

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024 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, T J Hamilton and V Steer.  
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

**Apologies:** Messrs P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, S A Pengelly and T J Vanstone.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no issues raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2024, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. DCC Highways Neighbourhood officer, Mr Tucker, had been reminded, requesting clarification on maintenance responsibility for the structure and whether Parish Council could, if so wished, effect and fund repair. DCC Customer Service Centre had also been asked, response awaited. Mr Vanstone was not present; no assessment information yet available.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

Nil

MDDC DECISIONS

Nil

5. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch's monthly report for January 2024 had been circulated to Members, email dated 24 January 2024.

Fostering. Cllr Letch reported on a recent masterclass – Devon has 561 young people being fostered, either in-house or agency (latter costing double that of in-house) and invited any prospective fosterers to contact him.

Budgeting for Children's Services. At a detailed meeting, DCC confirmed the budget would increase, although Devon received less per pupil than many other counties in the country. It also showed that Devon's elected home-educated pupils now exceeds 3,000!

DCC Budget. The Chief Financial Officer had confirmed that DCC was not in danger of 'going bust', as was the case with some other large counties in the country.

Pay-and-display parking proposal for eight market towns. Consultation (closed mid January), indicated strong opposition to the proposal for Crediton, seemingly all towns were opposed. The Liberal Democrat group had produced a petition, calling for DCC to abandon the proposals, which Cllr Letch would present at a Full Council meeting on 15 February. The final decision would be taken at a Cabinet Council meeting on 13 March.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's monthly report for January 2024 had been circulated to Members, email dated 22 January 2024.

Lords Meadow Leisure Centre, Crediton. The Leisure Centre had received some new equipment. Sessions could be booked online <https://leisure.middevon.gov.uk/leisurehub/en/members/home/>

Mid Devon Housing. MDDC sought to combat damp and mould in properties within the District. Recent improvements included enhanced ventilation and heating as well as the introduction of in-home environmental monitoring with enhanced data collection and analysis.

MDDC Flood Guide. The new document could comprise part of a Local Emergency Plan; it gave advice for during and after a flood incident, copies to be distributed via parish councils, etc.

Financial help for residents. Signposts to some information on MDDC website <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/residents-financial-support/>

7. **MDDC Ward Member Vacancy, Upper Yeo & Taw Ward By-election.**

Following the recent resignation of Cllr Stuart Penny, a vacancy existed for a District Council Ward Member for Upper Yeo and Taw ward. A Notice of Election had been issued online and posted on notice boards. The election was being contested, with the poll taking place on Thursday 7 March 2024. A Statement of Persons Nominated showed four candidates stood nominated: Peter Heal (Conservative), Mark Scotland (Green Party), Hayden Sharp (Labour Party) and Alex White (Liberal Democrats). Poll cards had been printed and sent to parishioners.

8. **MDDC's Town and Parish Charter Review.**

The Charter between Mid Devon District Council and Mid Devon towns and parishes, launched in 2017 and followed by the Town and Parish Planning Charter, were due for review. The three month period of consultation ran until 15 May 2024. MDDC had issued advices via email and supplied copies of the documents showing proposed changes made by MDDC, enabling their changes to be seen. The Clerk had notified Bow Parish Councillors accordingly, email dated 9 February 2024. After brief discussion, further consideration would be given at next meeting(s).

9. **Bow Village Field Footpath, Faulty Electric Light No.2.**

Work, not yet carried out, was in hand.

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

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

*Community speed watch.* No speed data had been received from Bow CSW since end of October 2023. A Member reported that a police officer had attended a recent CSW session.

*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* DCC had not supplied any info on DCC approved suppliers of VAS equipment. The Clerk had established that Westcotec (Norfolk) was the main supplier of VAS for DCC. DCC was understood to prefer VAS to Speed Indicator Devices (SID), which show the road speed limit with Slow Down beneath – costs were £3,000/£4,000 + vat. Whether DCC apply the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile to traffic speeds for SCARF purposes needed checking – if so, Bow would be unlikely to qualify based on per centage of vehicles exceeding the limit with speed data.

*DCC Highways newsletter Roadmap, January 2024 edition,* had been received and forwarded to Members, see <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/3857225>

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, State of the District Debate info, to be held 20 March 2024, inviting town/parish council input. Members considered – being mindful of officers' time which needed to be paid, wished to query whether the State of the District debate was felt to represent good value for money.

MDDC, Crediton Town Centre Masterplan – Public Consultation 15 January - 26 February 2024, info.

MDDC, published crime figures on the Police.uk website not being updated, info.

MDDC, changes to Mid Devon District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy, consultation period 15/1/24 – 15/4/24. For info. refer <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/taxi-policy-changes>

MDDC, press release, consultation on proposed updates to taxi policy, refer

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/driving-change-consultation-on-proposed-updates-to-taxi-policy/>

MDDC Press Release, Rural services in Mid Devon survey - consultation period extended to 1 March 2024, see <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/rural-services>

MDDC Press Release, ten free short-stay parking spaces now available in Cullompton.

MDDC Press Release, experience the pickleball craze at Mid Devon Leisure (Cullompton and Crediton).

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Housing's innovative approach to tackle damp and mould.

MDDC Press Release, Silverton parish set to decide future with neighbourhood plan referendum.

MDDC Press Release, launch of Food Drink Devon membership opportunity for Mid Devon businesses.

MDDC Press Release, Cullompton market is back at the Higher Bullring from 14/02/2024.

DAAT, Community Landing Sites, 3G Switch Off (from 31/1/24) and GSM Testing plus Ongoing Updates and Next Steps.

Devon Countryside Access Forum, annual recruitment process, info.

Devon Communities Together, Energy Savers Week, 15-21 January 2024, tips, etc.

Peninsula Transport, Subnational Transport Body annual conference 28 February 2024 at Manchester Central.  
Peninsula Transport, reminder of closing date (5/2/24) of draft strategy consultation.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, editions of OUR NEWS issued [January 2024](#) and [February 2024](#).  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Okehampton police station opening to the public soon (opening days/hours info).  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Discovery of deceased giant tortoises in Mid Devon being investigated.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, spate of vehicle thefts in Devon.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, update after spate of vehicle thefts in Devon (three of five vehicles recovered).  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Bike Marking event - 25 January 2024 at South Molton Pannier Market.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Neighbourhood Policing Week, let's build bridges between police and communities  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Forensic Marking Kits to Stop Catalytic Converter Thefts (40 garages across East, Exeter & Mid Devon participating in the scheme).  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, theft of number plates from vehicles – North and West Devon.  
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Come and meet your Tiverton neighbourhood policing team, 7/2/24 at Tiverton Library.  
*Publications:* Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, One Devon Bulletin January 2024, [Devon Climate Emergency](#) February newsletter and DCC news round-up Connectme.

13. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,023.74, Current a/c £20,268.89

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

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

14. **Any Other Business.**

Nil

15. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:10pm.