

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday 14th October 2008 at Rattery Village Hall
Meeting Commenced 8.00pm

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

Attended by – 21 members of the Public

Apologies for absence – Cllr B Evans, South Brent Police.

1) Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 3rd September 2008.

The minutes of the above meetings 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 – Vice-Chair – Cllr Mrs B Palk - nothing to report for Neighbourhood Watch. Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon – Written Police report received – in the last month 16 incident logs – one crime reported which was taking of a Motor Vehicle.

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

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

a) **C Cllr T Pennington** – reported as follows: - DCC did not invest any money in Icelandic banks, however SHDC has done. DCC has a Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee which vets all investments. At the last DCC full Council meeting on the 2nd October 2008 I tabled the under mentioned question to Cllr Greenslade. “How much has DCC spent on the Local Government Review including officer time and meetings both internal and external and does he not consider that such expenditure could have been more usefully spent on essential services to our council tax payers had not the Secretary of State and the Labour Government imposed this unnecessary review on the Devon Local Authorities”? Answer – Local Government review has cost so far £103,000 from reserves – some officer time has been fitted on to their normal duties. 70 meetings have taken place throughout the County. Devon did not request the LGR. Cllr Pennington confirmed that he supported keeping the status quo on this matter.

Children and Young People – I raised my concern to Cllr Smith the Devon executive members for Children and Young People Services in connection with Contact Point – a Government Scheme costing £224 million. This is a data base which will contain details of every child under 18 in England which has to be submitted by all Local Education Authorities – it will contain personal details of all children and their parents – 11 million children. It will be available to 330,000 workers in education, health, social care, youth, justice and voluntary sectors. Concern is that as it will be available to such large numbers of people it could become available to paedophiles and be exploited by them. Also the data could be mislaid. Our job is to protect vulnerable children but contact point could result in an increased risk. I first raised the issue at DCC 18 months ago but was given an assurance that it would be security protected. However even Government has recognised that there could be potential dangers and has postponed its introduction in February 09 to examine safety and security further. Michael Gove – Shadow Minister has stated that if there is a change in Government it will be scrapped and replaced with small local targeted data bases only to be shared with key local professionals.

Highways – At a recent meeting I took up repair of potholes with John Halliday – Area Engineer. He agreed workmanship was not good and that SW Highways do not use the same materials as previously used. Parish Councils must contact him immediately with any problems.

b) **D Cllr C Jones** – Local Government Review – In support of keeping the Status Quo. The consultation on the Boundary Committee’s draft proposals for Devon expired on Friday 26 September. Although the BC’s website was not up-to-date when I last looked, a considerable number of representations had been received, from Councils large and small, various organisations and members

of the public. It seemed clear to me that the vast majority of respondents were not in favour of the main proposal – for a Devon-wide unitary authority – and most were also against the ‘other option’ for a ‘big Devon’ plus an ‘Exeter and Exmouth’ unitary authority. There was a general desire to keep the status quo in preference to the proposed option(s), though a number of respondents regretted that other unitary options, such as the ‘Rural South Devon and Dartmoor’ concept (also involving the creation of new unitaries in northern and eastern Devon) were not consulted upon. South Hams DC’s submission – which is available on its website – highlighted the many flaws in both the BC’s proposals and the consultation process, and I was pleased to sit on the member working group which helped to shape the submission. The Council concluded that in the absence of a clear case for a unitary Devon and the BC’s reluctance to consider other unitary options, it recommended retention of the status quo, with authorities at all three tiers (county/district/parish) increasingly working together to improve services and reduce costs. The Council wishes to thank those Parish Councils, organisations and individuals who supported the Council’s stance and expressed their views to the Boundary Committee. We now await the BC’s consideration of all the representations. A final recommendation from the BC to government is expected just before Christmas.

Full Council Meeting – 25/9/08 - a) Affordable Housing (AH) Council formally adopted both the AH Development Plan Document and the AH Supplementary Planning Document, which should make it easier to secure more affordable housing through the planning process. However, the serious downturn in housebuilding will slow the whole process, and lower profit margins will make developers less willing to negotiate the percentages of AH which the Council is seeking in new developments

b) Concessionary car parking for residents - Council agreed to progress a concessionary scheme to give each household in the District – in return for a £10 charge – the opportunity to obtain one permit to park free in Council car parks before 10.00am and after 4.00pm. The scheme would be introduced for a trial period of 12 months.

c) Free swimming for Over 60s - The Council’s Executive agreed the Council’s participation in the Government’s free swimming offer for 2009/10 and 2010/11 subject to satisfying the grant conditions.

Questions Raised -

Travellers at Marley Head - Chris France DNPA confirmed the regional spatial strategy states no planning sites or settlements within the boundaries of the National Park which will give them the powers to now remove the Travellers from the Marley Head site. C Cllr T Pennington confirmed - Gypsy and Travellers committee did not support this proposal - but at present the Marley Head site is unacceptable with around 70 vehicles on site. SHDC enforcement is to be recommended on the Littlehempston site which is also unacceptable.

Whitecleaves Quarry - Buckfastleigh – this will come to DCC Committee on the 26th November 2008 - Dean Prior Parish Council are very concerned and DNPA have expressed their concerns about the use of the site for recycling - there are many issues about noise, health and environmental damage.

Planning applications on a sliding scale for fees and pre planning applications will also now be charged for by local authorities.

5) Planning Applications & Decisions.

Applications received from Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor National Park – Weekly List of Applications received – now by e-mail to Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon and Vice-Chair – Cllr Mrs B Palk.

Decisions received from Dartmoor National Park – None received

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Application no 39/1805/08/F and 39/1806/08/LB – Ayles – Barn to South, Old Torne, Rattery – resubmission of application 39/0554/07/F for conversion of existing barn into holiday home. No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Cllr S Levy and seconded by Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk with all in agreement.

- b) Application no 39/1682/08/F – Mr Monroe – Tinca, Mill Cross, Rattery – Erection of a detached garage. No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Cllr M Daymond and seconded by Cllr J Hampton with all in agreement.
- c) Application no 39/1862/08/LB – Mr T Walker – West Bulkamore, Rattery – Listed Building Consent for removal of existing window, installation of new glazed doors and installation of cooker vent to external wall. No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Cllr J Hampton and seconded by Cllr S Levy with all in agreement.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council

- a) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/1564/08/F – Rattery Village Hall, Rattery – Erection of photovoltaic panels on roof of existing community village hall.
- b) Planning Permission Granted – Application no 39/1655/08/F – Mr E J Holloway – Fir Tree Lodge, Mill Cross – Erection of single storey flank extension to create an ensuite bedroom.

Planning Matters

- a) Devon Violet Nursery – Agricultural Tie – chase SHDC for a reply – the Clerk has asked twice about a reply to this inquiry and has still not received one – D Cllr C Jones will also look into the fact that no reply has been received.

6) Matters Arising.

- a) Housing needs survey & possible housing in the Village – Grants for Field Purchase – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon - was going to look into this. Cllr S Levy - read the report in the Housing Needs survey 38% returned in the Parish. - which resulted in 9 properties needed - how does this conclusion come about. With the state of the building market at present it is unlikely that any homes will come about at the moment, new house building has currently ground to a halt. Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon attended Dartington Housing Association AGM and was very impressed - it is a well run organisation with many homes purchased on the open market and being rented out now to tenants. They have had 2 meetings with Dartington Trust about possible homes in Rattery. February 2009 the interest lapses on the field behind the Village Hall. They have confirmed that they have other plans in the pipeline and that Rattery was about 3rd on the list of interests.
- b) Willing Lane - Nothing heard as yet from DCC.
- c) Questionnaires from University of Plymouth - Cllrs to return for the Clerk to send off.
- d) A385 Speed Limit and Signage - Standing orders suspended to allow public to speak - Chairman – Cllr PSmerdon this has been discussed before on the agenda . Various letters have been sent from residents to Mr Halliday DCC and Anthony Steen. DCC were not very helpful. 40mph would make people think a little bit and more signage around the bridge over the railway would be useful an accident has occurred recently there and the railing are marked. Railway Crash Barrier is damaged - to be reported. Bittaford to Ivybridge has a 30mph limit this is a less hazardous road. There is a strong feeling with Parishioners that this should be looked into - suggest a meeting during the day - and getting Mr Halliday DCC down and look at the road. The problems are with visibility and the access to homes along this stretch of road. Pedestrian danger is also apparent and a footpath and or cycle path needs to be looked into. The road is taking all the heavy lorries to and from Totnes - it needs to be slowed down. Cllr J Hampton - This would cost alot of money some reactive signs might be a good idea. Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon - will arrange a site meeting with Mr Halliday - DCC - during the day to walk the road and then maybe another evening meeting. C Cllr T Pennington confirmed that he will speak to John Halliday DCC and arrange this and maybe an evening meeting and onto the HATOC Committee at Follaton House when Public can be present. The Police report contained mention of the A385 as follows – Highways Officers are the best people to talk to about the road. It is a 60mph road and as such we are not able to carry out any speed enforcement but feel the incidents that have occurred in the area are not down to excess speed

but inappropriate speed. Parishioners present were disappointed that the Police had been able to come to the meeting.

- e) Community Planning – Parish Plan - find out if anyone can come to the meeting to talk.

7) **Correspondence.**

- a) DCC – Waste Management proposal for South West Devon - Exhibition - 23rd October 08 at Ivy bridge – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to attend if possible.
- b) DPFA – Sport and Play for All – Rattery Village Hall – 8th December 2008 Cllr P Smerdon and another Cllr to attend - book 2 places.
- c) SHDC – Parish Cluster meeting – 22nd October 2008.
- d) DNPA – Validation of Planning and related Applications – comments by 31st October 2008 – Given to Vice-Chair - Cllr Mrs B Palk for perusal.
- e) Consultation – Making and enforcement of Byelaws – comments by 20th November 2008 - in folder on next Agenda for comments.
- f) SHDC – Development Control and Conservation User Group Meeting – 15th October 2008.
- g) South Devon Magistrates – Lay Magistracy - Parish Meeting in April 2009.
- h) DNPA – Ranger Service Stakeholder Survey 2008 – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to complete.
- i) Samaritans AGM – 16th October 2008 – Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs B Palk.
- j) Totnes Town Council – Civic Service – 8th Feb 2009.
- k) DNPA – Consultation on Direct Elections to National Park Authorities – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to look at
- l) CCD – Community Buildings Training Programme – 9th December 08 at Lustleigh Village Hall – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to attend.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the folder for circulation.

8) **Main Agenda**

- a) P3 Report – Cllr S Levy reported - Big tree which was cut down at Venton which blocked the path a couple of years ago. Can the wood be removed - will try and find out who owns this.
- b) Reports from members of the Parish Council – Cllr A Coker - attended a transition Totnes meeting.
- c) Highway Maintenance -
 - 1) Potholes some have been filled in and puddle by the Sawmill is going to be attended to reflective signs which are in situ should be taken away afterwards.
 - 2) Fencing by Knowle onto the A38 needs replacing and the trees need cutting down.
- d) Website – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon - will speak to Trevor Paul about the site - more items need to go on and the site needs updating.
- e) Proposed Recycling Centre at Buckfastleigh Quarry – D Cllr Colin Jones spoke about in his report - Quarry Action Group Newsletter placed into the folder for Cllrs perusal.

9) **Cheques for Signature.**

Cheque no 431 = £20.00 – Samaritans (PC Donation).

Bank Balances

Parish Council October 2008 = £6,527.66

Playing Field = £280.47

P3 = £450.20

The above cheques were proposed by Cllr S Levy 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 10.00pm NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 25th November 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 .