

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday 11th March 2008 at Rattery Village Hall
Meeting Commenced 8.00pm

Present – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon, Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk, C Cllr T Pennington, Cllr S Levy, Cllr J Hampton, Cllr A Coker, Cllr M Daymond (from Item 4), D Cllr C Jones.

Attended by – 1 member of the Public.

Apologies for Absence – Cllr B Evans

1) Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 12th February 2008.

The minutes of the above meeting have been distributed to Cllrs and read, they were proposed by Cllr J Hampton and seconded by Cllr S Levy with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon.

2) **Police Report / Neighbourhood Watch** – Apologies received and report from Police sent by e-mail – no crimes to report. 16 incident logs – 11 of which were A38 related. Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon – Quad Bike in a neighbouring Parish had been stolen, be vigilant as people visiting farms asking for Old Batteries could be involved.

a) Neighbourhood watch signs – Vice-Chair – Cllr Mrs B Palk is going to deal with this. The Clerk to contact Gail Bond – Totnes Police Station to confirm that Cllr Mrs B Palk is the neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

3) **Parishioners Question Time** - (15 minutes) – no points raised.

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

a) D Cllr C Jones – reported as follows:- The first item of interest is South Hams District Council's budget for 2008/2009, which was set at the Full Council meeting on 7 February. The SHDC share of the Council Tax for 08/09 will rise by 4.49%, so for a Band D property the charge will rise to £130.66. For context and comparison, for a Band D property in 08/09, the total Council tax payable (to all authorities) will be...(to nearest £)

County Council	£1064	3.9% increase
Devon and Cornwall Police	£ 142	7.9% increase
Devon and Somerset Fire Authority	£ 67	4.9% increase
District Council	£ 131	4.5% increase
Rattery Parish Council	£ 19	2.0% increase
TOTAL £1423		

Civil Parking Enforcement - Councillors will be considering a report at this week's Executive to take this over from the police on 5 May – subject to the County Council agreeing to re-imburse all costs. This will affect on-street and off-street parking. The report states that 'the financial model assumes a significant increase in Penalty Charge Notices above the current number issued by the police'. So be warned – though the new national scale of penalty charges may be lower than those currently levied by SHDC !

Also at the Executive, members will be considering a proposal for SHDC to charge for pre-application planning advice - for all but very small scale and 'householder' applications. Charges will be in the range £1,000+VAT to £2,000+VAT, plus scope for higher negotiated fees for very large applications.

Last, but not least ... the review of local government in Devon.

The Boundary Committee charged by the government to look into 'solutions' for Devon and report back by the end of the year is already meeting initially with Leaders and Chief Execs of Councils in Devon, with a view to coming up with preliminary proposals in the Spring. This seems to me very hasty, especially as the mechanism for consulting parish councils, all sorts of other organisations and the general public has not been made clear. To my mind, it will not be acceptable

for the Committee to just assume that people can have their say once the draft proposals come out – by then the Committee will have taken a position from which it may be reluctant to shift ! I am very concerned by this development – especially in the light of information coming my way that the Committee is considering only ‘unitary options’ ie for single all-purpose authorities rather than just re-arrangement / amalgamation of existing district councils within a two-tier system (as exists at present) with a continuing county council ! Unitary local government (whatever central government thinks) may not be the right ‘solution’ for Devon.

b) C Cllr T Pennington – reported as follows: – DCC received £145 million (7 ½% increase) in Government revenue support Grant but this is still £48 per head of population less than Shire Counties. The Revenue Budget requirement is set at £450,767,824. The Budget increase is 3.9% this would bring an increase on a Band D property of £40 ie: to £1063 from £1023. The proposed details for the Boundary Committee to advise on Unitary Structures have now been received, they are 5 Criteria to be met – Broad Cross section of support, Strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment/cohesion, value for money, affordability. The closing date for submissions will be December 2008 – DCC are having a meeting with Parish Councils about this at Ivybridge Town Hall on Friday 11th April 2008 at 10.00am. New school for Dartington is in the capital programme for 2008/2009 – Cost 6 ½ Million.

5) Planning Applications & Decisions.

Applications received from Dartmoor National Park

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

Decisions received from Dartmoor National Park - None

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Application no 39/0250/08/F – Miss S Woodman – Flat 2, The Dower House, Marley – replacement of windows with timber sash double glazed – no objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Cllr M Daymond and seconded by Cllr J Hampton with all in agreement.
- b) Application no 39/0235/08/F – Mr K Boorman – 2 Mill Cross Cottages, Rattery – Replacement of brick parapet wall to roof garden with glazed screen. No objections from the Parish Council - proposed by Vice-Chair – Cllr Mrs B Palk and seconded by Cllr M Daymond with all in agreement.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/2442/07/CU – Mr C Friend – Friendship Barn, Dean Lane End, Rattery – retrospective application for change of use of half the building for steel fabrication and industrial storage. Placed in envelope for Cllrs perusal.
- b) TPO – Consent RK/TPO 749 – Syon Abbey, South Brent – Works to Trees.
- c) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/1164/07/F – Mr B P Donoghue – Barns SW of Rattery Mill, South Brent – Conversion of barn to residential use.

6) Matters Arising.

- a) Housing needs survey & possible housing in the Village (meeting with Dartington Trust) – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon – No results out yet – the survey has been completed and the replies have been returned to Sue Hitchcock. Date of the 1st April 2008 suggested for a meeting with Cllrs, Dartington Trust and SHDC – to be held at Rattery – 11.00am at the Village Hall – all Cllrs to be present if possible.

- b) Rattery Website – Trevor Paul has agreed to take up responsibility of the web-site again – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon will go and see Trevor. Speak to Paul Guess about paying the hosting charge. Many thanks to Buzz for his work on the Parish Councils behalf.
- c) Willing Lane – Nothing further to report at present.
- d) Rattery Play Area and PC Sub-Committee to be formed - Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon – Letter to go to people in the Village who have children and ask if they wish to come onto the Parish Councils sub-committee. Chairman or this Committee to be Cllr S Levy and Cllr M Daymond Committee member to meet about 3 times a year.

7) **Correspondence.**

- a) DNPA – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – in envelope for Cllrs perusal.
- b) DCC – Listening Events – Friday April 11th – 10.00am at Ivybridge – Chairman - Cllr P Smerdon to attend.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the envelope to be distributed (2 Envelopes).

8) **Main Agenda**

- a) P3 Report – Cllr S Levy – Garden Close resident has complained about a hedge being uneven. It is cut about once every 3 years and maybe needs cutting every year. Now too late for it to be cut so will not now be done until the Autumn. Nothing further to report as been too wet to get anything done.
- b) Reports from members of the Parish Council.
 - 1) Channers Head Plantation – Knackers Yard goes to SHDC Planning on the 19th March 2008.
- c) Highway Maintenance.
 - a. Rattery sign at Yelland been replaced.
 - b. Glebe down to Village Green road breaking up.
 - c. Drybridge – A large amount of money has been spent there on safety issues.
 - d. Pennywell – Trench been dug out has been filled in again by a large vehicle.
- d) Parish Meeting Speaker – Alan Robinson SHDC.

9) **Cheques for Signature.**

No cheques for signature.

Parish Council March 2008 = £3,753.49

P3 = £295.20

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

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50pm NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 15th April 2008 - 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 .