

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30P.M.

**Present:** Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,  
Mrs D M Pritchett-Farrell,  
Messrs R P Edworthy, C R McAllister, V Steer and G R Willis.  
Cllr Frank Letch.

Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Members of the Public: One

**Apologies:** Mrs L A Hamilton, Mr N P Edworthy and Cllr Alex White.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

1. **Public Open Forum.**

A parishioner, introducing himself and addressing Parish Council, said that he was a member of Bow Climate Action Group but did not have any association with Devon County Council's pension scheme. He commented that Bow Parish Council, along with many other town/parish councils, had declared a climate emergency in 2019. He was concerned that of DCC's pension scheme fund, some 4%, approx. £157m, was invested in fossil fuel companies. He said that in November 2021 DCC had rejected a motion to divest from fossil fuel investments. Continuing, he said that there was some, albeit very slow, movement away from fossil fuel investments. The investments involved all council tax payers. His request was that DCC research alternative investment options. He said that some other country-wide county councils had already moved/were moving away from fossil fuel investments. To date, at least two Devon parish councils had written to DCC urging divestment from fossil fuel companies. It was noted that it appeared that Liberal Democrat Members were rather more active in that area. Cllr Letch said that DCC was looking at the issue but that it had to be done slowly (otherwise it might cause/trigger some form of collapse), with alternatives identified for investments. (Some UK, and elsewhere, universities had already divested from fossil fuels.) The matter would be considered further under item 6 of the agenda.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022, having been circulated in advance, were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[21/02411/FULL](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of two storey extension following demolition of existing extensions/barn

*Location:* Sutherlands Bow Crediton Devon

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 272386 / 101729

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 12 January 2022.

Mr Edworthy declared a personal interest (neighbour) and left the meeting.

Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISION

APPROVAL

[21/02411/FULL](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of replacement farm vehicle garage, workshop and secure storage building

*Location:* Land and Buildings at NGR 27211 99045 (Treedown House) Bow Crediton Devon

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 272113 / 99019

MDDC WITHDRAWNS

[21/02202/FULL](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of agricultural building

*Location:* Land at NGR 271642 101002 (Natson Farm) Bow Crediton Devon EX17 6HZ

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 271714 / 100953

[21/01262/HOUSE](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of garage and store following demolition of existing building

*Location:* Treedown House Bow Devon

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 272097 / 98992

[21/02304/FULL](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of an agricultural storage building

*Location:* Land at NGR 272006 100911 (south of Little Langford) Bow Crediton EX17 6HZ

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 271981 / 100171

4. **MDDC Plan Mid Devon Issues Consultation.**

MDDC Forward Planning was preparing a new Local Plan (termed Plan Mid Devon) which would include a vision and strategy for how the District would be planned, the policies which would guide development, the use of land and buildings and a map showing where development could take place and which parts would be protected. MDDC had enquired which issues were thought to be the most relevant and important to communities and which should be given the greatest priority for the period to the year 2043. The consultation period ran from 31 January 2022 to 28 March 2022 (deadline for comments). The Clerk had supplied information and links to the website <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/plan-mid-devon-launches-first-public-consultation/> Two remote (Zoom) presentations had been held. Parish Council decided not to pursue the matter or to respond to the consultation.

5. **DCC Pension Scheme.**

Parish Council considered the parishioner's request that Bow Parish Council join other Devon parish councils urging DCC to research carbon neutral alternatives to fossil fuels investment streams for the DCC pension fund (enabling keeping to the climate emergency 2030 commitments). A view was expressed that DCC pension-holders should be the ones to urge DCC to research alternative investment options and to divest from fossil fuel investments. After brief discussion, there was agreement, in principle, and an email to DCC Head of Democratic Services and Member Services, Karen Strahan, would be sent urging DCC to consider divesting pension scheme funds away from fossil fuel companies in a progressive and measured way.

6. **Request for Funding, Burston Meadow Recreation Group.**

A request, for £1,000.00, comprising £478.28 to cover insurance of recently purchased tractor for grass cutting, plus tractor initial maintenance costs, had been received from the Recreation Group and was conveyed to Members. Mr Steer advised that the Committee had been unable to fundraise, given the COVID-19 pandemic, over the past two years. A copy of the annual accounts for 2020/2021 had been provided and had been sent to Members. After brief discussion, on the proposal of Mrs Pritchett-Farrell, seconded by Mr McAllister, and all being agreed, it was agreed to grant the sum of £1,000.00.

7. **Play Area, Bow Village Field.**

The transfer of responsibility from MDDC to Bow Village Hall & Field Management Committee remained in hand. The Committee had not yet obtained/provided any financial information on the additional sum required for play area insurance, etc. Financial information awaited (needed publishing on agenda, etc.)

8. **Bow Village Field, Electric Lights Along Footpath.**

Mr Nicks reported that three lights needed repair (incl. the light to the southern end said to be MDDC's responsibility), light number detail unknown, repairs were estimated to cost a maximum of £200 (? vat) per light.

9. **DCC Highways Matters.**

*Speeding A3072 western approach to village (proposed extension of 30mph limit), request for D.C.C. departure from policy on Local Speed Limits.* Rather than the understood to be intended engineering works at Burston Cross junction, DCC intended to focus on pedestrian movements in the vicinity of the Co-op shop, saying that DCC understood the desire for a reduction in speed limit was driven by concerns over pedestrian movements in the area of the Co-op shop. DCC Highways would contact Parish Council, such approach was awaited.

*Proposed Community Speedwatch.* One further volunteer had come forward (parishioners who had previously indicated a willingness to volunteer would again need to be checked as people's commitments altered over time). The PCSO had confirmed that community speedwatch schemes were permitted in 40mph zones but the suitable site to be identified by the traffic police, risk assessed etc, was still awaited.

*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* Cheriton Bishop Parish Council had progressed enquiries, obtaining and forwarding information on VAS to Bow and Copplestone parish councils. Before giving detailed consideration, it was felt appropriate to await DCC's advices following relevant SCARF meetings (dates of meeting not yet known). *20s Plenty in 2022/23.* Cllr Letch had forwarded an email from DCC's Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste, Ms Meg Booth, inviting expressions of Interest. Bow Parish Council had previously briefly considered 20s Plenty but had not felt it to be the right choice for Bow.

*Deteriorated road surface, A3072 the Square & Station Rd, close to junction.* Work was still awaited; the road surface was deteriorating. It was felt that in some areas/districts of Devon, road surface condition was less poor than at some local areas.

10. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch commented that there was little to report. Cabinet meetings would be held on 11 February 2022 and 17 February 2022 reference DCC's forthcoming budget. DCC's Children's Scrutiny Committee was addressing and acting on their Ofsted report – Cllr Letch, formerly a teacher, was supportive of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) programme and was particularly mindful of children's best interests.

11. **Monitoring of Services.**

D.C.C. Cllr Letch had emailed the Highways Neighbourhood officer, Mr Tucker, enquiring the timeframe for drain unblocking work to be carried out.

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

12. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £7,994.08, Current a/c £27,899.37

ACCOUNT AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Bow Recreation Group CIC (tractor (grass cutting) insurance + initial running expenses) £1,000.00

13. **Any Other Business.**

Nil

14. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 7.30p.m. at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20p.m.