

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 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 R A Cook, 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 (part only).

Apologies: MDDC Rep. Cllr Penny.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

A Bow parishioner residing in an affordable home, related his situation. Parish Council would consider aspects in Part 2.

2. **Minutes.**

Amended minutes of the meetings held on 13 September 2023 and 20 September 2023 were approved and signed. Reference 11 October minutes item 2, to delete wording 'not on minute accuracy' – the Clerk submitted that minutes could only be discussed on accuracy (per Standing Orders).

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. Work progress had been queried with the developer who enquired who decided on precise work and who made payment. Developer's queries had been referred to DCC. Ownership of the area was discussed, it was believed the developer had purchased plots, rather than the whole site, indicative of the footway and lychgate area not having been purchased by the developer. Checking with Land Registry would be necessary.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[23/01518/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of stables with tack and store room and formation of associated access

Location: Land at NGR 271488 99785 (The Villa) Bow Devon EX17 6JD

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 271412 / 99849

Information conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 10/10/2023

Mr T J Hamilton (applicant) and Mrs L A Hamilton (close relative) declared DPs and left the meeting.

Parish Council approved the application.

Revised Drawings Received

[23/00454/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building

Location: Land at NGR271693 100844 Natson Courtyard, Bow, Crediton, Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 271714 / 100953

Information conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 26/10/2023

Bow Parish Council had no observations to make.

MDDC DECISIONS

Nil

5. **Parish Council Election 2023 – Post Election Vacancy (One).**

Following the election, one seat remained to be filled by co-option. One expression of interest, from Mr Shawn Pengelly, had been received. His letter was read. Following brief discussion, on the proposal of Mr Nicks, seconded by Mr P P W Edworthy, it was agreed that Mr Pengelly be co-opted. The Clerk would notify Mr Pengelly accordingly, forwarding him a copy of Register of Interests pro forma for completion, within 28 days (6/12/2024). MDDC Electoral Services would be informed. All nine seats on Parish Council had now been filled.

6. **Affordable Housing Enquiry.**

A confidential email, dated 24 October 2023, had been circulated to Parish Councillors and would be considered under Part 2.

7. **DAAT Community Landing Site.**

Community Landing Site Manager, Mr Graham Coates, attended on 26 October 2023 and been met by the Clerk. Software had been updated, the light had been tested, etc. Keyholders, Mr C McAllister and the Clerk, had been updated on DAAT system.

8. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch's November 2023 report had been circulated to Members on 29 October.

Budget/precept. All (levels of) councils would be looking at budgets ahead of setting precepts for 2024/25. Top tier councils had a 2.99% council tax cap, with inflation far above that figure, changes in services would be likely. DCC had announced cessation of the mobile library service, reduction in foster carer payments was also expected. Local Government Association was encouraging government to increase financial support to counties in the light of potential huge council debts.

Poor surface condition of A-class roads, Copplestone. Residents, with Cllr Letch, had organised a petition which would be presented to full council, with request that roads A3072 and A377 be prioritised for repair.

Overspend on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Cllr Letch was seeking a breakdown, from the portfolio holder, of the overspend (£140m+) over previous 18 months with a progression of the overspending plus a plan for decreasing it and to pay it off by March 2026, the cut-off point.

Care sector increased recruitment. This was good news, care packages were becoming easier to put in place for those in need of care.

£2 bus fare. This would continue until December 2024.

Winter surgeries. Cllr Letch would not hold his usual surgeries but remained contactable via email or telephone.

Additionally, Cllr Letch added that a by-product of a complaint, on behalf of Copplestone Parish Council, was that Copplestone resurfacing work would be likely to follow Bow resurfacing work, hopefully 2024/2025 or 2025/2026.

MDDC had written to DCC to assert that DCC make roads car-worthy – to be discussed at DCC meeting 7 December.

Cllr Letch had requested a breakdown of the overspend (£137m from 2021), anticipating that the figure would likely be in the region of £181m.

Mr Steer commented that two DCC officers had been at Bow, vicinity of Osborne Cottages, inspecting the road, some two weeks previous.

9. **MDDC (Upper Yeo & Taw) Report.**

Cllr Mrs Letch's report had been circulated on 5 November.

Cllr Mrs Letch had participated in the Neighbourhood Walkabout on 3 October, visiting social tenants in the Ward with a MDDC Neighbourhood officer who checked and noted property repairs needed.

Cllr Mrs Letch had been active and supportive in trying to find a way to continue the DCC mobile library service for rural communities and had put forward a motion to full Council.

A recent fire at a waste collection hub prompted a warning about the correct method of disposing of batteries.

My Mid Devon, MDDC's self-registering portal could be used by residents from 18 October 2023 - refer

<http://my.middevon.gov.uk> for more info.

The National Grid is introducing a new system of battery storage, with thousands of new installations across the country. Batteries would save a huge amount of green energy and release it on demand locally. Applications for battery system installation had already been received in Copplestone and Crediton, and may soon be in this area. Cllr Mrs Letch would provide further information when it became available.

Additionally, Cllr Mrs Letch added that, despite efforts, the mobile library service had been discussed that day at Cabinet and she had been given to understand that the service would be discontinued.

Emergency Plans. MDDC had appointed a new officer but MDDC did not hold a Plan template.

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

Speeding A3072 western approach to village. Nothing had been received from either DCC or Highways officer Mr Short reference intended work at Burston Cross.

Community Speed Watch, A3072 western approach to village, addressing eastbound traffic. Speed data captured for September & October received: max speed in 30mph was 50mph and max speed in 40mph was 61mph. Bow CSW had completed twelve months of speed data capture but without any noticeable reduction in traffic speeds.

Bow CSW group was keen to know whether support existed for a 20s Plenty campaign. Cllr Letch conveyed information – 20s Plenty signage costing in the region of £6,000, must be informative but not distracting and must be on private property. Parish Council would only support 20s Plenty at Station Road, not at any other Bow roads. Bow CSW group was interested in obtaining approval for a speed watch site near the CP School at Station Road.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Cllr Letch had submitted sites and speed data but DCC now stated they required submission of the full package for DCC approval before referring to SCARF. The accompanying risk assessment required info on frequency of switching units around, who took responsibility for switching units needed to be chp.8 (of NRSWA 1991) accredited. Members favoured acquiring one VAS unit, Cllr Letch indicated

that he would still be willing to grant a sum of £500. Members requested that DCC be approached to establish which firms supplied VAS units of which DCC approved, with costings if available.

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. Parish Precept 2024-2025.

MDDC documentation, including interactive calculation form, had been received. The submission deadline for submitting the precept request was 24 January 2024. Members, reviewing precept sums over recent years, considered finances and budget. Potential expenditure, with corresponding impact on parishioners' Council Tax bills, was considered. After brief discussion, it was agreed to retain the current precept level, of £12,000 (set for 2023-2024), for the year ahead. Precepts of £10,000.00 and over were paid in two instalments, 50% April and 50% October. It was agreed that the Devon Association of Local Councils subscription be deducted from the precept.

13. Correspondence

DCC Environment Group, Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team, Storm Ciarán Flooding 2/11/2023, DCC gathering key info and local knowledge on affected areas and impacts.

MDDC, Flooding advice and information with UK Health Security Agency flooding communication toolkit.

MDDC, announcement re. junction 28 of M5 improvement funding from Government.

MDDC, ROSPA annual play area report for play area situate Bow Village Field. Fwd to BVH&BVF Man Ctte.

MDDC, Economic Development, funding and support opportunities for Mid Devon businesses.

MDDC Press Release, observance of Armistice Day with the Royal British Legion, info.

MDDC Press Release, new £5.7m junction, off A361 near Tiverton, officially opened Monday 30 October 2023.

MDDC Press Release, Let's Talk Mid Devon, residents' new survey 2023, residents encouraged to share views.

MDDC Press Release, improper battery disposal causes two fires in Mid Devon.

MDDC Press Release, National Recycling Week - Mid Devon District Council is growing it's recycling service.

MDDC Press Release, sign up to My Mid Devon Portal, Mid Devon residents can access their own council portal, effective 18 October 2023.

MDDC Press Release, awarded £660k to build 50 homes at six regeneration sites across the district.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon's first walking festival, 14 - 29 September 2024.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, email and social media hacking information and advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon and Cornwall confirmed as safest area in latest ONS report.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall police works with communities in regional crackdown on drugs.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, SimpliSafe offers guidance on protecting your home, and exclusive Neighbourhood Watch member discount on home security products.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, information on efforts to tackle drug dealing in the area.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, 2023 Crime and Community Survey launched.

Devon Communities Together, Energy Outreach Project, Get 1-2-1 advice or book a presentation on saving energy.

Publications: Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, -NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, Devon Climate Emergency November newsletter and DCC Connectme.

14. Finance.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,023.74, Current a/c £21,404.15

(Second instalment, 50% of MDDC precept, £6,000.00, credited to current a/c)

ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT

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

15. Any Other Business.

(i) Faulty electric light no.2, Bow village field footpath. Mr Nicks would speak with Mr Burrows, MBElectrics.

(ii) Overgrown footpath from Bow Mill Lane to Co-op shop. Grass ingress had reduced footpath width to single-file for pedestrians. Cllr Letch would report to DCC.

16. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 10 January 2024 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.