

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:30PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Mr C D Nicks in the Chair,  
Messrs R A Cook, P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly,  
D Pocock and T J Vanstone.  
MDDC reps. Cllr Alex White and Cllr Jim Cairney.  
Members of the Public: Nil.  
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

**Apologies:** Mr V Steer, DCC rep. Cllr Letch and MDDC rep. Cllr Mrs Letch

Cllr Jim Cairney, attending in the stead of Cllr Frank Letch, at Cllr Letch's request, was welcomed.  
Mr Pocock, attending his first meeting, was also welcomed. His declaration of acceptance was signed.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public present; no matters raised.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025, having been circulated in advance were taken as read, confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATIONS

[24/01477/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of a lean-to extension to provide storage for vintage tractors

Location: Central Garage Workshop, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272125 : 101806

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 07 January 2025.

Bow Parish Council approved the application.

[24/01172/HOUSE](#)

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

Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272805 : 100685

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 03 February 2025.

Bow Parish Council approved the application.

[24/01175/LBC](#)

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

Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272805 : 100685

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 03 February 2025.

Bow Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[24/01677/CLU](#)

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition 6 of Planning Permission CD.4703 for a period in excess of ten years.

Location: Hilldown Cottage, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273160 / 99407

Proposal: Erection of two-storey side extension

Location: The Dairy, Coxmoor, Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 270337 / 99628

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

Cllr Letch's report for January 2025 had been electronically circulated to Members, email dated 22 January 2025. OFSTED, a full report had been expected in October but given objections another OFSTED had begun in January. Devolution White Paper, a national issue, appeared to remove district councils: Devon districts had written to the Minister with DCC also having written but with a different slant. One, or two, statutory authorities would be formed. County had requested postponement of the May 2025 elections but that request had been refused. It was likely that new authorities would only deliver mandatory services – other, voluntary, services (leisure centres, play areas, etc) needed addressing but it seemed likely that town/parish councils would need involvement. Budget. Meetings had been held, however, government announcements changed predicted budgets. With upper tiers capped meant some being passed down to uncapped lower tiers. New payment system. DCC was introducing a new system, Unit 4 (replacing Finest) which involved moving data and arranging processes, which was time consuming, but expected to be live shortly. As a scrutiny chair, Cllr Letch would keep an eye on risks. Surgeries. Being winter, regular surgeries had not resumed. Cllr Letch still had a little funding in his Locality budget, so any community projects in need could apply. Locality Fund was likely to reduce from £8,000 to £5,000 (awaiting approval) but Cllr Letch hoped to vote against it.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's report for January 2025 had been electronically circulated to Members, email dtd 22 January 2025. Community Risk Register. MDDC had conducted a community risk assessment, using an impact/likelihood matrix. After consultations, a Community Risk Register had been created. It set out the Resilience Strategy which would assist MDDC in better understanding, monitoring and potentially mitigate highest risks in Mid Devon. It would be reviewed annually. Landline change to digital connection, certain areas may suffer from lack of satellite signal. There were concerns about support for vulnerable people and an awareness of these within the emergency response environment. Whilst the community had no power/ability with service providers, communities could develop some means of support, it was suggested that any known 'not-spots' be shared with the MDDC officer. Any areas with very poor internet/digital connection to be reported.

7. **MDDC Forward Planning, Call for Sites 2025. Local Plan, Development Plan Document (DPD) Consultation (6/2/2025 - 14/3/2025).**

The evidence-gathering exercise would help inform the emerging Local Plan by identifying deliverable sites to meet the district's increased housing and employment needs over the next fifteen years. During the consultation period, 6/2/2025 - 14/3/2025, individuals and organisations had opportunity to suggest sites which they considered had the potential to be developed for residential, economic or other uses. Whilst changes were underway with the wider planning system, Mid Devon wished to refresh it's understanding of land availability across the district since the previous call for sites in early 2021. Bow Parish Council's submissions in 2021 would be considered and assessed by the Forward Planning team through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). Sites submitted in 2021 would form part of the HELAA reports which MDDC aimed to publish later in 2025, once findings for the new Call for Sites is complete. MDDC needed to ensure that they had the most up to date information available before publishing the findings of the HELAA, so requested any updated information (any modifications to be detailed on a MDDC form), or to respond to MDDC stating No Change. MDDC was particularly interested in hearing about small and medium sized sites because they could have wider benefits such as supporting small and medium enterprises, providing opportunities for self and custom build as well as community led schemes. The development potential of sites put forward during the Call would be assessed by local authority officers and a panel of representatives from a range of industries. Conclusions would be published in the HELAA which would include sites from both 2021 and 2025 processes and form part of the evidence base for a new Local Plan for Mid Devon. Members needed to consider the submissions made by Bow Partish Council in 2021 and whether any changes needed to be made and to also consider any further potential sites. Members did not identify any potential new sites. Regarding the sites submitted in 2021, Mr R P Edworthy and Mr P P W Edworthy declared DPLs (owner/relative of owner) and left the meeting. Members did not wish to modify either of the sites (part of field adjacent Jackman car park incorporating car park enlargement, with max. five dwellings and the vicinity of Bow railway station to ensure (if the opportunity arose) that a station with car parking etc could be created in the future) submitted in 2021 so would make No Change submissions to MDDC.

8. **Bow Village Field, Annual Grass Cutting Including Play Areas, Grant.**

Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee had produced copies of invoices received from their grass cutting contractor for the three years, viz 2022, 2023 and 2024, since the expiry of the lease to MDDC for the land for the play area, 1 April 2022. The total sum amounted to £1,005.00. Parish Council had agreed that it would fund grass cutting of the play area.

Parish Council had also considered funding grass cutting of the village field and had increased the precept to allow for that expenditure. At the January Parish Council meeting, a suggestion had been to grant an annual sum of £1,400.00 for grass cutting at the village field including the play area. On the proposal of Mr Vanstone, seconded by Mr P P W Edworthy, it was agreed to make an annual grant to Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee, with an annual review, of £1,400.00.

9. **Bow Raised Cobbled Footpath (Listed structure).**

The father of a parishioner who was the owner-occupier of a cottage which butted on to the raised cobbled footpath, Listed structure, had approached Parish Council requesting consideration be given to installing railings along the edge of the footpath to provide safety for householders/pedestrians. Parish Council considered the matter: Parish Council neither owned nor had responsibility for the Listed structure – some sections were owned by householders but other sections did not appear on householders' deeds – neither did Mid Devon District Council nor Devon County Council own it. Members agreed that railings would not be installed.

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

*Speeding A3072 western approach to village (DCC suggested highway works), Burston Cross area.* Nothing had been heard/received from DCC.

*Community Speed Watch (A3072 western approach to village, eastbound traffic).* The contents of an email received from Bow Community Speed Watch group was conveyed, for reasons rehearsed (loss of keen volunteers, dwindling numbers and lack of support from other residents, with limited time to fit in sessions with full-time jobs) the group had decided to close. The group's reflections over the two and a half years of operation were provided, including regret that their efforts had not managed to reduce traffic speeds in the longer term and disappointment that acquisition of the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) had still not concluded. The group would be thanked for their work.

*Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* Nothing further had been received, DCC's quotation for supply and installation of two posts was also still awaited and training for Mr Cook as Road Warden was still awaited. An email had been sent to Mr Short, Neighbourhood Highway Officer manager, querying reason for lack of DCC response.

*Responsibility for cleaning raised cobbled footpath (Listed structure), resident's query.* A resident, who's property abutted the raised cobbled footpath, had sent an email to MDDC (copied to several other parties) following on from an email sent in 2023 to which he had not received a reply. He did what he could to keep the path and cobbles outside his house clear but it needed clearing again and he lacked capacity, prompting the enquiry as to responsibility for clearing and maintenance of it. The Clerk had referred the matter to DCC who would forward the enquiry to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer but no response had been received. Cllr White had responded to the householder advising that whilst some householders' title deeds included an area of the raised cobbled pavement, many did not, and that he should refer the matter to DCC.

*Other Highway matters.* Road surface condition at Hilldown Road (vicinity of Newcott) had deteriorated, patching work was needed.

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 launching a new Call for Sites 2025, from 6 February - 14 March 2025.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC is seeking an operator to manage flexible and affordable workspace in Tiverton.

MDDC Press Release, MDDC taken enforcement action following a major fly-tipping incident at Tiverton.

MDDC Press Release, Willand Parish Council set to decide future with neighbourhood plan referendum 27/2/25.

MDDC Press Release, Mid Devon Planners welcomed appeal decision, Hartnolls Farm appeal dismissed, again.

MDDC, Free events / workshops for Mid Devon Agricultural businesses, February 2025, info for dissemination.

Crediton Town Council, urging Parish Council reconsideration of decision not to join the Crediton Cluster group.

DALC, New Year Training E-bulletin 2025, courses, events and opportunities available over the next few months.

DALC, Chair of the DALC Board, invite to a Smaller Councils zoom meeting re. Devolution White Paper, 30/1/25.

DCC, Roads and Transport, forecasted Storm Éowyn, advance information.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Action Fraud, Booking.com users targeted with scam messages.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, burglaries in the Crediton area, urging vigilance and being security conscious.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, telephone fraud/scam warning (caller reporting to be a member of the police).  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Roads policing team demonstrates commitment to road users in Devon & Cornwall.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, [video](#): poor driving captured on camera as Op Snap surpasses 20,000 submissions.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Vision Zero South West launched it's annual Road User Survey, to take part visit:  
[Introduction : Road User Survey](#)  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner sets out plans to invest additional £1m to expand the Street Focus.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Cutting the number of serious ranks in favour of more 'worker bees'.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, newsletter [OUR NEWS](#) February edition.  
 Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police encourage public to surrender Turkish top-venting blank firing guns in amnesty.  
 Devon Communities Together, in partnership with Citizens Advice, providing specially designed benefits training.  
*Publications*: Clerks & Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, Healthwatch Devon E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin (incl. launch of second edition of The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance), NALC Events newsletter, Devon Climate Emergency January [newsletter](#) & February [newsletter](#) and DCC news round-up Connectme.

**13. Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,105.07, Current a/c £26,046.97  
 ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT  
 MDDC (RoSPA annual play area inspection) £84.00  
 EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £31.19 (includes £4.99 brought forward from January 2025). Credit had expired.  
 Bow Village Field (grass cutting of play areas for three years, 2022, 2023 & 2024) £1,005.00

**14. Any Other Business.**

(i) English Devolution White Paper. Cllr White, with Cllr Cairney, addressed the topic. The White Paper initiated the transfer of power from Westminster to the regions. The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution had written to Leaders of two-tier councils and unitary authorities in Devon and elsewhere. A number of councils, across the country, struggled financially with some having issued a Sect. 114 notice (equating to bankruptcy). The Minister invited Leaders to work together, within their areas, to develop proposals for local government reorganisation. The timeframe government imposed was uncomfortably short: interim proposals had to be submitted by 21 March 2025 with final proposals submitted by 28 November 2025. DCC, due to have elections in May 2025, had requested postponement of those elections but government refused. Current district councillors were expected to be final Members in post (an election would have been due in 2027 but reorganisation completion anticipated ahead of that date). The Leaders of Devon districts were working together towards proposals. Given the general state of council finances, etc. the likelihood would be that any future unitary authority would only carry out statutory functions, other voluntary services (eg leisure centres, play areas, etc) would likely be devolved to town/parish level but without accompanying funds to support those services. Town/parish councils would need to consider facilities within their areas, with associated future management and maintenance costs of those facilities. It was understood that facilities which districts would no longer maintain, unless adopted by town/parish councils, could be sold off as had happened in Cornwall, associated with gaining it's unitary authority status.  
 (ii) DCC Locality Budgets were expected to reduce from £8,000 to £5,000 from the next financial year 2025/26.

**15. Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:35pm