

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 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, T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly and V Steer.
MDDC reps. Cllr Mrs Letch (part only) and Cllr White.
Cllr Mrs DuChesne, MDDC Cabinet Member Parish and Community Engagement.
Members of the Public: One (part only),
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Messrs R P Edworthy, T J Vanstone and DCC rep. Cllr Letch.

In view of Cllr Frank Letch's indisposition, Bow Parish Councillors wished to convey to him their warmest good wishes for a swift and full recovery.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024, having been circulated in advance were taken as read, confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Lychgate structure, entrance to Iter Park. The matter was still in hand with DCC (advices from Neighbourhood Highway officer Mr Tucker, or DCC Highway engineer, Mr Short awaited).

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[24/01100/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of a hobby room building following the removal of existing shipping container.

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR271000 101166 Little Meadow, Station Road, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 271980 / 101167

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 6 August 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01145/LBC](#)

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the repair and decoration to the south elevation including, render, woodwork, windows, door and drainpipes

Location: Winsor House, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272063 / 101793

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 6 August 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01172/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Installation of a level ramped access to the rear of the property and replacement door, installation of a front handrail, temporary internal flooring and associated works

Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272805 / 100685

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 14 August 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01175/LBC](#)

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the installation of a level ramped access to the rear of the property and replacement door, installation of a front handrail, temporary internal flooring and associated works

Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272805 / 100685

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 14 August 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01158/CAT](#)

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Elm and one Elder and reduce the height of one Crack Willow by 6m within the Conservation Area

Location: Kenaden House, Bow, CREDITON

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272207 / 101748

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 21 August 2024.

Application approved.

[24/01295/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of dwelling following demolition of redundant commercial building

Location: Land and Building at NGR 273316 100828 (Nymet Cottage) Bow, CREDITON.

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273317 / 100829

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 4 September 2024.

Application approved.

WITHDRAWN

[24/01187/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of two temporary cabins for year round holiday accommodation

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 272991 / 98080 (Adjacent Horizon), Bow, CREDITON

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272992 / 98079

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 20 August 2024.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[24/00491/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Conversion of integral garage to living space, installation of two dormers and first floor terrace on north and west elevation

Location: Hazeldene, Station Road, Bow, CREDITON

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272157 / 101431

[24/00525/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of annex following removal of outbuildings

Location: Nymet Cottage, Bow, CREDITON

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273359 / 100836

Alleged Possible Planning Breach

Siting of mobile home for human habitation, Land East of Burston Inn Bungalow, Bow

Following Cllr Mrs Letch's approach to MDDC Enforcement Officer in February/March, in September the

Enforcement Team had requested that Parish Council submit an alleged breach form via the website – the Clerk had completed the online form, per MDDC request.

5. **DCC (Crediton Rural Division) Monthly Report.**

Cllr Letch's reports for July and August 2024 had been electronically circulated to Members, emails dated 20 July and 27 August 2024 respectively.

July

Cllr Letch outlined two distinct roles to being a councillor, first to represent the residents in the division, involving listening to problems, complaints, etc and acting to resolve them, secondly was to attend meetings to gain information, raise questions, etc. Two recent meetings concerned the railway, with improvements mentioned but also one meeting mentioned livestock (a cow) on a railway line at Cullompton.

Health Care meeting, living in Devon. People living in Mid Devon live, on average, one year longer than the rest of Devon and Devonians live a year longer than the national average. There is also a lower per centage of drug-related deaths in Mid Devon and Mid Devon's suicide rate is the lowest in the county.

First Cabinet meeting under new leadership. The most interesting item was the launch of the corporate plan 2024/25 which noted five proposed corporate priorities in the action plan.

August

Local road closures. Several (incl. Crediton to Yeoford for highway patching work, A3072 at Pedlars Pool for laying mains services for residential development & Copplestone whilst work to secure a dangerous building was ongoing) were about to start; closures were unavoidable given necessary works but inevitably negatively impacted local communities.

DCC Scrutiny Committee. As Chairman, Cllr Letch had interviewed members of the senior leadership team in DCC (incl. chief executive, heads of highways, finance, communication, adult social care and recruitment and retention of staff), to obtain an overview of responsibilities of each department, the challenges faced and progress being made. The insight would enable the Scrutiny Committee to focus on areas of challenge and concern.

Upcoming visits included to the materials laboratory, Exeter, where materials used on highways are analysed and to the national operations centre which had cameras on all the main roads throughout Devon. Both of interest.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's reports for July and August 2024 had been electronically circulated to Members, emails dated 23 July and 27 August 2024 respectively.

July

The Household Support Fund was open until the end of September, or when funds run out.

The Waste collection team reported results. Detailed report had been given May-June 2024 in comparison with the relevant data of 2023 – only 219 problems reported compared with 4,043 in 2023. For Upper Yeo and Taw ward only eight incidents reported.

Development Management Area Team. Cllr Mrs Letch reported that Adrian Devereaux, Helen Govier, Daniel Sims and Holly Brimson were the West Team responsible for Upper Yeo and Taw ward. New Planning Enforcement Officer, Stella Radley, would work alongside Heather Nesbitt. Enforcement remained a major issue for the LPA with a huge backlog of complaints. The position of a senior enforcement officer had been advertised and would be advertised again.

Local Green Space. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published December 2023, set out criteria for designating land as Local Green Space to protect it from being built up in the future 50 years. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Cllr Mrs Letch referred to online planning practice guidance which provided additional information and a helpful guide aimed towards neighbourhood planners.

BT Landline, transition to digital. In September 2024 the campaign would come to the South West, it would include information, consultations and personal contacts before any work commenced. Consultations aimed to identify vulnerable customers (living in areas with no mobile signal, having special needs, unable to use a mobile device, anyone over 75 years was considered potentially vulnerable).

Mid Devon walking festival. Taking place 14 – 29 September 2024, participants could choose from guided walks, each offering a unique perspective on the area's landscape, history, natural beauty and cultural heritage.

August

Waste collection team, some households were still leaving side waste out for collection – those issues would be addressed by the Environment Enforcement team. Street scene was running a series of drop in surgeries. An online social media video had been produced to educate residents (the Clerk had circulated it to Members).

Neighbourhood walkabouts. Organised by MDDC, twice yearly, to meet with social tenants, report repairs, issues, etc. The autumn walkabout for Upper Yeo and Taw would be on 9 October.

Copplestone railway station. Cllr Mrs Letch had kindly supplied photographs of the station, groomed to perfection by volunteers.

Additional to the Reports, Cllr Mrs Letch commented on two matters, viz winter fuel allowance (being discontinued for all pensioners except those in receipt of Pension Credit) and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) which BT was rolling out. She said that people would need assistance, saying only 57% of pensioners were entitled to pension credit, that she as a ward member could assist, also that people could be directed towards Citizens Advice Bureaux or Age UK. There were groups of people, eg those with special needs, etc. who would need assistance with reporting their requirements to BT.

7. **MDDC's Town and Parish Charter.**

Cllr Gwen DuChesne MBE, MDDC Cabinet Member for Parish and Community Engagement, was welcomed to the meeting. She was a Ward Member for Halberton. Saying that she needed to understand, both ways, in her role, and to ascertain the reasons Bow Parish Councillors did not feel able to approve and accept MDDC's Town and Parish Charter, she asked what could be done to alleviate matters. Continuing, she submitted that MDDC sometimes had a reputation of not being interested in, nor listening to, town/parish councils. She further said that MDDC hoped to receive input from Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). She confirmed that Bow had been the only town/parish council who felt unable to approve and accept the Charter but also went on to say that other town/parish councils had raised concerns, eg some had been upset by Section 106 issues. She was collecting concerns from town/parish councils, was at Bow to listen, so invited members to comment. Parish Councillor Mr Steer said that in creating the Charter MDDC was spending time and money on telling town and parish councils how to behave, that it was just another layer of bureaucracy, which had to be paid for. He said that having a Liaison Officer provided another opportunity for messages to become lost in translation (the more channels a

message went through, the more accuracy diminished), further saying that ward members were the town/parish council representatives and that information could easily be conveyed via ward members. He said that it all felt slightly disrespectful. He went on to quote an example of a MDDC officer using some of Bow Parish Council's Section 106 fund (to spend on a Bow play area) without Bow Parish Council either having been consulted or having any knowledge that part of their fund had been spent. Turning to Planning Enforcement, the lack of Enforcement officers resulted in large backlogs of complaints and cases – Parish Councillor Mr Vanstone had strongly objected to approving/agreeing the Charter, a particular objection being that the document stated that, *Local Councils would undertake to "Assist Mid Devon District Council by reporting perceived local breaches of Town and Country Planning Legislation, submitted via the online 'alleged planning breach' form."* Cllr DuChesne said that Enforcement officers were hard to recruit (unpopular work and not well paid). Mrs Hamilton commented on the current complaint of an unauthorised mobile home at Bow, lived in residentially, which had been reported to MDDC several months previous. Members contended that inaction encouraged others to not comply with Planning legislation. Concluding, Members commented that they were volunteers, who were unpaid, and that it felt slightly disrespectful for MDDC to produce a Charter telling them how to conduct their council business. Cllr DuChesne was warmly thanked for her time and for attending the meeting which had been appreciated.

8. **Untaxed Vehicle, Jackman Car Park.**

A private car with both excise duty and MoT having expired at end of July had been parked in Jackman car park, provoking complaints. A Notice, reminding the vehicle's keeper of the Rules and Regulations plus Parish Council's right to arrange removal of such vehicles, had been placed on the windscreen. The vehicle had now been removed, vehicle ownership had not been established.

9. **Request for Funding, Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee, £50.00 for Pump Track RoSPA Inspection.**

A request had been received for Parish Council to fund the RoSPA inspection of Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee's new pump track. MDDC had quoted their contractor's fee at £50.00, subject to being carried out at the same time as the play area inspection. Copies of Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee's annual accounts had been supplied. Parish Council agreed the funding request.

Mrs Hamilton, recently appointed Chair of Bow Village Hall & Bow Village Field Management Committee, mentioned that Committee's recent request for reimbursement reference some of the costs associated with the play area, adopted by the Committee in 2022, which Parish Council had agreed to fund. However, some costs claimed did not align with that which had been agreed by Parish Council; enquiries were needed to enable consideration. Mrs Hamilton commented that, henceforth, Mr Cook would carry out play area inspections gratis.

10. **Request for Funding for Village Hall Hire for Defibrillator Training.**

A Nymet Tracey resident requested funding for the hire of Bow Village Hall, or Community Room, for defibrillator training, for 25 persons, in October. The sum required was understood to be approximately £30-£40. Parish Council agreed the donation.

11. **D.C.C. Highways Matters.**

Speeding A3072 western approach to village. Still no news had been forthcoming reference DCC's suggested works in the vicinity of Burston Cross.

Community Speed Watch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic). Data had been received from Bow CSW group for the period 6/7/24-3/9/24, fourteen sessions had been held over that period. Bow CSW group had met and agreed that the group would review, six months hence, whether to continue. A few of their members wished to attend the October Parish Council meeting to pose some questions, which were understood to include the sites of the proposed VAS, whether Parish Council would support/fund the purchase of speedwatch signage and the possibility of Parish Council writing to companies requesting they manage their speed (some lorries travelling late at night/very early in the morning had been identified).

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). The quotation for DCC installation of two posts, requested 9 July 2024, had not yet been received. Mr Cook had been apprised of the need for, and the role of, a Road Warden. He kindly agreed to become Bow's Road Warden (after receiving DCC training, duties would include moving the proposed VAS, exchanging VAS batteries, etc). A slightly revised VAS application, incorporating minor modifications as requested by DCC, had been submitted together with a Risk Assessment based on the DCC template.

DCC pothole repair policy/procedure. The prepared submission had been approved by Members but would be held in abeyance, for time being.

Other Highway Matters. A pothole in Water Lane and one near Collatons had been reported.

Repainting yellow lining throughout the village was still awaited, vehicles were also being parked on pavements.

12. Monitoring of Services

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

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

13. Correspondence

MDDC, Waste Service, latest set of side waste results following most recent survey and drop-in surgeries info.

MDDC, a look inside Mid Devon District Council's waste depot, new short video (circulated to Members).

MDDC, Licensing consultations: Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 (refer email dtd 17/7/24).

MDDC, Mid Devon Walking Festival 14–29 September 2024, info. + leaflets. (Publicised, social media, etc.)

MDDC Press Release, a new four-year strategic plan launched to shape the work of Mid Devon District Council, Corporate Plan drawn up with input from councillors, officers and the public following residents' survey, (refer email dtd 22/8/24).

MDDC Press Release, Council launched a [campaign to reduce](#) district's food waste and cross-contamination.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon's Cabinet met in Crediton to discuss the future of Crediton town centre.

MDDC Press Release, Council's Housing Developments at Tiverton & Cullompton garner 19 award nominations.

MDDC Press Release, Grand Western Canal, public consultation, response deadline 16/9/2024.

MDDC Press Release, Tiverton market centre building proposal to be transformed into a work hub consultation

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon's disappointment with recent Cullompton Station decision.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC & DCC progress Cullompton's infrastructure plans with new cricket square.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC secured funding package to enable delivery of Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road.

DCC, Mid Devon bus service changes from 1 September 2024, info.

DCC, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy [Newsletter](#) - Summer 2024.

DALC, invitation to AGM, agenda etc, 2 October 2024 at Exeter Racecourse, with conference and exhibition.

NALC, new website being launched 7/10/24.

Mr B Weeks, thanks for HTA vouchers for internal examining of Parish Council annual accounts for 2023/24.

Bow CSW group member, enquiry re. a village tidy up, wash signs, etc to make village more welcoming.

Hastoe, to ensure any families in need of rented accommodation are on MDDC housing register.

Parishioner's complaint of amount of litter at layby near Co-op shop. (Clerk requested MDDC tidy layby.)

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner issues joint open letter to communities following violent disorder.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, appeal after animal sculptures stolen from shopping village in Devon.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, burglaries west Devon, reminder that all properties/outbuildings are locked and all valuable items/equipment kept secure.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Force must improve criminal investigations, service provided to the public was judged inadequate, says Commissioner.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Rural Affairs, public rights of way - advice and information.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police launch electric bike project across the Force,

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and Crime Commissioner draft 2023/24 report.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, new Neighbourhood Support Team adds extra strength to fighting crime.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Devon & Cornwall Police working with Bath University to test for spice in vapes, info

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Impersonation scams/courier fraud warnings, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Citizens in Policing – Volunteer Cadet Leader, Tiverton, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, volunteering opportunities Devon & Cornwall (BT digital switchover events), info.

Devon Communities Together, invitation Devon Community Resilience Forum 26 September 9.30am–4pm Rugby Club, Exhibition Road, Crediton.

Peninsula Transport, Cllr Mark Coker, Chair, Strategy: guiding future regional transport investment.

DALC News E-bulletin, Become a non-executive director, info.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, [OUR NEWS](#) July issue, [OUR NEWS](#) August issue.

Publications: Clerks and Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events, Mid Devon Matters (summer 2024), [One Devon](#) bulletin July 2024, [One Devon](#) bulletin August 2024, Devon Climate Emergency newsletter July & August 2024 and DCC news round-up Connectme.

14. Finance.

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,105.07, Current a/c £22,431.16

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £0.00 (account in credit)

15. **Any Other Business.**

(i) MDDC Planning Enforcement officers. Cllr White advised that MDDC had now appointed Heather Nesbitt and Stella Radley to work on Enforcement matters, however a lengthy backlog existed.

(ii) Parish risks. Cllr White advised, for information, that MDDC would be asking for town/parish councils to identify risks within their town/parish areas, in October, which would be added to MDDC's register.

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:10pm