

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10 MAY 2023 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,
Mrs L A Hamilton,
Messrs P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, T J Hamilton and V Steer.
MDDC reps Cllr Mrs N Letch and Cllr S Penny,
DCC rep Cllr F Letch.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.
Members of the Public: None

Apologies: Nil

1. **To Elect Chairman.**

The Clerk invited nominations. Mr C D Nicks was proposed by Mr Steer and seconded by Mrs Hamilton. Mr Nicks was willing to stand and without any other nominations forthcoming, with all being agreed, Mr Nicks was declared elected. He took the chair and the Declaration of Acceptance was completed and signed.

2. **To Elect Vice Chairman.**

Deferred until vacant seats had been filled.

3. **Public Open Forum.**

Newly elected Ward Member, Cllr Mrs Letch, introduced herself, saying she had served on Crediton Town Council for two years and was now a MDDC Ward Member for Upper Yeo and Taw Ward. She hoped to assist with issues and would work alongside Cllr Penny. She felt welcome at Bow and thanked those who had voted for her.

4. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held after the Annual Assembly on 12 April 2023, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, approved as a complete and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

6. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[23/00598/FULL](#)

Proposal: Change of use of holiday unit to residential dwelling

Location: Land at NGR 271715 100431 Station Road, Bow, Crediton, Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 271665 / 100500

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 12 April 2023.

Mr P P W Edworthy & Mr R P Edworthy declared personal interests (friends of Applicant) and left the meeting.

Members expressed concerns about how Planning consent was being attempted to be obtained: had an Applicant submitted a Planning application for a residential dwelling in the open countryside it would have been contrary to MDDC's Local Plan and therefore refused. However, the Applicant had gained Planning consent for a stable block in the open countryside, which had not been built, then obtained consent to change it to a holiday unit (which had been built but understood not to have been used) and was now attempting to change it to a residential dwelling. Cllr Penny commented such practice was not uncommon. Members did not support the Application. To write to MDDC asking whether the Planning officer thinks this is the correct method of achieving Planning for a private residential dwelling in the open countryside. Cllr Penny would also speak with the Planning case officer.

Parish of Zeal Monachorum

[23/00641/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Replacement of existing entrance gates and gate piers

Location: Reeve Castle, Bow, Crediton, Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 270981 / 102976

Parish: Zeal Monachorum 61

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 26 April 2023.

Bow Parish Council, a neighbouring authority, had been consulted by MDDC Planning. Bow Parish Council had no comment or observations to make as the property was situated in an adjacent parish.

MDDC DECISION

APPROVAL

[23/00389/CAT](#)

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Willow within the Conservation Area

Location: Winsor House, Bow, Crediton, Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272073 / 101789

7. **Meetings for Forthcoming Municipal Year.**

Monthly meetings (ex. August and December, unless required for Planning Meeting purposes), on second Wednesdays with the Community Room of Bow Village Hall remaining the preferred venue. Meetings would therefore be held on 14 June, 12 July, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 10 January, 14 February, 13 March and 10 April. Venue to be booked accordingly.

8. **Local Council Elections 2023.**

(i) Parish Council Election. Following the election, with six elected Members, there were three post election vacant seats to be filled, (if possible) within seven weeks. Newly elected councillors took office on 9 May 2023. Vacancies would be advertised, with posters on notice boards and on the Bow Community Hub Facebook site. Members needed to complete their Registers of Interests pro forma and send to MDDC, within 28 days of the election (i.e. by 1 June 2023). Members also needed to submit their return of election expenses (incl. Nil returns) forms to MDDC. (Failure to do so is a criminal offence.)

New Members needed access to the last twelve months of Parish Council minutes, the most recent annual accounts, standing orders, code of conduct, etc (on website), plus a copy of The Good Councillors Guide. Various training options (in person and remote) were also available.

When vacant seats filled, signatories to bank accounts needed to be reviewed/revised.

(ii) District Council Election. Successful candidates for the Upper Yeo & Taw Ward Seats were Cllr Natalia Letch (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Stuart Penny (Conservative).

9. **Parish Council Election.**

Mr T Vanstone had explained his reason for missing the submission deadline for candidate papers at the election and had indicated his willingness to be co-opted, if Members so wished. Proposed by Mrs Hamilton, seconded by Mr Nicks and all being agreed, Mr Vanstone was co-opted. MDDC Elections Officer would be notified accordingly.

10. **Annual Audit, Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022-2023 Form 2.**

The completed Certificate of Exemption had been signed (wet signatures) and submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP on 14 April (deadline 30 June 2023), it had also been published on Parish Council's website. Mr Weeks was content to undertake the internal independent audit which was currently being arranged. AGAR Form 2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement required Parish Council completion and AGAR Form 2 Section 2 Accounting Statements required Parish Council approval after the Annual Internal Audit Report had been received. The Bank Reconciliation had been completed by the Clerk/RFO. The Explanation of Variances had also been completed by the Clerk/RFO, the explanation for 'high' reserves: Box 7 (balance c/fwd) is more than twice Box 2 (annual precept) because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year-end, would show Improve highway (A3072) safety, at western approach to Bow village.

The Assets Register, conveyed by the Clerk, was approved by Parish Council.

11. **V.A.T. For Year 2022-23.**

A sum of £580.92 had been duly reclaimed online, by the Clerk, on 15 April 2023. The HMR&C refund was awaited.

12. **Bow Waterworks.**

Mr Nicks had had a conversation with someone, connected to DCC, and enquired whether Bow Parish Council would be financially responsible for any works required by DCC, if circulating rumours about pipe depths and leaks transpired to have substance. The Clerk, also Clerk to the Trustees of Bow Waterworks, said that Bow Waterworks had not received any communication from DCC relating to any proposed resurfacing/patching of the A3072 through Bow and nor had been approached for any information. Bow Parish Council was the custodian trustee and as such would not have any financial responsibility. Some discussion ensued. A Parish Councillor submitted that the deteriorated road surface was unrelated to Bow Waterworks pipework. Cllr Letch advised that he had had a conversation with a man at Bow who was sending an email to the Leader of DCC, Cllr John Hart, and Ms Meg Booth, DCC Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport.

13. Anti-Social Behaviour.

It was reported that a group of children (age approx. 13 years) had erected a tree swing at the Village Field which they were using. On Health and Safety grounds it had been removed by two Bow Village Hall and Village Field Management Committee Members. Cllr Penny was due to speak with Community Police regarding Copplestone matters and would also include Bow, for which he was thanked.

14. D. C.C. Highways Matters.

Speeding A3072 western approach to village (proposed extension of 30mph limit). DCC had not yet approached Parish Council re DCC suggested engineering works at the Burston Cross junction with A3072, following the virtual meeting with Parish Council in September 2021.

Community Speedwatch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic). Bow CSW was experiencing difficulty in recruiting people, with availability to carry out early sessions, and had requested Parish Councillor support. Requested data (required for submission re a VAS to a SCARF meeting) for the specified site had not yet been provided. The co-ordinator would be requested to submit relevant data on a monthly basis. After submission of required data, a DCC officer would attend the site, with a speed gun, to check vehicle speeds. Cllr Letch would liaise with Mr Bob Wright, Crediton CSW co-ordinator.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Data awaited.

A3072 poor road surface at the Square & junction with Station Road. Mel Stride MP had been requested to attend a site meeting, his response commented that Highways was a DCC matter, he would be happy to raise it with DCC also for Parish Council to engage with the County Council representative. The Clerk had advised that our County Councillor, Cllr Letch, was aware of the extremely poor condition of the road and had been engaging with DCC for a considerable period, he had received myriad complaints from residents many of whom had (allegedly) sustained damage to their vehicles travelling over said road. Parish Council, again, to request Mel Stride MP attend.

15. DCC Report.

Cllr Letch had produced his Report, which the Clerk had circulated in advance of the meeting.

Go Devon Bus routes 315/345/377, to be discontinued after June, had caused consternation, however, DCC portfolio holder gave an assurance that negotiations were underway and the routes would be maintained. DCC had asked for £100m from central government, but been awarded £14m, for improvement of rural buses over next three years. The popular £2 single fare would continue until June, negotiations would see whether it could be extended.

Mobile library service. Four mobile library vans in Devon were very old, often broke down and were expensive to repair; officers were considering discontinuing the service (saving some £500,000). Cllr Letch had proposed that money saved be reallocated to those libraries with volunteers who carry out a home visiting service, eg Crediton. Child/young adult carers. Devon has 2,500 children/young adult carers who look after parents/other family members/siblings. Some have very responsible roles, being in charge of medication and administering daily injections. Although well trained, they didn't always feel supported. DCC was looking into that because they formed an essential part of keeping people safe.

Potholes remained an issue – DCC had earmarked £50,000 for resurfacing work in Bow (patching was anticipated: the figure was unlikely to resurface a large area). Streetlights at Bow and Copplestone had been reported and would be repaired.

NHS use of technology. New system(s) would make appointments easier and give patients better access to the service, however many people did not have computers/internet connection or lacked necessary skills.

In addition to his report, Cllr Letch advised that DCC was appointing a new, permanent, Director of Children's Services. Cllr Letch had also received an email from DCC Mike Tucker, Principal Public Transport Officer, regarding changes to the bus service, effective from 5 June 2023 - new bus service timetables would be downloadable. A DCC press release would be issued on 12 May 2023.

16. Monitoring of Services.

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

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

17. Correspondence

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon's Returning Officer, Jill May, to retire following upcoming election, she reflected on her role.

MDDC Planning Consultation, Adoption of Air Quality SPD (2023) and revocation of the Air Quality SPD (2008). Devon and Cornwall Alert, new Devon & Cornwall Police website.

Neighbourhood Alert, increased patrols in rural areas (incl. Dartmoor, Exmoor, etc) throughout May.

Publications: Clerks and Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, One Devon Bulletin (April 2023), Neighbourhood Alert '[Our News](#)' May newsletter, DCC Connectme.

18. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £7,995.81, Current a/c £30,900.22

MDDC 50% of Precept for 2023-24 (of £12,000 less DALC subscription) credited to current a/c £5,655.17

ACCOUNT AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Community First (insurance ren'l premium due 1 June) £158.61

19. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Coronation celebrations at Bow. Mr Steer proposed that all the volunteers, involved with organising the celebrations, be thanked. Email address of the Secretary to Bow Village Hall would be conveyed to the Clerk, enabling a letter to be sent.

20. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45p.m.