

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday 2nd October 2007 at Rattery Village Hall
Meeting Commenced 8.00pm

Present - Cllr P Smerdon – Chairman, Cllr Mrs B Palk – Vice Chair, Cllr J Hampton, Cllr B Evans, Cllr S Levy, Cllr A Coker, C Cllr T Pennington.

Attended by – 2 Members of the Public, Sue Hitchcock (CCD) & Ray Harris (Devon & Somerset Fire Service).

Apologies – D Cllr C Jones, Cllr M Daymond.

- 1) Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 4th September 2007.

The minutes of the above meeting have been distributed to Cllrs and read, they were proposed by Cllr B Evans and seconded by Cllr J Hampton and duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon.

- 2) **Police Report/Neighbourhood Watch** – An e-mail report had been received from the Police as follows:- one crime reported – burglary non-dwelling, 11 incident logs in the last month 8 related to the A38. Please ensure property left unattended is secure and marked, particularly tools and generators.

Ray Harris (Group Manager (South) – Devon Fire and Rescue Service was in attendance – Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk asked about any rural cuts in fire cover. Ray confirmed that at present there are no planned cuts, the Revenue Support Grant which comes from main Government each year may not be enough next year and money may need to be saved. One option to save money would be that the aerial units cover would not be 24hrs and this is the only planned cut. The retained service is finding it harder now to find people who live and work near to a fire station. Exeter, Plymouth and Torquay all have full time fire fighters. Rattery is served by Buckfastleigh which has a very good attendance record of retained fighters. The cost of housing is having a great bearing on recruitment, potential retained fighters cannot get work locally or find housing close to a fire station as its too expensive. Retained fighters need ideally to have home or place of work around 5 minutes away from the station. They get paid for the service with a retainer and for each call out. Devon and Somerset Services have now joined up and eventually saving will be made on administration. Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon asked why Cornwall were not joined. Ray confirmed that they were invited to join but declined at present. Fire Fighters will come into anyones home if asked and do a fire safety check (some leaflets to be obtained for this).

- 3) **Parishioners Question Time** - No points raised.

- 4) **District and County Councillors Reports.**

- a) D Cllr C Jones – was not in attendance but sent an e-mail report which was read by Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon – Marley Lodge – The appeal has been held and await a decision by the Planning Inspector. SHDC Scrutiny Meeting – 20th September 07 – Post Offices – National Closure Programme 2,500 – 18% of the current network. SHDC Community Policy Development Group Meeting – 27th September 07 – Affordable Housing was discussed, although the Local Development Framework is moving along it is a slow process and the key policy document on Affordable Housing is unlikely to be finally approved by government until January 2009. In the meantime SHDC wishes to advance possible sites ahead of these plans either a) departure sites (which must be advertised as departures from adopted policy and are generally larger sites) or b) exception sites (which are small sites related to villages providing 100% affordable housing). SHDC Executive meeting – 4th October 2007 – Adoption of South Hams Public Space Strategy 2007-2012 – This is a result of much research and consultation. It sets a framework for future management and funding of public spaces, including parks and gardens, natural spaces, greenways, outdoor sports facilities, play spaces and areas, allotments, cemeteries, churchyards, civic spaces and beaches. It strongly advocates

a partnership approach to future development, maintenance and funding. Suggested initiatives should offer efficiencies and opportunities for revenue and capital development with external funding. In response to a question I asked at the meeting, I was however assured by Council Officers that this was not a strategy motivated by cost-cutting, or one designed to shift the burden of funding on to Parish Councils, though when I expressed concern over the level of future council commitment to these public spaces I was told that it would be a matter for the Council to decide in future based on available resources. There was a suggestion that Parishes should be prepared to increase their precepts in order to help pay for some future initiatives. Revenue Budget Monitoring 07/08 – The current forecast is that SHDC is likely to be overspent by about £340,000 on its overall revenue budget by the end of the financial year in March 2008. This is mainly due to an estimated overspend of £5000,000 on refuse collection. It had been hoped that revised more efficient collection rounds could be introduced this November, but this plan has apparently run into difficulties, requiring more research and changes, so the target date for the new rounds is now next March, resulting in no pulling back of the monthly overspend. Councillors are unlikely to be happy with this news, and we will all read with interest what comes out of Thursdays meeting.

- b) C Cllr T Pennington – reported as follows: - Children and Young Peoples Services (formerly Education Committee). Integration of Education, child health and social/psychological services is proceeding. Some way to go yet – Devon CC is one of the leading authorities on this. Adult and Community Services – Modernisation Programme – The transfer of 26 elderly persons homes to Shaw Co Ltd is being negotiated. Potential for 300 extra units/beds in Devon. Supporting older people with dementia at home. Also support to help people to remain living independently at home. Budget – Forecasts predict a tight and difficult budget process for Devon CC in the next financial year 08/09 with a difficult Revenue Support Grant. Gypsies/Travellers – Devon CC has written to all District Councils to remind them to include provision for authorised sites in their forthcoming Local Development Framework documents. Parish Lengthsman – DCC will be sending letters to Parish Councils about the new regulations for this. Fly Posting on the Public Highway – Its illegal for personal gain – charitable events are OK. A motion is to be moved at full DCC meeting on October 11th 07 calling on the Prime Minister to mount a referendum on the EC New Treaty as he agreed in his manifesto.

5) Planning Applications & Decisions.

Applications received from Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor National Park – Weekly List of Applications received – given to Vice-Chairman - Cllr Mrs B Palk.

Decisions received from Dartmoor National Park - None

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Application no 39/1869/07/F – Mr P Trant – Linstow, Rattery, South Brent TQ10 9LD – Alterations and extension to dwelling and erection of detached garage. No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk and seconded by Cllr S levy with all in agreement.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/1479/07/F – Dr & Mrs M Rankin – Rattery Mill House, Rattery TQ10 9LN – Retrospective application for change of use of land to residential curtilage and erection of poolhouse.
- b) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/1396/07/F & 39/1397/07/LB Listed Building Consent – Mr & Mrs N Wordie – Brownston House, Rattery TQ10 9LQ – Resubmission of application 39/1285/07/F for green oak frame and glazed link extension between house and ancillary was house.

6) Matters Arising.

- a) Playing Field – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon confirmed that the damaged items noted at the last meeting have now been repaired.
 - 1) Draft Licence – This has not yet been done – pending the meeting with SHDC.
 - 2) Meeting with SHDC – The Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to contact Ross Kennerly at SHDC to arrange.
 - 3) Insurance Policy – The Playground Equipment is covered under liability by the Parish Council.
- b) Pennywell Farm Entrance & Exit – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon confirmed that he had spoken to Nicky Murray – she was aware of the gravel problem with it coming out onto the road and will put a sign up to say please look left and right for visitors leaving the car park coming out onto the highway.
- c) South West Regional Assembly – Public Consultation – Pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers in the South West – This has been circulated in the envelope - No comments to be made.
- d) Noticeboard at Velwell – replacement – This has still to be done – Cllr S Levy confirmed that he would look into the measurements.
- e) Willow Park – Field Next to Village Hall – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon reported that he had attended a meeting on behalf of the Parish Council, also the Village Hall were represented at a meeting with Mr A Parrish and Dartington Housing Association. Mr Parrish has offered part of the field to Dartington Housing to possibly build up to 12 low cost affordable homes for rent or assisted purchase – they will not be open market housing. The field has not yet been sold and will depend on any planning permission obtained.
- f) Housing needs survey update (Sue Hitchcock from CCD will be in attendance) – Sue Hitchcock – Rural Housing Enabler – Sue confirmed that she was funded through DEFRA and local Authorities and Housing Associations and the purpose of her job was to keep rural housing on the Agenda and to work with local communities ie: Parish Councils to complete housing needs surveys and gather evidence for Parish Councils and District Councils to enable them to establish needs in the Parish for housing. The results of the survey would be used for any Planning Application. Rattery last had a survey in 2004 and this is now just out of date and now needs to be refreshed. The Questionnaire asks for general information and more personal and confidential information about peoples needs and what they could possibly afford and what local connections they have to a Village. A report is then compiled after the information has been collated. No cost is involved to the Parish Council but input in the delivery of the questionnaires by hand and an introductory letter with them from the Parish Council Chairman. A drop in session can also be held during the time when the questionnaires are delivered which gives further information and help filling in the forms. Sue confirmed that she had spoken to Steve Prime at Dartington Housing regards the potential of a site. The housing survey would give you an idea of the need in Rattery and what type of houses would need to be built. Steve Prime is very keen on working together to plan for houses on any piece of land that might be available if there is a need. Vice-Chairman – Cllr B Palk – Would they be sold to local people – Sue confirmed that a clause would be put into the planning agreement that they would be for local only and they would be shared ownership/part owned. Sue left the Parish Council with a survey commissioning form which would be the first step towards a new survey.

7) Correspondence.

- a) DAPC – Rural Communities Conference – 17th October 2007.
- b) Letter from Mrs M Ellis – Planning Application 39/0554/07/F – Old Torne – This has been placed on file – the application was dealt with at last months meeting.
- c) SHDC – Budget Consultation Meeting – 29th October 2007 – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to attend.
- d) The Rural Housing Trust – Affordable Village Housing Seminar – 2nd November 2007 – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon and Vice-Chairman – Cllr B Palk to attend.
- e) DCC – Stakeholder Event – Future of Public Services in Devon – 8th October 2007 – Cllr J Hampton.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the envelope to be distributed (3 Envelopes).

8) Main Agenda

- a) P3 Report – Cllr S Levy reported – A Chain Saw course to be undertaken in the South Hams over the Winter – 4 days £280 – Roz Davies – DCC now on maternity leave.

Willing Lane – Another letter has been received from Helen Buckingham regards the use of the Lane – The Clerk to reply – it was used as an access to fields and we have no local knowledge of it being a throughway to anywhere.

b) **Cllrs Reports –**

1) Vice- Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk and Cllr B Evans attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting – which was about the new PSO (Police Support Officers) they also watched a video on illegal e-mails and postal scams. Door to Door callers and establishing their identity was also discussed. Security advice is available to every household free from the Police.

- c) Highway Maintenance – Items for the attention of DCC –

- 1) Lots of rubbish in the Lanes around South Brent.
- 2) Rubble in Green Lane – Higher Beara Cross – this is also in South Brent.
- 3) Opposite the Car Park at Pennywell Farm – the drainage gulley has been filled in by tractor wheels passing over it – its needs the Parish Lengthsman to dig out again.

9) **Cheques for Signature.**

Cheque no 404 = £15.00 Petty Cash for Stamps

Cheque no 405 = £94.00 Langford Sykes Ltd (Internal Audit).

Cheque no 406 = £21.06 Castles (A4 Paper and Envelopes).

Parish Council October 2007 = £4,211.27

P3 = £328.80

The above cheques were proposed by Cllr B Evans and seconded by Cllr J Hampton with all in agreement.

10) Any Items to go onto the next Parish Council meeting Agenda.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.55pm NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 27th November 2007 - 8.00pm at RATTERY VILLAGE HALL.

ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS AND REQUIRES A COPY OF THESE MINUTES SENT TO THEM – PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK – 01364 644109 – They can also be found on the Parish Web-site www.ratteryvillage.co.uk any information and ideas for this please send to Trevor Paul – trevor@flaxey-green.co.uk.