

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7:30PM
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF BOW VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr S A Pengelly in the Chair,
Messrs R A Cook, P P W Edworthy, R P Edworthy, T J Hamilton, C D Nicks (part only), D Pocock and V Steer.
DCC rep. Cllr J Cairney.
MDDC rep. Cllr Mrs N Letch.
Members of the Public: three (two part only)
Clerk: Miss B D Ware.

Apologies: Nil.

1. **Public Open Forum.**

A Bow resident addressed Parish Council. She raised a few issues –
State of the river. The resident felt that it was ‘in an awful state with nothing being done about it’, commenting that just one fish had been seen this year and tree branches obstructing flow needed clearing. A Parish Councillor said that current advice is that it’s acceptable for water courses to have some semi-obstructing natural elements which slows water flow, helping to naturally prevent flooding downstream, otherwise with heavy rainfall rivers fast-flow increasing flood risk. Any obstruction under the bridge should be cleared, Cllr Cairney would refer the matter to the DCC Neighbourhood Highways officer. It was also commented that a beaver had been seen.
Traffic speed, A3072. The resident said that with SpeedWatch discontinued and without a vehicle activated speed sign (VAS), traffic speed was a concern. The Chairman confirmed that the VAS had been received and would be installed shortly
MDDC road sweeper. She commented that when road sweeping at Bow, the sweeper dragged gravel down the road, leaving it outside Tracey Cottages. Mr Cook also commented that the sweeper ran over weeds growing beside the raised cobbled pavement in the main road.
A second Bow resident (family member of first resident) expressed concerns about parking along the main road – her car had been damaged and motorists did not respect the ‘non-existent’ (very badly worn) yellow lines so no space existed for large vehicles to pass. Parish Council assured her that that issue had long been recognised, with repeated requests made to DCC to repaint both yellow and white lines. Parish Council had recently conveyed to DCC that leaving line repainting until after planned resurfacing work (? 2027/28) was unacceptable and potentially hazardous. The resident had also witnessed near-miss accidents, involving children, near Central Garage. Residents were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

2. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2026, having been circulated in advance, were taken as read and were confirmed as a complete and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:-**

(i) Banking, Unity Trust Bank. The Chairman had spoken to North Tawton Town Council which used Unity Trust Bank and had not appeared to have encountered any difficulties. Parish Council agreed to change the bank from Santander to Unity Trust Bank. Four Members (Mr R P Edworthy, Mr C D Nicks, Mr T J Hamilton & Mr P P W Edworthy) to be signatories. Mr Paul Edworthy kindly offered any assistance needed.

4. **Planning**

APPLICATION

[26/01027/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of a rear extension following removal of existing conservatory

Location: 7 Nymet Avenue Bow Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272088 / 101316

Information had been conveyed electronically to Bow Parish Councillors on 31 July 2026.

Parish Council approved the application.

MDDC DECISIONS

APPROVALS

[26/00681/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension

Location: Moor View Station Road Bow

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 272156 / 101540

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed siting of a caravan for ancillary residential use

Location: Lutyens House Bow Crediton

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

Cllr Cairney had submitted to the Bow and Arrow (Sept & Oct issue) concerns on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) issued on behalf of local DCC & MDDC Liberal Democrat councillors. They condemned government plans to redraw Devon's council map, warning that expanded unitary authorities for Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay would be at the direct expense of rural communities. Stating also that the cost of change, reportedly over £70 million across four years, was a great concern given residents were more worried about social care, roads and the cost of living. They called on ministers to publish full evidence behind the decision and contended that genuine devolution meant more local control, not fewer larger councils run at greater distance from the people they served.

However, on 7 September, government had announced a pause to the LGR process and a review in 14 areas, including Devon, across the country. Cllr Cairney said that a council elsewhere was taking the government to court. He advised that parish and district elections were expected to go ahead in May 2027. Saying also that the process had been very expensive and that a lot of legal work was ongoing.

DCC Planning Matters (mineral extraction, quarrying, waste management facilities, strategic transport planning, reservoirs, etc). Cllr Cairney had attended a meeting at which it had been indicated that county planning decisions would rest with one officer plus the chair of the committee, which was a concern, Cllr Cairney also said that structure may also apply for Planning matters at district level.

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

As a Member of MDDC's Homes Policy Development Group (PDG), Cllr Mrs Letch reported on a new document reference social housing. New rules would apply reference safety improvements; there would also be new rules for private sector landlords.

7. **New Automated External Defibrillator (AED) & Cabinet (village hall).**

The new replacement AED (Cardiac Science Powerheart G5 semi-automatic with CPRD) had been installed by electrician Alex Bowden. The designated guardian had enquired about funding availability for refresher training (previously, training had been provided in 2015 and 2023). Parish Council indicated that it would be content to fund training (sum unknown) plus hire cost of village hall. Mr Nicks would ascertain training cost from the AED guardian at Nymet Tracey.

8. **Bow Village Centre Association.**

No further information/update on options for Parish Council reference trusteeship for Burston Meadow recreation ground, had yet been received from BVCA.

9. **Local Government Reorganisation, English Devolution White Paper.**

On 16 July, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government had announced the LGR decision for Devon as four unitary authorities. A letter, dated 16 July 2026, issued to Leaders had been circulated to towns and parishes, the Clerk had circulated it to Bow Parish Councillors, refer URL link

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a71bf5bde77e2943cd3bb3e/Local_government_reorganisation_-_decision_letter_to_Devon_Plymouth_and_Torbay_council_leaders.pdf It set out, new councils to comprise:

- Exeter City Council, plus 15 parishes from Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from Mid Devon District Council
- Plymouth City Council, plus 13 parishes from South Hams District Council
- Torbay Council, plus 16 parishes from Teignbridge District Council and 5 from South Hams District Council
- East Devon District Council (minus the 28 parishes in 'Exeter', Mid Devon District Council (minus the 6 parishes in 'Exeter'), North Devon Council, South Hams District Council (minus the 13 parishes in 'Plymouth' and the 4 parishes in 'Torbay', Teignbridge District Council (minus the 15 parishes in 'Exeter' and 17 parishes in 'Torbay'), Torridge District Council and West Devon Borough Council. To be known as Devon Coast and Countryside Council.

MDDC's response to the Government's announcement re. LGR had also been published and circulated, refer

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-decision-in-devon/>

MDDC had produced Mid Devon's version of the interim warding arrangements required as a direct consequence of LGR, these had been created based on electorate numbers criteria, using existing boundaries –

Upper Yeo and Taw Ward to comprise parishes of Bow, Clannaborough, Coldridge, Copplestone, Down St Mary and Zeal Monachorum with one Member. Bow Parish Councillors had been circulated with information, email 26/8/26.

MDDC's Leader Cllr David Wulff, with the Cabinet, had written to the Secretary of State expressing concerns about the process used to develop the interim warding arrangements for new unitary authorities.

However, in the face of opposition and proposed judicial review from across the county, on 7 September 2026 Government had paused the process and would review it. Parish Councillors had been notified (email dtd 7/9/26). DALC issued a statement calling for clarity and certainty for town and parish councils. The process, thus far, had a huge financial impact on DCC and District Councils, with it suggested that government reimbursement be sought.

10. **Bow Conservation Area, Appraisal and Management Plan.**

MDDC was consulting on a review of the existing Conservation Area and the adoption of the appraisal and management plan. The draft plan had been prepared to inform future change, development and design in and around Bow's Conservation Area, so that it's character could be preserved and enhanced. MDDC's public event had been held on 29 July from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Bow village hall. There had been a local calling for advance publicity highlighting the CAAMP, including that all residents within the Conservation Area be sent letters. MDDC Conservation officers, Claire Ellis & Thomas Muston, had been present at the event to answer questions. Some ten-twelve residents (incl. Parish Council Chairman and Clerk) had attended the event; a small number of comments had been submitted. Further information on the review and adoption would be available later in the year.

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

Parish Road Warden Scheme. Parish Councillor Mr Cook was progressing training; he had completed the initial highways Basic Safety Awareness course, received a certificate and arrangements were in hand for a Signing, Lighting, Guarding course. Hi-vis safety clothing was being arranged, Parish Council agreed to fund steel-cap boots. To date, no volunteers had expressed an interest in becoming a road warden.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS). Device had been received from Westcotec Ltd, the Clerk had delivered it to the Chairman, it awaited assembly after Mr Cook's training complete. Invoice £5,215.20 (as quoted) had been received. DCC Locality Fund grant application for £500.00 had been successful – thanks expressed to Cllr Cairney for his support of both the project and the funding application.

'Abandoned' car, Burston layby. The navy-blue BMW had been removed.

Resident's complaint, main street parking. A resident had supplied a photograph of parked cars along the main road, partially parked on the pavement leaving insufficient pavement width for pedestrians with baby buggies, wheelchairs, etc. (Without repainted yellow lines, parking enforcement action could not be conducted.) Receipt of various parking complaints had prompted the Clerk to include an article in the Bow and Arrow requesting residents who had garages/off-street parking to consider using it to help alleviate parking congestion.

Coleford road. The road surface had recently received tar and chippings, however, underlying potholes had not been repaired ahead of that work, so pre-existing potholes remained but were now impossible to spot and avoid, prompting several residents' complaints. DCC Neighbourhood Highways officer, with Cllr Cairney were due to tour/inspect the parish – the Chairman would accompany the tour signposting areas in need of attention.

Water Lane parking bay. DCC had advised that it was on the request list for removal of parking bay but it needed reviewing by the team before progressing to a Traffic Order.

DCC Roadmap, community self-help newsletter, July 2026. Circulated to Parish Councillors.

12. **Monitoring of Services**

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

M.D.D.C. The Chairman commented on a Burston Lane (Zeal Monachorum parish) resident who needed special assistance for refuse/recycling collection from the property, which MDDC had failed to provide and which had since been reported. (Bow Parish Council Chairman had provided necessary assistance.) Cllr Cairney suggested that complaints could be referred to MDDC officer Mr Darren Beer.

13. **Correspondence**

MDDC, Community Emergency Hubs, officer requesting invite to a Parish Council meeting. Parish Council briefly considered, discussed and agreed to invite the officer to a future meeting. Mention was made of the Crediton cluster group of town/parish councils (which Bow Parish Council had previously considered and decided against joining), to which Bow Parish Council would be invited again, with Mr Pengelly to attend.

MDDC, Press Release, Round two of Mid Devon Creative Communities grant scheme now open.

MDDC, Press Release, Shopfront Refresh grants now open.

MDDC, Press Release, free kitchen food caddies now available.

MDDC, Press Release, Visit Mid Devon and Visit South Devon join forces to help businesses grow group travel.

MDDC, Press Release, Sandford housing development wins its fourth award of the year.

MDDC, Press Release, Passport to summer fun and fitness with Active Mid Devon's offer.

Mr B H Weeks, thanks for HTA gift vouchers for Parish Council internal audit of annual accounts 2026.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, received a survey or questionnaire by email? Beware of scams, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Public Space Protection Order put in place to tackle anti-social behaviour in Crediton.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, cybercrime alert: fake account verification emails, warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, what is a data breach and how could it affect you? Info and warning.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, fraud / cybercrime alert: think ABC (Assume nothing, Believe nothing Check everything).

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's blog: Residents have spoken clearly on police reform.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, be aware of vishing (voice phishing) scams.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, listen and subscribe to the new Neighbourhood Watch Podcast.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, the "Man-in-the-Middle" attack could a cybercriminal be secretly reading your messages?

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Call for cultural change to protect women and girls as Male Ally Network launches in C'will

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Police urge the public to help keep 999 available for those who need it the most.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner encourages reporting, as concern over antisocial behaviour continues.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, what is a cyber attack?

Devon and Cornwall Alert, scam warning – don't trust that rogue trader.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, scam warning – don't trust that caller.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, scam alert: how to spot a fake website.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner presents 25 'incredible individuals' with awards.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, The national charity for the Neighbourhood Watch Movement is seeking new trustees.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Hundreds of people safeguarded since launch of South West crackdown on drugs.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, Commissioner's column: Drugs crackdown, no place for drugs in the South West.

Devon and Cornwall Alert, OUR NEWS, July 2026 and OUR NEWS, August 2026.

Devon Communities Together, Wild About Devon community wildlife grants.

Publications: DALC E-bulletin, NALC newsletter, NALC chief executive bulletin, NALC Events newsletter, DCC Devon Climate Emergency newsletter ([August](#)), RDUH newsletter, Healthwatch HWDPT E-bulletin, RDUH One Devon (August) bulletin and DCC news round-up Connectme.

14. **Finance.**

Bank balances brought forward: Deposit a/c £8,268.74, Current a/c £32,993.63

ACCOUNTS AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT

Westcotec Ltd (Vehicle activated speed sign + associated components) £5,215.20

EDF Energy (electricity for DAAT community landing light) £23.40

15. **Any Other Business.**

- (i) Forward Planning Mid Devon District Council, Housing Need Assessment (HNA). Arc4 would conduct a Housing Need Assessment (HNA) on behalf of Mid Devon District Council. A stakeholders questionnaire would be issued for completion and return.
- (ii) Mr Cook had an invoice, addressed to Bow Village Hall, for pressure washing play area safety surfaces at Bow Village Field for £500.00. Mr Cook had the RoSPA report which made reference to some safety work of play equipment which would be needed. Parish Council had accepted certain specific financial responsibility regarding the play areas but not equipment maintenance. Mr Cook commented on gaps between safety surface tiles which needed filling, also saying that the play areas were approx. 22 years old with a life expectancy of 25 years. He said that renewing the safety surfacing of both toddlers' and children's play areas would be some £20,000 but given the life expectancy wondered about financial viability. Members were invited to inspect the play areas ahead of the next Parish Council meeting when further consideration would be given.
- (iii) Bow village hall hire fees. Fees would increase (main hall £15.00 ph, community room £10.00ph, kitchen £15.00 per booking), with effect from 1 September 2026.

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 7:30pm at the Community Room of Bow Village Hall.

This completed the business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm.