

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 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, T J Hamilton, S A Pengelly, D Pocock and V Steer.
MDDC reps. Cllr Alex White and Cllr Mrs Letch.
Members of the Public: Two (part only).
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Mr R P Edworthy

1. **Public Open Forum.**

Two Trustees of Bow Waterworks addressed Parish Council. Mr May, Chairman of the Trustees, outlined the current situation. Bow Waterworks, a charitable trust, currently provided chlorinated water from a borehole. Since March 2025, there had been increasing 'usage' (quantity of water going through the system) of water requiring ongoing increase in pumping hours, currently 21½ hours daily. Users' complaints had been received, the reservoir level had been increased to almost overflowing, to improve pressure and supply, but complaints continued. Much work had been carried out, including by leak detection companies, to try to trace the leak source(s), with varying degrees of success also failure. Leak water was appearing from a BT Openreach chamber in Water Lane but was not appearing up through road tarmac. The leak, indicated to be located in the Square (likely the copper spur pipe connection/spur to Water Lane) would involve a road closure for repair work. Bow Waterworks had encountered difficulties finding accredited contractors who would work with small charities like Bow Waterworks. However, two companies had been identified, one of which had estimated approx. £15,000 to repair the copper spur pipe which crossed the A3072 from the stopcock chamber in the Square. Bow Waterworks' funds were low and several households were understood to be switching their supply to South West Water (thereby reducing future revenue). If the leak continued to worsen, very little time remained available in the 24 hour day to further increase pumping time; continuing at the present rate, in a few weeks pumping requirements could exceed 24 hours a day, making it impossible to operate. Bottled drinking water was delivered, as required. The Bow Waterworks situation was difficult - funds were insufficient to cover the estimated high repair charge. The second contractor had yet to quote/estimate but, it was hoped, it would be less expensive. Parish Council Custodian Trustee discussed, including the future longer-term viability of Bow Waterworks. When current repair work effected and number of properties switching known (some householders were not reporting intentions to switch), the situation would be re-assessed - some re-arrangement of tasks, to involve volunteers, may be necessary. Bow Waterworks Trustee Mr Wyllie commented on the lack of trustees, saying that current difficulties made attracting more trustees difficult. It was possible Bow Waterworks would be sustainable in the future, but unless the current leak was repaired it could not be sustainable. Mr Pengelly recommended that a meeting of all Users be held, providing a forum to discuss matters. A meeting with Users, when all information was available, was intended, however, current antipathy of a few Users towards Bow Waterworks, could make that difficult. Information bulletins on the current situation had been issued to Users, further information would be issued when available. Meanwhile, some householders were refusing to maintain payments of their existing debts. Bow Waterworks was looking for a grant, not a loan, but would only be able to request a specific sum when all estimates/quotes had been received, it was anticipated that information would be available by the following meeting. Trustees were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2025, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read and were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

Nil

4. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[25/01178/FULL](#)

Proposal: Erection of dwelling following demolition of redundant commercial building (Revised Scheme)

Location: Land and building at NGR 273317 100829 (Nymet Cottage), Bow, Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 273317 / 100829

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors, email dated 26 August 2025.

Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS
APPROVALS
NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT

[25/00875/NMA](#)

Proposal: Non-material amendment for 24/01172/HOUSE to allow the addition of a second handrail
Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton

[25/00896/LBC](#)

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the installation of a two front handrails
Location: Nymet Barton, Bow, Crediton
Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272805 / 100685

25/00678/PNCOU The Shire, Bow, the application had been Refused but it was reported that the site was still being used for camping. MDDC was aware and addressing it.

5. **Casual Vacancy.**

Mid Devon District Council had confirmed that that authority had not received any requests for an election, therefore the Casual Vacancy to be filled by co-option. A vacancy Notice had been posted on the notice board and published in the Bow and Arrow.

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

Cllr Cairney was not present and no report had been received.

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

Cllr Mrs Letch's report for August-September 2025 had been electronically circulated to Members, email dated 9 September 2025.

State of the District Debate, 17 September. Opportunity for parishes to engage with Local Government Reorganisation. Representatives (large Town and smaller parish) from Somerset would be present and answer questions.

Recycling new targets. Collection of unusable metal pots and pans to commence 15 September. Harder enforcement issues, including littering where FPNS had been issued because black bin bags had been left out more than three calendar days either side of collection. MDDC officers were patrolling known hotspots.

Active Mid Devon. 'Friends that train together, stay together' initiative rewarded members for each friend referred. From 1 September to 30 November all new members referred through the scheme had the joining fee waived <https://activemiddevon.com/refer-a-friend-2025>

Household Support Fund 7. Open for applications from 21 July to 31 March (subj. to funds availability) provided food and fuel vouchers www.middevon.gov.uk/do-it-online/benefits/household-support-fund/

New features to the self-service portal, [My Mid Devon](#). Reporting missed waste and recycling collections, lost/found dogs, aggressive or nuisance dogs, abandoned vehicles and alleged planning breaches.

Planning Enforcement News. A new form was available online for reporting alleged planning breaches, link <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-enforcement/>

Support for new businesses. Business Information Point (BIP) as part of a business support programme, Prosper, available to organisations in Exeter, East Devon & Mid Devon, visit <https://businessinfopoint.co.uk>

8. **Motocross Track, East Langford.**

A Planning application for the permanent siting of a motocross track at East Langford, Bow, had been submitted to MDDC in 2021 and subsequently withdrawn. In the absence of formal Planning consent, the 28-day rule applied with exceptions, which included motor cycle racing, reducing to 14 days a year. Local residents had complaints that, since January 2025, the motocross track operators had already, allegedly, exceeded 14 days, with more event(s) planned. It was believed that events had been run on 18-20 days in 2025. Information, including details of operation dates etc had been passed to Ward Members. Cllr White advised that the matter had been raised at MDDC and was being investigated. Mr Steer commented that, in the absence of any Planning consent, the land should be reinstated to farmland.

9. **Bow Waterworks, Update on Loss of Water/Leak.**

Trustees' information on the situation, with request for funding, refer Item 1 Public Open Forum. It was anticipated that the second estimate would have been received with sum required known by the October meeting.

10. Untaxed Vehicle (silver Volkswagen reg. no. WV55WPO), Jackman Car Park.

Notices had been placed (and frequently removed! indicative of the owner living locally) on the windscreen of the untaxed vehicle. MDDC had been notified in August. Parish Council confirmed that the vehicle needed to be removed by MDDC.

11. Parish Council Computer.

With Windows 10 becoming obsolete in October 2025 (Microsoft would no longer support), recommendations had been that a new laptop, with Windows 11, be acquired. Mr Paul Edworthy (Edworthy Media) said+ that, otherwise, security issues could be experienced. Members agreed that a new laptop be acquired and requested that prices be obtained.

12. Local Government Reorganisation, English Devolution White Paper.

A Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) remote (via Zoom) Connect Event, entitled LGR - What can you do now? preparing for asset and service devolution, had been held that day, with some 40 attendees. The main speaker, Mr Carl Hearn, Clerk at Tavistock Town Council and a former joint governance lead at Cornwall Council at the time of their unitary authority transition, had delivered a presentation. He was very experienced, knowledgeable and impressive, answering multiple questions. Covered were the possible options and bids which had, thus far, been put forward. The new arrangement would not be straightforward; it would be a new way of working, with the Principal Authority (PA) Assets and Services to be considered; statutory services (libraries, highways, children) would remain the PA's responsibility, discretionary services would need to be looked at, any with income generation would be likely to remain with the PA.

The event was recorded; the session with presentation slides would be available and circulated to Members. MDDC's State of the District Debate, to be held at Phoenix House, Tiverton, on 17 September, would focus on Local Government Reorganisation. Two representatives from each town/parish council had been invited. The Clerk hoped to attend.

13. D.C.C. Highways Matters.

Speeding A3072 western approach to village (DCC suggested highway works), Burston Cross area. Still nothing had been received or heard from DCC. In readiness for Cllr Cairney's meeting with DCC Neighbourhood Officer 10 July, the Clerk had emailed details of outstanding issues and actions required. However, response was inconclusive. *Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS).* Nothing had been heard or received from DCC. The July meeting between Cllr Cairney and Mr Tucker yielded a response advising that Mr Tucker "agreed to 30mph speed limit outside Bow but that he felt that undergrowth should be cut down first so the sign is more visible". Clarification/confirmation was required.

Other Highway matters. No other issues raised.

14. Monitoring of Services

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

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

15. Correspondence

MDDC, State of the District Debate, 17 September 5:00pm at Phoenix House, agenda. (Email dtd 19.8.25 refers.)

MDDC, Mid Devon District Council consulting 1/9/25-12/10/25 on a review of the [Animal Welfare Licensing Policy](#)

MDDC, Leader shared Mid Devon District [annual review](#) of past year and highlighted achievements.

MDDC, pots and pans collections starting 15 September, Recycle More, latest side waste data.

MDDC, Latest side waste data, Enforcement of Bin It 123, recycle more, pots and pans trial results.

MDDC, Online forum: Let's co-create community climate action planning on 22 July 6pm-8pm.

MDDC, Have your say on the future of Devon's Councils, survey. (Circulated to members.)

DCC Highways Roadmap newsletter, summer edition (refer email dtd 15/8/25).

DCC Highways Liaison officer, Notification of Works and Road Closures A3072 (refer email dtd 7/8/25).

DCC, Changes to Devon's bus services from 31 August 2025, [Service changes 31st August 2025 - Travel Devon](#)

DCC, Highways and Traffic Management, A3072 planned drainage improvements and resurfacing works from 1.9.25 to 8.10.25 (refer email dtd 7.8.25).

Kier, notification of road closure on road From Burston Cross to Iter Corner, Bow, on dates 22/11/25-24/11/25, 29/11/25-1/12/25 and 6/12/25-8/12/25.

Mr B Weeks, Internal Examiner of Parish Council annual accounts for 2024/25, thanks for HTA vouchers.

MDDC Press Release, Active Mid Devon's autumn (1/9/25-30/11/25) offer rewards you and your friends.

MDDC Press Release, Council delivering new zero-carbon homes across eight sites Mid Devon.
MDDC Press Release, Household Support Fund (for food and energy costs) now open.
MDDC Press Release, Active Cullompton to reopen 15 July following departure of nearby traveller encampments.
MDDC Press Release, Cullompton leisure centre closed from 4 July, after arrival of large number of travellers.
MDDC Press Release, Tiverton to get extra Police patrols to prevent antisocial behaviour and violence.
Peninsula Transport Team, second round of Rural Mobility Pilot Scheme funding.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Emergency Alert system test – Sunday 7 September at 3:00pm.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, pioneering prisoners building homes scheme, receives national recognition.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, PCC invites community groups to bid for share of £330,000 crime prevention funding.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Winter Fuel Payment Scam Warning, Winter Fuel Payment fraud, info.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Anti-social behaviour/dangerous driving (new roadside testing for cocaine or cannabis).
Devon and Cornwall Alert, employment fraud, info and advice.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, horse attacked (injuries required euthanising animal) in Cheriton Bishop area, warning.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, SIM-Swap Fraud: What You Need to Know, info.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner selected as co-lead for criminal justice portfolio for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's blog: Moving forward together towards a bright future
Devon and Cornwall Alert, free Cybercrime awareness presentations, info.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police and Communities Together Surgery, 27 August, Town Square, Cridton.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, public warned over phone scam in which fraudsters pose as police.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, over 300 swords and knives off the street thanks to campaign in July.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Knife Crime, surrender Ninja sword and you could get compensation.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Renamed to 'Devon & Cornwall Community Messaging'.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, thefts of charity boxes from local businesses in Cridton, info. Suspect arrested.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner calls for improved homeless hostel provisions in Devon and Cornwall.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Anti Social Behaviour (vandalism, drug use or intimidation) in Mid Devon.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, dogs left in vehicles during hot weather warning.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police encourage public reporting of harmful drug activity.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Youth project turning lives around and preventing exploitation, info.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, [Our News](#) monthly newsletter September 2025.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, [Our News](#) monthly newsletter August 2025.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, [Our News](#) monthly newsletter July 2025.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Message from the Commissioner: Policing through the busy summer season.
Devon and Cornwall Alert, Fraud! Spot It & Stop It! Op Serenno (7-11 July 2025) focusing on 'Courier Fraud'.
NALC, all-new digital edition of Local Councils Explained, published.
Devon Communities Together, autumn training courses available, booking info.
Devon Communities Together, new community wildlife grants available for 2025.
Publications: Clerks and Councils Direct, DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, DAAT Landing Sites newsletter, Devon Climate Emergency August [newsletter](#) & September newsletter, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust newsletter (August 2025 and September 2025), Healthwatch Devon Plymouth & Torbay e-bulletin and DCC news round-up Connectme.

16. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,189.14, Current a/c £28,504.87
ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT
EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £19.75

17. **Any Other Business.**

(i) The late Cllr Frank Letch MBE would be (posthumously) awarded an honorary Alderman title at a ceremony to be held at County Hall on Friday 3 October 2025. The Clerk was invited to the ceremony.
(ii) Faulty electric light, Bow village field. A light, repaired in financial year 2024/25, was no longer working. A letter from Bow Village Hall and Bow Village Field Management Committee, requesting Parish Council assistance, was read. Repair work, involving National Grid and Mark Burrows Electrical, had only lasted a few weeks. Mark Burrows Electrical would be contacted.

18. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 8 October 2025 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.