

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
Held Tuesday 18th April 2006 @ Rattery Village Hall 8.00pm

Present - Cllr B Evans (Chairman), Cllr P Smerdon (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Levy, Cllr J Hampton, Cllr B Palk, D Cllr C Ramsay, C Cllr T Pennington.

Attended by – 4 Members of the Public and Mr Steve Malec – DCC Public Rights of Way.

Apologies – Cllr J Morel, Cllr M Daymond

Mr Steve Malec was welcomed by the Chairman – Cllr B Evans and reported as follows:-

There are over 4000 kilometres of Rights of Way in Devon with over 540 of these being in the South Hams, they consist of Byways, Bridlepaths and Public Footpaths. Rattery has only Footpaths and the term Green Lane can be used for any of the above Rights of Way. Legally they are all Highways as roads and so this is why they are looked after by DCC. The definitive map is held at County Hall and anything shown on this map is legally there. Some Rights of Way were missed and some were recorded incorrectly and a review of this is always ongoing rolling from Parish to Parish to map out any errors and omissions.

The Highways Act ensures the maintenance of these paths which includes making sure they have Signposts at each end and throughout to keep people on the right track. Ensuring that the surface of the Path is walkable and that there are steps and bridges over natural obstacles. Most tracks are across private land and the Landowner has a duty to keep the path open to the Public and to put in gates and stiles to allow legal access. Any change in the surface – ie: Cows grazing, Crops or over grown hedges, they must ensure that they are not obstructing the path.

Rattery was one of the early joiners into the P3 Partnership Scheme funded by DCC which works brilliantly in Rattery, this includes the Landowners and Parish Council in the looking after and maintenance of the paths. 40% of Parishes in Devon are now in the scheme.

Small Lane, Water Lane and Brownstone Lane are on the P3, but are technically still on the Map as Highways.

Bulls in Field – It would be good if a sign could be put up however Dairy Bulls are not allowed in Fields with Footpaths as they can be very dangerous.

The Chairman thanked Steve very much for his attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25pm with a Parish Council meeting to follow.