

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CLOSE OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
ON 13 APRIL 2022 IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr C D Nicks, in the Chair,
Mrs D M Pritchett-Farrell,
Messrs C R McAllister and T J Vanstone.
Cllr F Letch.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.
Members of the Public: Nil

Apologies: Mrs L A Hamilton and Messrs N P Edworthy, R P Edworthy, V Steer and G R Willis.

PARISH COUNCIL

1. **Public Open Forum.** Nothing raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, approved as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Planning.**

APPLICATIONS

Nil

PROPOSED & GRANTED NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT

[22/00319/NMA](#)

Proposal: Non-Material Amendment for 15/00071/FULL to allow reconfiguration of windows on the south elevation.

Location: Burrow Booth Bow Crediton Devon

MDDC DECISIONS

NIL

4. **Annual Audit, Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021-2022 Form 2.**

PKF Littlejohn LLP, appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd as the external auditor, from 2017/18 to 2021/22 (final year), had issued instructions for completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/2022. Bow Parish Council met prescribed qualifying criteria, for the financial year 2021/22, for self-certification as exempt from a limited assurance review by the external auditor under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and Members agreed that Parish Council would self-certify. The AGAR Form 2 Certificate of Exemption required wet signatures; it would be duly signed ahead of submission (deadline 30 June 2022). AGAR Form 2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement required Parish Council completion and Section 2 Accounting Statements, currently in hand, required Parish Council approval after the Annual Internal Audit Report had been received, following the internal independent audit, which was being arranged. It was agreed that Mr Weeks be approached to undertake the internal independent audit. Other required documentation, viz. Bank Reconciliation and Analysis of Significant Variances were in hand with the Clerk and preparation of the Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights would be completed at the appropriate juncture. Documentation needed to be published on a public website by 1 July 2022.

5. **Notice Board (formerly at Iter Park entrance).**

A parishioner conveyed, via the Clerk, that the removed notice board had provoked some enquiries/comment on a local Facebook site. He felt that the board had been well used, also feeling that it would be again, given that events were being planned post COVID-19 pandemic. His siting suggestions being, post-mounted close to it's previous site, or affixed to the suitable section of wall (checking wall owner agreeable) just west of George's Cottages. Members discussed, another site suggestion was near the post box, opposite the CP School, in Station Road and a further suggestion was on the elliptical area of grass between the layby and the A3072, west of the village, towards Burston Cross. Cllr Letch would check with the Neighbourhood Highways officer, Mr Tucker, on siting principles.

6. **Dog Waste Bin/Litter Bin, West of Village, Nr Co-op.**

MDDC had been supplied with precise instructions, as agreed by Parish Council, to replace the existing dog waste bin (purchased by Parish Council) with a new dual-purpose bin and to remove the dog waste bin but for the dog waste bin to be retained by Parish Council, in the event of it being needed elsewhere in the parish in the future. Unfortunately, MDDC had recently installed the new dual-purpose bin but had not only removed the dog waste bin but had also taken it and had disposed of it, contrary to the arrangement. Parish Council was disappointed to learn of MDDC's actions, despite the specific request. MDDC had disposed of the dog waste bin, thus unable to return it. It was agreed that MDDC be advised that if MDDC was unable to return the dog waste bin and was unable to supply a replacement dog waste bin to compensate, Parish Council expected MDDC to make an appropriate allowance off the invoice.

7. **Play Areas, Bow Village Field – Transfer of play areas to local responsibility.**

It was reported that the transfer of the play area to Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee had been completed on 31 March 2022. Parish Council had received a request for funding for the additional insurance cost sustained by Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee at £86.20. A copy of Bow Village Hall & Field's latest (2020/2021) annual accounts had been supplied and had been circulated. It was agreed to meet the request.

8. **D. C.C. Highways Matters.**

Speeding A3072 western approach to village (proposed extension of 30mph limit). DCC Highways approach to Parish Council was still awaited.

Proposed Community Speedwatch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic). The PCSO of Crediton Police had been reminded again but owing to staff shortages/illness a site had not yet been identified.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Cllr Letch still awaited SCARF meeting date information.

Deteriorated road surface, Station Rd junction with A3072. Cllr Letch had also reported the poor road surface, described as fretting, on 1 April. Bow Mill Lane's road surface had also significantly deteriorated. Cllr Letch said that the Liberal Democrat Group, on Devon County Council, may raise the issue of deteriorated road surfaces, particularly in Mid Devon, at DCC.

Eroded white lining, in the vicinity of the bus stop at Vine House, and an eroded disabled parking bay also needed repainting (it was understood that work was in hand).

9. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch reported.

Devon County Councillors' Locality Fund had reduced to £8,000 from May 2022. Cllr Letch said that he had endeavoured to be as fair and even-handed as possible with all parishes within his electoral division. Bow had received some £1,400/£1,500 of his £10,000 budget for 2021/2022.

Cllr Letch aimed to hold his future surgeries at the monthly community market at Bow village hall.

Cllr Letch served on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) committee working group. There had been some concern about the unanimity of the approach to it. Cllr Letch said that a further OFSTED report in February 2022 indicated an improvement; two new appointments had been made. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) existed to help safeguard children/youngsters and to share information as appropriate between agencies involved. He was pressing DCC Cabinet for an increase in salaries, to be more attractive, in order to acquire the right staff. The Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) had merged on 1 April 2022, becoming the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Cllr Letch commented that there were advantages to the arrangement. By 2025, it was hoped to have reduced waiting times for elective surgery. The NHS Nightingale Hospital, Exeter, opened in 2020 to tackle COVID-19 cases, but later changed to a diagnostics unit and then to providing a range of services, would remain open.

Damaged vehicles. Cllr Letch commented that DCC had paid approx. £16,000 compensation for vehicles damaged by poor road surfaces, etc. over the previous financial year.

10. **Monitoring of Services**

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

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

11. **Correspondence.**

Devon Communities Together, Wild About Devon, community wildlife grants (< £500) available. Noted.
DALC newsletter, including an online survey to gather members' views on the issue of speed on rural roads, specifically single-track lanes. Members briefly discussed but did not feel that speed on single-track lanes was a particular issue at Bow, the survey would not be completed.
Network Rail, Dartmoor Line, work detail for improvements in advance of hourly service to be introduced in May 2022.

12. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £7,994.08, Current a/c £25,531.26
ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT
MBE (repair two lights along footpath at Bow Village Field) £258.00
MDDC (Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2022/2023 Jackman Car Park) £0.00 (invoice issued at £489.02, Small Business Relief reduced to nil)
Bow Village Field (additional cost to insure play area equipment) £86.20

13. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Local crime. Mrs Pritchett-Farrell reported two very recent burglary/attempted burglary incidents in the village. At 2.30am an attempted break-in was caught on CCTV, apparently showing two young males, at Warren House and at Iter Park a daytime attempt, by two males in hi-vis attire, was allegedly made to gain access to a rear garden believed to be for the purpose of stealing fuel from an oil tank. It was unknown whether the access attempt was successful.

14. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30p.m. at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall (subject to venue availability).

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00p.m.