

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7:30PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,  
Messrs P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, T J Hamilton and V Steer.  
MDDC Rep. Cllr Mrs Letch and DCC Rep. Cllr Letch.  
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.  
Members of the Public: One

**Apologies:** Mrs L A Hamilton, Mr T J Vanstone and Cllr Stuart Penny

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 September 2023 and 20 September 2023 had been circulated and were taken as read. It was requested that a reference to the reason for the donation to Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee for the proposed pump track be increased to £12,000 + Sect.106 fund, be removed from both sets of minutes. After discussion, not on minute accuracy, minutes would be amended.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[23/01483/HOUSE](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of two-storey extension and porch

*Location:* Treefield Farm, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 5AA

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 273114 / 97886

Information had conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 25 September 2023.

Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[23/01226/HOUSE](#)

*Proposal:* Erection of rear extension, replacement garage and installation of a cavity and outer skin to existing Woolaway dwelling.

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

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 272157 / 101417

[23/01270/LBC](#)

*Proposal:* Listed Building Consent for installation of replacement internal staircase and installation of stairlift.

*Location:* Tavy Cottage, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 6HD

*Site Vicinity Grid Ref:* 272217 / 101718

5. **Parish Council Election 2023 – Post Election Vacancies (Two).**

One expression of interest had been received; the email was read. Mr Nicks proposed, Mr P P W Edworthy seconded and it was agreed to co-opt Mr Cook. MDDC would be informed of the co-option. The declaration of acceptance would be completed at his first meeting and his Register of Interests pro forma would require submission within 28 days.

6. **Bow Community Primary School, Board of Governors – Vacancy for Non-Parent Governor.**

The Clerk to the Governors email was read: it set out the core aspects and hoped a Parish Councillor would take on the role. None of the Parish Councillors was interested, nor aware of any suitable prospective candidates.

7. **Lease of Land from Bow Village Centre, at Burston Meadow, by Bow Recreation Group.**

The item had been requested to be included on the agenda – information on the specific issue had been requested and was awaited. A Parish Councillor and Burston Meadow Recreation Ground Committee member reported that Burston Meadow Recreation Ground Committee had been approached by Bow Village Centre to say that they

were looking to close Bow Village Centre charity. It was reported that some Bow Village Centre trustees wished to discontinue their involvement. It was also reported that Bow Village Centre was seeking advice from solicitors, no further information on that aspect available. In the event of a charity wishing to discontinue, in the normal course of events that charity would look to transfer to another similar local charity, however, Burston Meadow Recreation Ground Committee was concerned whether a risk existed that the Charity Commission might suggest the field asset be placed on the open market for sale. Two groups of trustees were involved but the precise structure was unclear, investigation and clarification were needed. The main aspiration was that Burston Meadow Recreation Ground be secured for the future – it was suggested that Bow Parish Council take on the role of trustee (whether custodian or management unclear) which was favoured. Members queried whether the ownership of the field could be transferred to Bow Parish Council. Whether Bow Parish Council could be a trustee of an asset not within the parish boundary needed establishing with the Charity Commission. Mr P P W Edworthy said that he would invite Bow Village Centre trustees to the next Parish Council meeting.

#### 8. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch's October report had been circulated to Members on 26 September 2023.

20mph speed limit. Some recent publicity surrounded the matter, DCC had passed a motion to support town/parish councils which wished to introduce 20mph limits. Conditions applied – the requesting council was required to finance enforcement, signage, etc. Cllr Letch suggested that the initiative was not suitable for parishes but may possibly suit towns.

Care experience young people. The status had been accepted as a protected characteristic by DCC which would afford greater support to the young people in terms of accommodation, education and health.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). First noticed in 2018, DCC undertook inspections of all maintained schools in 2022 and 2023 – no RAAC had been found in council maintained schools, however, some trust and academy schools did identify the condition and DCC had offered help.

Iron Bridge, Exeter. To prevent large vehicles gaining access, DCC had strategically installed large concrete blocks sufficient only to allow passage of cars across the bridge, thereby preserving and protecting the historic asset.

Mobile library service. The service would be discussed by DCC senior scrutiny committee on 28/9/23, which could only make recommendations to the Cabinet who would make the final (binding) decision.

Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT). Cllr Letch, in his capacity as Chairman of MDDC, had been invited to a meeting also attended by the Duchess of Edinburgh. One aspect was young carers – school-age youngsters who care for parents or siblings. Any known local young carers could be put in touch with the relevant group and local charity, Balloons, could support children during bereavement.

In addition, Cllr Letch said that DCC would be looking to sell certain assets (in Exeter).

Cllr Letch had happened upon Aqualogics (contracted to SWW) in Crediton, who were checking for leaks/assets, saying that the whereabouts of up to a 1/3 of SWW assets were unknown. He would make a Freedom of Information request to check information. (It was known that SWW infrastructure maps were notoriously inaccurate.)

#### 9. **MDDC Report.**

Cllr Mrs Letch's October report had been circulated to Members on 02/10/2023.

At a Home Policy Development Group, a new program to address damp and mould, for Council housing stock, was welcomed.

MDDC service delivery. Good service was increasingly threatened by lack of funds, coinciding with the Regulator of Social Housing introducing new fees to challenge DDC's budget – a consultation would run until 15/10/2023.

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Cllr Mrs Letch had attended training re. landlines going digital, with assurance given that companies would look after vulnerable people.

MDDC had accessed the Government's £60 million fund for public swimming pools, which would help to secure Leisure Centres in Mid Devon.

MDDC had agreed to establish an on-line petition concerning roads in Mid Devon which had become dangerous, which called on DCC to fix dangerous roads.

MDDC prohibited the use of animals as prizes in any form of competition, commercial or private, whether organised or not, on any land owned/controlled by Mid Devon District Council.

MDDC had taken the decision to soft close the failing 3 Rivers Developments Ltd and would look for the best way to minimise the impact of the failure, decisions were difficult needing an analytic approach. Cllr Mrs Letch indicated that the debt was likely to be £7-£8,000,000 after sites had been closed.

Cllr Mrs Letch had participated in a Neighbourhood Walk (wards + Crediton), with some social housing visited – she commented that some MDDC tenants are violent, including some at Bow(!). She further commented that untaxed/unlicensed vehicles could not be on MDDC land.

An Emergency Plan briefing had been held for Members at Phoenix House – MDDC had appointed an Emergency Plan officer.

Road Warden Scheme. It was enquired whether any Parish Councillors were interested in the role – none of the Members present expressed an interest.

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

*Speeding A3072 western approach to village.* Nothing had yet been received from DCC reference Burston Cross. Cllr Letch had emailed DCC Highways officer Mr Short to enquire about intended work at Burston Cross.  
*Community Speed Watch, A3072 western approach to village, addressing eastbound traffic.* Speed data for September had not yet been received. The CSW group appeared to be interested in 20's Plenty but had not, as yet, given any definite indications.  
*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* DCC had not, as yet, responded to the sites and speed data submission. Cllr Letch advised that, accompanying DCC Highways officer Mr Tucker, he had been on two 'tours' of the parishes within his electoral division within the past couple of months.  
Apparent variation of DCC highway maintenance standards across the county. It was again asked why it appeared that DCC maintained some areas in better condition than others; cited was Okehampton area (well maintained) in comparison to the Crediton area (not so well maintained). Cllr Letch would make enquiries of DCC.  
Tree trimming. Trees along the verge, abutting southern boundary of Burston Meadow Recreation Field (Zeal Monachorum parish), needed trimming. Trees were believed to be the responsibility of DCC.

11. **Monitoring of Services.**

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

12. **Correspondence.**

MDDC Polling Review, Mid Devon Launches Polling Review [press release](#) and [Polling Review, consultation](#). Responses required by 12 November 2023. Please see MDDC website [Polling Review 2023](#)  
DALC AGM, Conference and Exhibition 2023, 27/9/2023, agenda pack, etc.  
DCC Environment Group, Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team, Devon flooding 17/9/2023, info req'd.  
MDDC Parish council remote (via Teams) Class Q training 19 October 2023. Refer email dtd 13/9/2023.  
MDDC 3 Rivers council statement, housing firm closure.  
MDDC Forward Planning, Mid Devon Landscape Character Review workshop, 12/10/2023 at Phoenix House.  
MDDC Press Release, council tax reduction for young care leavers.  
MDDC Press Release, free Be Grant Ready online workshop for town/parish councils & businesses.  
MDDC Press Release, funding for new Cullompton train station announced (gov't pledges rail improvements in the south-west, incl. re-opening of Tavistock-Plymouth line).  
MDDC Press Release, Bin It 123, residents reminded to use correct waste and recycling containers.  
MDDC Press Release, pre-built homes arrive onsite, Cullompton social housing development nears completion  
MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Leisure shortlisted for national swimming award.  
Mr B H Weeks, letter of thanks for garden vouchers gift in recognition and thanks for his internal audit work.  
Slow Ways, Councils - connect your community to the Slow Ways national walking network, info.  
EDF Energy, energy prices changing from 1 October 2023.  
MDDC Business Rates, self-service portal information.  
Cllr Andrea Davis, Chair Peninsula Transport, Technology and Zero-Emission Vehicle study for the South West,  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cross-border county lines gangs being tackled in regional operation.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Help us make Devon and Cornwall #NoPlaceForDrugs.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Have your say, make a difference – annual national member survey.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Drugs warrant in Bodmin.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and Crime Panel meeting 15/9/2023.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, 2023 Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Grant scheme.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Citizens in Policing, seeking vehicle check volunteer, Cullompton.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Week of action to highlight ongoing efforts to tackle rural crime in Devon & C'will.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, fake emails impersonating energy companies.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Operation Ragwort (tackling rural crime) & Operation Scorpion (county lines), info.  
Devon Community Learning Academy, bespoke courses in partnership with Citizens Advice Devon.  
National Association of Local Councils, Utility Aid – National Charity Tender, info.  
*Publications:* DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, One Devon bulletin September 2023, Devon Climate Emergency October newsletter, Devon and Cornwall Alert OUR NEWS (newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters) October and DCC Connectme.

13. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,023.74, Current a/c £16,623.52

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Mid Devon District Council (uncontested election May 2023) £147.35

GDM Cleaning (bus shelter glass cleaning 15/09/2023) £8.00

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £127.77 qtr. Ending 30/09/2023) £876.77

H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Jul-Sep 2023) £187.25

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT landing site) NIL (account in credit)

14. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Streetlight, situate top of flight of steps adj. Feltons, Bow Village Field. Any new information, regarding the light (underground cable fault) was queried but was not yet available.

(ii) Streetlight, situate East Langford Station Road, was not working and would be reported.

15. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35p.m.