

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 MARCH 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, P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, S A Pengelly, V Steer and
T J Vanstone.
MDDC reps. Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr White and DCC rep. Cllr Letch.
Members of the Public: Two (part only)
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Mr T J Hamilton.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr White on gaining his seat in the recent by-election and welcomed him back.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

Ms Emma Fuell (Green Social Prescriber) and Ms Paula Martin (Manager), of the Growing Well Garden, adjacent to Bow Medical Practice, addressed Parish Council. They were seeking ways for the Garden to be further integrated in to the Bow community. They supplied brief background to the project; set up by Dr Taheri as a community/social prescribing garden to support and improve the physical and mental wellbeing of the people in the community through connecting with nature through gardening and/or the peace and calm associated with being in a garden. Although relatively new, the Garden was flourishing. A short film, outlining purpose, was shown to Parish Council. Drop-in garden sessions were on offer. A polytunnel had been a recent acquirement, funded by National Garden Scheme. It was planned to offer different gardening activities for different medical groups, all bringing wellbeing benefits, including to staff. The intention was to utilise the garden to support and benefit more local people. Mr Vanstone commented on positive therapeutic benefits of gardening, suggesting possible allocation of (raised) beds for local people. Mrs Hamilton suggested that folk might just associate it with Bow Medical Practice. Cllr Letch enquired whether any funding was required. Some funds had been provided, a £5,000 start-up granted by Bow Medical Practice plus some funds donated by the Primary Care Network (PCN). Flyers were distributed to Members. Ms Fuell and Ms Martin were thanked for their attendance and took their leave of the meeting.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2024, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read, approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. Both DCC Highways Neighbourhood officer, Mr Tucker, and DCC Customer Service Centre had been asked, with reminders issued, requesting clarification on maintenance responsibility for the structure and whether Parish Council could, if it so wished, effect and fund repair. No response from either party to date. Cllr Letch would pursue with Mr Short.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[24/00321/CAT](#)

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the height of 1 Eucalyptus tree by 15m and lift the crown by approximately 2-5m within the Conservation Area

Location: 1 Chanterhayes Bow Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272140 / 101744

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 27 February 2024.

Parish Council approved.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[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

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

Planning Query. Field east of Burston Caravan Sales. Members queried Planning requirements as a mobile home had appeared, apparently being connected to mains services. It was understood that the field had been sold in the last year or so. Cllr Mrs Letch, requesting a photograph of the site, would pursue Planning istatus with MDDC.

5. **DCC Report.**

Cllr Letch's monthly report for February 2024 had been circulated to Members, email dated 25 February 2024. Council Tax. It was almost time for annual bills; all parties would have to increase demands (cost of living, inflation, increased salaries/wages, etc). County and district councils were cutting staff numbers and some non-statutory services.

Proposed Pay-and-Display parking (Braunton, Crediton, Dartmouth, Honiton, Okehampton, Salcombe, Sidmouth & Tavistock). Cllr Letch had presented a petition, on behalf of Crediton area, at a full council meeting in February, opposing the proposal. DCC Cabinet was scheduled to conclude consultation findings and reach it's decision on 13 March, however, some towns were reportedly planning to protest outside County Hall on the morning of the meeting.

Early Help family support hubs. Many children/youth clubs and other supportive organisations, eg Sure Start, had ceased delivering services. DCC was looking to create an Early Help family hub, for Mid Devon the centre in Tiverton would accommodate staff in the building where a children's centre already exists. It was planned to use outreach officers to contact youth clubs and schools in Mid Devon towns and villages, the idea being to set up a help and support service for those who have taken on the responsibility of creating a youth club in the area. (Over 18,000 0-18 year olds lived in Mid Devon.)

Surgeries. From April, with improved weather, Cllr Letch aimed to hold all surgeries again.

In addition to the written Report, at the meeting Cllr Letch advised that DCC's proposed Pay-and-Display parking was no longer being pursued, given consultation findings, etc. Communities with parking issues would be assisted. Locality Fund. The Fund would increase to £8,000 for the municipal year 2024/25.

Child carers webinar. Cllr Letch had attended, it conveyed there were two million child carers in the country, there were many in Devon – if anyone was aware of any child carers, to ensure they were aware that help is available. Coplestone, highways. Patching work had recently been carried out on the A3072 and A377.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's monthly report for February 2024 had been circulated to Members, email dated 22 February 2024. UK Shared Prosperity Fund. MDDC was using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support food and drink businesses based in Mid Devon to become members of Food Drink Devon. Thanks to the fund, Mid Devon food and drink businesses joining for the first time could access a free or low cost annual subscription to the organisation. The 50th anniversary of Mid Devon District Council. Planned for 2 April 2024, the Chairman, his cadet and the longest serving member of staff would unveil a plaque at Phoenix House.

Pickleball (fusion of tennis, badminton & ping-pong). Sessions were available at Mid Devon leisure centres (Lords Meadow and Culm Valley), providing opportunity to try the sport which was taking the sports community by storm, at one of the first facilities in Devon. Read full press release at: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/experience-the-pickleball-craze-at-mid-devon-leisure/>

Additional to the written Report, Cllr Mrs Letch advised that an extension to the Housing Hardship Fund had been applied for; it was expected that the Fund would continue for the next six months, possibly longer.

7. **MDDC Ward Member Vacancy, Upper Yeo & Taw Ward By-election 7 March 2024.**

Cllr White, Liberal Democrat, had gained the seat. Results had been Liberal Democrat 405, Conservative 206, Labour 91 and Green Party 54, turnout had been 24.2%. Cllr White's District Council email address was currently being reinstated.

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

The Town and Parish Charter underwent regular reviews. MDDC had issued Word and PDF versions of the amended Charter, requesting that town/parish councils either approve or submit further suggested amendments. Given the three month consultation process, MDDC needed to receive agreement or suggested amendments to the Charter by 15 May 2024. Copies of amended Charter had been circulated to Members on 9 February.

Cllr Letch requested that copies of the Charter be forwarded to him, Cllr Mrs Letch and Cllr White. A Member enquired whether DCC also had a Charter and enquired the reason MDDC needed a Town and Parish Liaison Officer. Cllr Letch suggested giving further consideration after the State of the District Debate on 20 March 2024 – Cllr Letch/Cllr Mrs Letch/Cllr White would report after State of the District Debate.

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

Work had not yet been carried out. The Chairman said that the contractor had looked at the light, found it to be damp inside and recommended a full re-fit, estimating repair cost as approx. £400 + vat. Members agreed that work proceed.

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

Speeding A3072 western approach to village. Nothing had been received from DCC Customer Service Centre or from Highways Engineer, Mr Short, in response to Cllr Letch's enquiry reference intended work at Burston Cross. *Community Speed Watch, A3072 western approach to village, addressing eastbound traffic.* Further speed data, since end October 2023, had not been received. The co-ordinator had, temporarily, stepped back from the role with another CSW member standing in. A CSW member had forwarded Statistics from all CSWs across Devon & Cornwall (Bow had 3rd highest site). Police had joined Bow CSW for a couple of sessions, catching some six speeding motorists. A new site, by CP School Station Rd, had been approved with first session due to be held. *Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* The Clerk had drafted a first iteration of a Risk Assessment, Cllr Letch requested a copy. He would pursue with DCC Highways engineer Mr Short.

DALC 'Working with Devon Highways'. DALC's current E-bulletin contained an article referring to member councils' comments and frustrations about highways matters (quality of roads, not understanding how decisions are made or funds allocated, or who they need to speak with to resolve issues). Recognised as an area of importance, the County Officer had engaged with Highways to explore ways how relationships between DCC and parish/town councils could be improved. A programme of Connect Events over the coming year had been agreed, topics would include roles and responsibilities; community self-help/delivery schemes; how roads are maintained; understanding roadworks, etc. DALC was looking to share bi-annual highways data, so councils felt more informed, as well as improving communications. Cllr Letch requested a copy of the article, which was supplied.

Godfreys Garden, speed bumps. A resident had requested installation of speed bump(s) along Godfreys Garden estate road. It had been considered previously – given potential for increased noise on a residential estate, it was felt to be inappropriate.

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 Press Release Mid Devon's budget setting [Budget and council tax set for next year \(middevon.gov.uk\)](https://www.middevon.gov.uk)

MDDC Press Release, Silverton Neighbourhood Plan approved at referendum.

MDDC Press Release, Market event celebrates the re-opening of Higher Bullring to the community.

MDDC Press Release, Work Hub Study – Business Drop-In Event, potential new work hub at Tiverton, 23/2/24.

MDDC Press Release, from 26 February additional side waste left out by residents for collection will not be collected.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon residents can now book bulky waste collections using the Council's new portal, My Mid Devon.

MDDC Press Release, Council Secures Funding to Plant More Trees.

MDDC Press Release, Love Your Town Centre - Vibrant Town Centre fund opening for applications.

MDDC Press Release, The Household Support Fund, <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/residents-financial-support/> due to expire 31/3/2024.

Devon Communities Together, launch event, Creating a Community Asset Map for Devon, 18/3/24 Silverton.

Devon Communities Together, offer of training courses from Devon Community Learning this spring!

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Tackling community safety for the future: 2024 and beyond.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Stalking - Fixated Obsessed Unwanted Repeated (FOUR).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Stop! Think fraud, info + 4 ways to frustrate a fraudster.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, South West police forces work with local communities to drive out drugs.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, First-of-its-kind resource helps victims through the criminal justice process, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Diesel thefts from farms, West Devon, warning and appeal for witnesses.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, police and Trading Standards reminding residents to stay vigilant for doorstep rogue traders offering home and garden services.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, proceeds of crime funding for good causes grows in Devon.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, unlock peace of mind with the keyholder scheme, info.

Rich Pearson, owner & operator RPM Bike Trials Display Team (advert).

Publications: Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, One Devon Bulletin February 2024, 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

Bow Village Hall (hire of meeting venue September 2023-March 2024) £48.78

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

Clerk (salary £749.00 + admin/expenses £121.32 qtr. ending 31/03/24) £870.32

H.M.R.&C. (P.A.Y.E. income tax, Jan-Mar 2024) £187.25

14. **Any Other Business.**

(i) Eleemosynary Committee. A parishioner (not formally appointed to the Committee) had approached Parish Council advising that forthcoming vacancies on the Committee needed to be filled. The Clerk would check the Charity Commission's written scheme. Further consideration would be given at the next meeting.

(ii) The White Hart (Listed Grade II), Bow. The public house was currently for sale. A parishioner, who understood that the owners intended closing the business but continuing to live at the property, had conveyed a request that Parish Council make an application for The White Hart (last remaining public house in the parish) to be an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Members briefly considered but commented that, at this stage, the owners had not confirmed their intentions directly to Parish Council. Planning requirements, for different scenarios, needed to be established for the Listed Grade II premises.

15. **Date of Next Meeting (Annual Assembly).**

Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:05pm.