

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
Held Tuesday 17th April 2007 @ Rattery Village Hall 7.30pm

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

Attended by – 1 Member of the Public and Mr Rick Crombie – SHDC Planning Enforcement Officer.

Apologies – C Cllr T Pennington.

- 1) Rick Crombie – SHDC Planning Enforcement Officer was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman – Cllr B Evans. He covers 36 Parishes throughout the South Hams and outlined the rules of enforcement and the steps that he takes to ensure that these are adhered to.
- 2) Questions from Public and Councillors present to Rick Crombie.
- 3) Chairmans Report – Cllr B Evans – It has been a satisfactory year overall, with only one Planning Application with lots of interest and 30 people present at a Parish Council meeting. Its good to see the new Rattery Village signs done at last but on a more disappointing note we find it frustrating to deal with SHDC Planning and DCC Highways as to get a reply back or any mail from them is very slow and any action from them even slower unless you chase and chase them. We appreciate that they are busy people but this needs to be improved.
- 4) County Councillors Report – C Cllr T Pennington - One of the Committees I currently sit on is the Schools Transport Appeals Committee and also the Community Services Scrutiny Committee – there will be an outsourcing for Elderly Residential Homes to reduce cost next year. I am also on Children and Young Peoples Services (Education) and The Budget – County Council Budget for 07-08 – Revenue Budget - £414,098,440. Increase in Council Tax = 4.7%. Band D Council Tax increase from £977 to £1,023 – ie by £46. One area of reduction which causes concern is in Highway Maintenance from £34,234 million to £32,303 million – ie: by £1,931 million. By contrast Public Rights of Way budget increased from £411,000 to £666,000. Government Revenue Support Grant = £122,980 million but per head of population it represents a sum of £49 less per person than the national average. This is equal to around £30 million less than we ought to receive or around 12% on Council Tax.
- 5) District Cllrs Report – D Cllr C Ramsay - **Disposable Nappies out/ reusables IN** – Parents could save themselves up to £500 by switching from disposables to reusables. They would also be helping reduce the £1.5million Devon has to pay each year to dispose of the bulky, long-lasting throw-outs. For more information contact the recycling helpline 01803 861199. **The Chief Executive off to Slough** – Ruth Bagley announced her impending departure recently. A working party has been set up to discuss both interim and long-terms ways of replacing her. **Expert Planning** – A new service that will let people check quickly about planning regulations and whether, for example, they need to apply for permission to build or alter. A questionnaire is available on the Councils website www.southhams.gov.uk. **No smoking** – From July 1st notices will be displayed in all business premises, in vehicles used in connection with work and in public places that a partially or completely enclosed. Enforcement will be left to District Councils who aim to work with owners and senior employees. For more details contact Peter Weardon, Divisional Environmental Health Officer 01803 861118. **Devon Youth Games** – will be hosted on June 30th by West Devon Council this year. Children between 8 and 16 are being encouraged to compete in a wide range of sports. For more information contact either Hannah or Kim at Ivybridge CC 01752 698315. **Refuse Collection** – Many in Eastmoor were lead to believe that Friday was bin-day. Monday-Thursday collections have been running fairly well, but Friday people have the right to fuss. Some said the changes were expensive (by moving swiftly we qualified for a very useful government grant had we delayed we could have met a hefty fine) or not necessary. They were essential. The last changes made in 2006 left the Friday people needed double adjustment: we were served by workers not from the Totnes depot, but from Ivybridge and the

areas were re-defined. People in offices don't know our lanes and the poor drivers had insufficient training. Even when they had become familiar with the stretch from Ivybridge to Marlton and had found the short cuts needed to collect at top speed, they were still unable to complete rounds in the allotted time. Some people were left last summer (prime time for flies and maggots) for 5 or 6 or (I think this was the record) 7 weeks without collection. The cost to the Council for overtime and hired extra vehicles has been almost £200,000. Adjustments have been made, apologies sent and we hope things will be OK now. Goodby and farewell!

- 6) Village Hall Report – Cllr P Smerdon – The running of the Hall is fairly efficient at present under the Chair of Mrs R Coaker. The booking is very efficient also. The Car Park extension is still awaiting clearance from SHDC planning – we have still not heard from them.
- 7) Village Green Report – Nothing to report – the Committee Members are the Publican, Parish Council and the Church.
- 8) Badminton Club Report – Cllr S Levy – We play on Monday Nights – open to anyone over 18, we will be having a subscription this year to encourage regulars, time 8 to 10pm and will be around £1.50 per week.
- 9) Annual Report to all Parishioners – This is to be circulated to every house in the Parish and to include the names of the new Parish Council in May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm to be followed by a Parish Council meeting.