

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2024 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, S A Pengelly, V Steer and T J Vanstone.
Clerk: Miss B D Ware-

Apologies: Mrs L A Hamilton, Mr R A Cook, Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr Letch.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present, no issues raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. Although DCC had stated (January 2023) that the lychgate structure with footway had not been adopted, DCC now indicated that it might be Highway Maintainable at Public Expense but also that, unfortunately, DCC did not have funding to maintain it and if the structure was deemed unsafe it would be removed and not replaced. DCC had been asked for clarification and whether, if Parish Council so wished, it could arrange and fund repair. Response awaited. Parish Councillor Mr Vanstone would inspect/assess the structure with a view to repair.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[23/01812/FULL](#)

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 18/01105/FULL (Change of use of land and barn conversion for use as holiday accommodation and the siting of three shepherd huts with parking) to allow the substitution of two of the approved shepherd huts to panoramic glamping domes.

Location: Hillerton Farm, Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17 5AD

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272749 / 98067

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 30 November 2023.

Parish Council had no observations to make.

[23/01948/CLU](#)

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a building as honey processing and packing unit (Class E part g)iii) for a period in excess of ten years.

Location: Building at NGR 273316 100828 (Nymet Cottage), Bow, Crediton, Devon EX17

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273317 / 100829

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 2 January 2024.

Parish Council could confirm that the operation had been ongoing at the property for a period in excess of ten years, possibly for as many as twenty-five years.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[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

[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

[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

5. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch's DCC report for December 2023 had been circulated to Members on 16 December 2023.

Cllr Letch expressed some concern at the number of parish councillors, across his electoral division, attending December parish council meetings, which varied greatly. He suggested that the number of parish councillors be increased to full quota. (Bow did not meet in December and had full quota of members.)

In attending two DCC full council meetings, Cllr Letch gained information on questions he had raised about the overspend of SEND – the projected overspend total was a staggering £162.6 million. However, although in theory it had to be cleared by March 2026, the council had plans to bring forward 20 projects with the aim of bringing the budget back in line and reducing deficit over next five years, which involved discussions with Dept of Education. The second DCC meeting revealed figures on Highway management – since 1 April 2023 DCC had received 1,229 claims for damages to vehicles or personal injuries due to road defects. The combined value of claims was just over £1.1 million, to date £48,000 had been paid. Reference potholes, figures were not comforting, in current financial year 28,801 potholes had been reported, at 1 December 2023 some 1,505 potholes awaited repair with contractors.

Cllr Letch mentioned a recent television interview with a Conservative member of DCC and the Leader of Liberal Democrats on DCC – both berated interference of central government in local issues. A matter, to become law 1/1/2024, decreed that recycling centres must take domestic DIY waste free of charge, thereby losing approx. £1 million income for DCC plus added cost for disposing of the waste, however, it might reduce fly tipping. Concluding, Cllr Letch conveyed compliments of the season to all.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's MDDC report for December 2023 had been circulated to Members on 27 November 2023.

MDDC had launched a Residents' Survey to assist the financial department in determining the most important public services to be supported in the future budget, online survey https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/residents-survey-2023/survey_tools/residents-survey-2023

The new Mid Devon Leisure Hub was now open online; casual or regular users could conveniently book and pay for one-off sessions or classes, join groups or sign for membership in all three Leisure Centres directly through the Mid Devon Leisure website or mobile app. online: <https://middevonleisure.com/lords-meadow-leisure-centre/>

Draft Pets & Animals Policy and Homes Safety Policy had both gone out for tenants' consultation, from 18 November 2023, both policies would be presented to the Homes PDG meeting in January. Draft policies were both online: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/mid-devon-housing/your-community/consultation-hub/>

7. **Bow Village Field Footpath, Faulty Electric Light.**

The electrical contractor's cost for repairing light no.2 was unknown but was said to be in line with his previous light repair work. The lights were not Parish Council responsibility but it was authorised to proceed with repair (as a gift to the community).

8. **Affordable Housing Enquiry.**

Part 2 of Parish Council meeting.

9. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

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

Community Speed Watch, A3072 western approach to village, addressing eastbound traffic. No developments.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). DCC had been approached for a list of companies which supply DCC approved VAS however, without supplying requested information, DCC asked whether issues had been raised with the local Highways team given the process involved before acquisition of a VAS or an alternative solution. Info had been supplied to DCC with DCC further advices awaited.

Potholes. Potholes were frequently reported but many awaited attention, e.g. Water Lane, Bow Mill Lane and near Collatons.

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**

MDDC, State of the District Debate info, to be held March 2024, inviting town/parish council input.

Peninsula Transport Rail Strategy, <https://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/rail-strategy-for-the-south-west/> supporting economic growth and protecting the environment, info.

Peninsula Transport, seeking views – consultation (11/12/23 – 5/2/24) on regional transport strategy launched, see https://plymouth-consult.objective.co.uk/public/transport/peninsula_transport_strategy

Peninsula Transport, draft transport strategy consultation, three free webinars (16 January, 18 January & 24 January) planned for January 2024.

Chair, Board of DALC Directors, revised subscription fees 2024-25.

DALC/DCC invitation to online zoom meeting re. DCC budget (14/12/2023) with DCC Leader Cllr John Hart.

DALC, copy of recording of DCC budget online event for Mid Devon on 14/12/2023. A copy of the presentation slides, together with a recording of the remote budget briefing, had been forwarded to parish councillors 15/12/23 Parishioner, wishing to alert Bow residents to slow ambulance service following 999 call, ambulance took 2hrs to reach Bow, attributed to ambulance queueing and inadequate map reading.

DCC, Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter - Winter 2023, see

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/document/winter-2023-newsletter/>

DCC, closure of Pinpoint, effective 31 December 2023.

MDDC, confirmed (again) that there will be no Referendum Limit (council tax capping) for Town/Parish Councils for the financial year 2024/25.

MDDC Press Release, Forward Planning survey on current rural services and facilities within villages. Survey <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/rural-services> forwarded to Parish Councillors 3/1/24.

MDDC Press Release, polling review concludes in Mid Devon, with a number of changes to be implemented.

MDDC Press Release, new gym equipment installed at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre ahead of New Year.

MDDC Press Release, exciting next step for Tiverton's net zero-carbon modular homes housing development by Zed Pods Ltd, at Shapland Place, Tiverton.

MDDC Press Release, a big thank you to Mid Devon's recyclers - the District had seen an increase in recycling over the past year, with Mid Devon the second-best performing district in the county.

EDF Energy, energy prices increasing from 1 January 2024.

Jacqui Peskett, Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions Ltd, offering auditing services (advert).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, efforts to commit to Police and Crime Plan, nitrous oxide (laughing gas) ban will help tackle antisocial behaviour.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall Police introduce knife arch to help tackle knife carrying.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, HIDDEN CRIME webinars, invitation to series of special online webinars (topics - modern slavery and human trafficking, domestic violence and abuse, crimes affecting young people: radicalisation, controlling and coercive behaviour).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and volunteers to focus on speed during national Road Safety Week.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, asking all road users across Devon & Cornwall to sign up to the [Vision Zero South West Road Safety Pledge](https://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk/the-vision-zero-pledge/), see <https://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk/the-vision-zero-pledge/>

Devon and Cornwall Alert, cyber security advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, QR code scam warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon and Cornwall Police is launching seasonal campaign 'Safer Christmas'.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, OUR News <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12/December%20Our%20News%20newsletter.pdf> December edition.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, fraud involving WhatsApp group, warning/advice.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, plans submitted for new Exmouth Police Station.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, enhanced patrols and initiatives underway to tackle violent crime at Christmas and New Year.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall Police's Chief Constable's Foundation grants £6,000 to local charity, 'Pete's Dragons'.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Step up, Step in and STOP harassment and abuse of women and girls.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, seasons greetings.

Hedgehogs R Us, hedgehog awareness, requesting town/parish council consideration of hedgehog road warning signs for neighbourhood.

Publications: DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, One Devon Bulletins November & December 2023, Devon Climate Emergency December newsletter and DCC news round-up Connectme.

12. **Finance.**

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

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

MDDC (RoSPA Annual Play Area Inspection) £84.00

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £115.01 qtr. ending 31/12/2023) £864.01

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

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

13. **Any Other Business.**

(ii) Faulty street light no.1, attached to western elevation of Old Malt House, Water Lane. A resident had reported the light not working. It would be reported.

(i) McDonalds, Crediton. A Member reported that MacDonalDs would be coming to Joseph Locke Way, Crediton.

14. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This concluded the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

Item 8

Affordable Housing Enquiry.

Enquiries had been made of Hastoe Housing Association; the officer dealing stated that his manager had referred the situation to the Housing Director who then made a new decision. The housing officer also advised that the current residents' mutual exchange application had taken place prior to his appointment with Hastoe and that a previous housing officer had arranged the current tenancy in October 2022 and had accepted the connection to Bow on the basis that the resident worked, at that time, as a carer in the parish. (This information was contrary to the tenant's advices.)

Bow Parish Council Clerk, having liaised with and sought advice from MDDC incl MDDC Planning solicitor, agreed with MDDC and didn't accept that Parish Council had had authority to make the decision on the mutual exchange application (provision was not contained within the Sect.106 legal agreement). The Clerk had advised the Hastoe Housing officer and the Bow tenant accordingly.