not need to renominate sites which were already designated as Local Green Space through the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan or neighbourhood plans. Nominating new Local Green Spaces required a completed nomination form for each site, a clear boundary map plus any relevant supporting evidence. Following the consultation, MDDC would assess nominations against national planning policy and guidance with any suitable sites taken forward for consideration through subsequent stages of preparing the Plan Mid Devon. The current Local Plan had just seven sites in the Plan (Millennium greens at Bampton, Sandford & Thorverton, an orchard and a recreation ground at Bickleigh, a sports field at Witheridge and a farm field at Bradninch). The Clerk had contacted MDDC requesting a distinction between Local Green Space and sports/ recreation fields, given there were currently seven Local Green Spaces in the current Local Plan of which two were described as either a sports or recreation field, however distinction wasn't available (in the event of a developer submitting a planning application MDDC relied on Sport England to object!). Parish Council needed to ensure that the village field and Burston Meadow had all protection necessary to ensure they could not be developed. After brief discussion, it was agreed that both the village field and Burston Meadow would be nominated as Local Green Space.

13. **D.C.C. Highways Matters**.

Parish Road Warden Scheme. Mr Cook had completed his training; signing, lighting, guarding course on 9 October. (An earlier SLG course, booked with Next Steps Training Centre for 21 September, had needed to be rebooked given confusion within Next Steps, necessitating a second trip to Rackenford.) Mr Cook had received hi-vis clothing ahead of training. His DCC certificate of achievement awaited. Mr Cook would be reimbursed for his purchase of a pair of steel-cap boots and training travel (mileage) to Rackenford x 2.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). The device, with accompanying solar system, awaited assembling. Parish Council volunteers to organise and set device on the pole.

Disabled parking bay, nr Dymonds. The official process was ongoing, an advertisement in Western Morning News on 5 October 2026 required any objections by 26 October 2026.

Any other highway issues. No other issues raised.

DCC Highways Roadmap, preparing for Autumn and Winter 2026. Circulated to Members on 8 October 2026.

14. **Monitoring of Services**

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

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

The vehicular road sweeper had recently attended Bow.

15. **Correspondence**

MDDC, MDDC Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) Stakeholder Questionnaire. Refer email 30/9/26.

MDDC, Performance and Waste, online video for waste and recycling pathway https://youtu.be/C2nZiagaYl4.

MDDC, Cllr Gwen Duchesne, Parish and Community Engagement, September monthly report. Refer email 30/9/26.

Kier/SWW notification of road closure, A3072 the Square (overnight 7:00pm to 7:00am) 7/1/27-8/1/27.

Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd in partnership with SLCC, financial training seminars, mandatory digital AGAR, updates to Smaller Authorities Proper Practices, info.

DALC, AGM 7 October at Exeter Racecourse, invitation.

DALC, Security & Safety Awareness, Teams event with Devon & Cornwall Police (free) 15/10/26 online 6-7:00pm.

NALC, Introducing NALC's online resource assistant (NORA), new AI-powered assistant for parish and town councils.

Mid Devon Mobility, requesting support (website/newsletter/notice board) and financial support.

Sovereign Play Equipment funding guide.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, scam warning involving fraudsters impersonating Amazon.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, simple way to protect email and social media accounts with 2-step verification, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, beware of insurance claims hijacking after a road traffic collision, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, warning re. cybercrime – password safety advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, public warned over scammers posing as police officers.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, police pleased to announce appointment of Deb Smith as Assistant Chief Constable.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police & Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable to lead police force for a further two years

Devon and Cornwall Alert, financial institution phishing warning, fraudsters send emails, texts, claiming to be banks

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police & Crime Commissioner, Police reform must strengthen not weaken accountability

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police & Crime Commissioner, key players in Devon and Cornwall's criminal justice system meet (estimated four in every 1,000 crimes in Devon and Cornwall reach the Restorative Justice system).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Trusted family members, friends, and carers stole £51 million from pensioners, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Fake "WhatsApp Gold" messages circulating, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, OUR NEWS September & October 2026.

Community Heartbeat Trust, invitation to the Emergency Services Show 2026, 16-17 September, NEC Birmingham.

Devon Communities Together, Devon community Learning, Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD).

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

16. **Finance**.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,268.74, Current a/c £35,255.03

DCC Locality Budget Fund £500.00 received, credited to current a/c 10/09/2026

MDDC second instalment 50% of Precept (£14,000.00) for 2026-27 £7,000.00 credited to current a/c 5.10.26

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Community Heartbeat Trust (new battery & 2 sets adult pads, AED telephone kiosk) £504.72

Mr R A Cook (pair steel-cap boots + training travel expenses Rackenford x 2) £107.99

Bow Village Hall (hire of meeting venue April - September 2026 inclusive) £50.02

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £203.96 qtr. ending 30/09/26 £952.96
H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Jul-Sept 2026) £187.25
EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £22.94

17. **Any Other Business.**
(i) Peacehaven, Water Lane. An email of thanks and appreciation, from the daughter of Peacehaven householders, in particular thanking Mr Steer, Miss Ware and Mr D Nicks for their help and support during a water supply issue at Peacehaven, was read.

18. **Date of Next Meeting.**
Wednesday 11 November 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.