

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,
Mrs L A Hamilton,
, Messrs R P Edworthy and C R McAllister.
Cllr Letch.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.
Members of the Public: Nil.

Apologies: Mrs D M Pritchett-Farrell and Mr T J Vanstone.

PARISH COUNCIL

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no issues raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2022, having been circulated in advance, were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[22/01360/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Replacement of existing sheet asbestos roof with slate tiles

Location: 1 Rose Cottages, Water Lane, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6HA

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272230 / 101754

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 11 August 2022

Parish Council approved the application.

[22/01404/FULL](#)

Proposal: Conversion of skittle alley into two units of guest accommodation

Location: White Hart Hotel, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6EN

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 271942 / 101806

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 11 August 2022.

Mr McAllister declared a DPI and left the meeting.

Parish Council expressed a wish that The White Hart continue as a viable public house business. Subject to the two units of guest accommodation helping to achieve that, Parish Council approved the application.

[22/01106/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to rear

Location: 29 Godfreys Garden, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6HT

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272105 / 101482

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 16 August 2022

MDDC's Planning website displayed a Withdrawn Report (Case officer to recommend Refusal given size and location of 2-storey extension and loss of privacy from side windows).

In view of the foregoing, Parish Council would not respond to the consultation.

MDDC DECISIONS

REFUSAL [21/02347/OUT](#)

Proposal: Outline for the erection of three dwellings following removal of bungalow, with all matters reserved

Location: Moorland View, Station Road, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6HU

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272157 / 101417

APPROVAL [22/01289/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension

Location: 27 Godfreys Gardens, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6HT

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272125 / 101482

4. **Casual Vacancy.**

Notices had been posted on notice boards, the vacancy had been publicised via the latest (Oct-Dec) Bow and Arrow newsletter and, to coincide, had also just been published on Bow News Desk Facebook site.

5. **Bow Swimming Pool Management Committee, Request for Funding, Proposal to Grant £4,000.**

The Chairman, having liaised with the Chairman of Bow Swimming Pool Management Committee, confirmed that the sum of £4,000 was adequate and covered the needs of said Committee. Members therefore approved the grant of £4,000 to Bow Swimming Pool Management Committee.

6. **Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee, Request for Support and Funding towards Village Field Development (Pump Track), Request for £10,000. Proposal to donate £11,681.57.**

Following the previous Parish Council meeting, Cllr White had advised MDDC Sect.106 officer that Bow Parish Council wished to use two of its Sect.106 pots, for granting to Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee, for use towards building a pump track at the village field, asking whether that would be acceptable. MDDC's surprising response was that two conflicting requests to use the money from Bow's pots had been received – the other, internal, request was to use funds towards a new multi-play unit at St Martins play area, which had reached 'end of life' and would need to be removed, advising also that MDDC currently had no plans to replace the equipment (play unit with safety surfacing approx. £20-25k) without the aid of that S.106 funding. Reference the pump track, the officer had asked how much funding (excl. Sect.106) the Committee had available, commenting also that Planning consent was probably needed. Given Sect.106 funds could not be released until it's certain the project could proceed, both projects required further investigation. The officer required information on viability and timescale for delivery of both projects. Ideally, an agreement needed to be reached as to which project Sect 106 funds should be allocated, then pursuing one application, but if the parties were unable to agree, the way forward would be for both parties to submit full funding application forms which would be referred to the District Council's Sect.106 Governance Board for a decision, with the Board's decision being final. The Clerk contacted MDDC Sect.106 officer, in anticipation of formal consultation between MDDC and Bow Parish Council, enquired how the shortfall of funding between the combined Sect.106 sums of £7,681 and the multi-play unit + surfacing cost of £20-25k would be met. Sect.106 officer strongly recommended that the Clerk discuss the matter directly with the relevant officer. Parish Council needed to be formally consulted with costed options set out and with MDDC advising how the shortfall of funding would be met, for careful consideration. Cllr White had established that Planning permission for the pump track was required, with the Committee notified accordingly. Bow Village Hall and Field Management Committee had confirmed that a funding pledge only was currently required – funds, subject to Planning consent being granted and the project going ahead, would be required later.

It had come to light, during the Clerk's attendance at MDDC's remote Planning Sect. 106 training session that, unbeknown to Bow Parish Council, £920.00 of Bow's Section 106 funds had been used, without any consultation, to provide a new gate in 2020/21 at Bow Village Field play area. Local inspection had not revealed which gate had been renewed. It was understood that Sect.106 funds needed to be spent on new items, not on maintenance. Parish Council was puzzled and perturbed that Sect. 106 funds could simply be used without the relevant parish council's knowledge. Enquiries of the officer revealed that another staff member had dealt with the matter and tracing records was difficult. On Cllr Letch's suggestion, a copy of the new gate receipt would be requested. Parish Council discussed the project, whether it would be achievable within the timeframe, given that Planning is required, was unknown, etc. It was understood that a substantial chunk of funding would be lost if the pump track wasn't constructed within a given timeframe. The amount of funding already available/pledged wasn't yet known. A copy of Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee's most recent annual accounts were required and had been requested.

Subject to Planning consent being granted and the project going ahead, on the proposal of Mr McAllister, seconded by Mr Nicks, Parish Council agreed to pledge a grant, including Planning application fee (sum detail had been requested but not yet supplied), of a total of £12,000.00. Parish Council was in the fortunate position of being able to grant that funding either direct from the bank account or, if possible, fund a part of the sum via Sect.106. As such, Parish Council was unencumbered when it came to considering options regarding St Martins play area.

7. **Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee, Request to Fund Planning Application Fee.**

The amount of the Planning application fee sum had been requested but the Committee had yet to supply that. Refer item 6 above.

8. **Play Areas in Bow, Specifically St Martins Close Play Area.**

The item had been requested to be included on the agenda but no information on play areas was to hand, other than the possible threat of St Martins play area being closed with equipment, which MDDC had said had reached 'end of life', removed. Consultation between MDDC and Parish Council on it's future was necessary.

9. **MDDC Parish Review (Community Governance Review) Consultation 2021-2022.**

MDDC had notified town and parish councils that the Parish Review had reached the second stage of the Electoral Review Committee's (ERC) consultation process, from 23 August to 23 October 2022, with communities invited to respond. During the first stage of the process, views had been sought on current and future governance and structure of parish councils across Mid Devon. Results from the first consultation, draft proposals, etc, had been published, refer <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/consultation-involvement/current-consultations/parish-review-2021-2022/second-stage-consultation/> Not advocating any change, Bow Parish Council had not responded at the first stage of consultation. Published results showed draft proposals for some 30+ Mid Devon parishes, incl. Bow, listed as "No Change", however, the Electoral Review Committee would still consider any representations for change. Parish Council briefly discussed but did not express any view nor wish to submit a comment. Some proposed local changes included a small change to Hittisleigh parish boundary, a reduction in the number of Colebrooke parish councillors from nine to seven and an increase in Coplestone parish councillors from seven to nine.

10. **D. C.C. Highways Matters.**

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

Proposed Community Speedwatch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic). A Bow CSW group was being set up and receiving online plus roadside training – eight CSW volunteers had received roadside training that evening. Several CSW volunteers lived near the White Hart with one/two understanding that they would be able to authorise a site in that vicinity, however, Parish Council understood that only the police could authorise sites.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). DCC's advices following SCARF meetings awaited (meeting dates unknown).

Bow Waterworks, water leaks repair work. Contractors were due to carry out works, viz. repair two leaks (opposite Kings Arms and nr Fair Park entrance plus failed resurfacing work from leak repair work in July 2020), which involved a road closure of the A3072, from 10 October to 14 October. Contractors, together with DCC, had experienced difficulty in scheduling the work which had been delayed by some weeks.

11. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Frank Letch reported.

With the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II there had been very few meetings.

Cllr Letch had attended the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee. Reference Highways, it revealed that, thus far this year, some 7,000 reported defects had been triaged, with 60% deemed unnecessary. In July of this year, 2758 potholes had been reported but there were no figures as to the number repaired. It was reported that if the budget remained as last year it would equate to a reduction of 20% in real terms given increases in costs. Any improvement in pothole repairs or road and gully maintenance appeared unlikely.

It was reported that complaints from the public had increased, particularly in the area of children's services. That service had recently received yet another OFSTED report which concluded that insufficient progress has been made in key areas previously identified. The outcome could be special measures or ministerial intervention.

The Planning application for a new Lidl supermarket in Crediton was reaching it's final stages.

There had been 51 Covid patients in Devon hospitals last week, one on a ventilator, and seasonal deaths were down on same period last year.

On a happy note, DCC Cabinet had rescinded the intention to suspend the Locality fund. Cllr Letch confirmed that his previously intimated Locality funding for Bow projects would be 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.

With MDDC's revised waste collection service being implemented from 10 October 2022, it's success would be a case of 'wait and see'.

13. Correspondence.

MDDC Planning, 21 day call-in for Planning applications. Request for town/parish councils to request any cases being called-in (with material planning reasons) be submitted in writing within 21 days of registration. Noted. SAAA Ltd (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments), option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. Option to opt out of next round of 5-year audit appointments. Bow Parish Council would not opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.

Mr B Weeks, letter of thanks for garden vouchers gift in recognition of and thanks for his internal audit work. Civility & Respect, NALC, SLCC and OVW had launched The Civility and Respect Pledge Project, issuing invitation to town/parish councils to sign up to the pledge, with training offered, aiming to drive a culture change in the sector. The initiative followed poor behaviour at Handforth Parish Council in 2021 when the association of local councils county officer had needed to be involved, subsequently revealing a small but significant problem within the sector. Bow Parish Council briefly discussed but did not wish to sign up to the pledge.

MDDC, press release, Mid Devon District Councillors have voted to lobby for improved bus services across the district, following a full council meeting on 31 August 2022, information had been conveyed via email 20/9/22.

DALC, AGM, annual conference and exhibition, 5/10/22 at Exeter Racecourse, info.

MDDC, press release, modular house builder ZED PODS Ltd constructing a zero-carbon development to be installed in Cullompton, gaining award in the South West's Constructing Excellence Awards. Refer email 21/9/22.

MDDC, press release, views sought on revised Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document for East Cullompton, public consultation 21 September to 1 November 2022.

MDDC, press release, Mid Devon Waste Collection Service change being implemented from 10 October 2022.

MDDC, press release, councils working together to support unpaid carers at Mid Devon Leisure Centres.

EDF Energy, price change details from 1 October 2022.

Publication, Clerks & Councils Direct.

14. Finance.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £7,994.08, Current a/c £29,249.16

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Bow Swimming Pool Management Committee (grant for new heat pump) £4,000.00

GDM Cleaning (bus shelter glass clean 12/9/22) £8.00 (new price)

15. Any Other Business.

No matters raised.

16. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 7.30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10p.m.