

**RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Rattery Village Hall**  
**Meeting Commenced at 8.30pm following Annual Parish Meeting**

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

**Attended by** – 8 members of the Public, WPC Jacqui Hopper & PCSO Chris Pooley

**Apologies for absence** – Cllr B Evans, Cllr M Daymond, Sharon Raggett (Clerk).

1) Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

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

2) Police Report / Neighbourhood Watch – No crimes recorded for March 2011 – 8 incident logs all relating to the A38. With summer and lighter evenings be vigilant and lock front doors if out in back garden etc. In areas where lighting has been reduced, the police are monitoring the crime levels.

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

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

- a) D Cllr C Jones - reported as follows - 1. The Council meeting on 24 March was a fairly quiet affair, but we did have an interesting question or two about the Standards Committee - why it meets more frequently and costs more to service than any other Council committee. Is this due possibly to over-zealousness of the members and Chair of that committee, or is the South Hams really a 'den of iniquity' which requires very thorough investigation of all the alleged misdemeanors of local councilors - some district councilors ... but mainly town and parish councilors!! The Coalition Government is changing the way the 'standards regime' is to be conducted - maybe just as well. 2. The Senior Management Review at South Hams and West Devon Councils has (almost) been completed, and 2 Directors and 5 Heads of Service have now been appointed. The two Directors - both employees of SHDC - are Alan Robinson (already a Strategic Director) and Tracy Winsor (previously Head of Customer Services). The five Heads of Service include one from SHDC (Ian Bollams) and four from WDBC - though of course most officers are already engaged in 'shared services' roles. Two further Heads of Service posts remain unfilled at this stage. The upshot of the Review is of course that a number of existing senior managers will soon be departing - some have chosen to go, others have not been successful with their applications for posts in the new structure. Collectively they will be a big loss to the organisation(s). 3. The Council's ruling Executive meets met last Thursday (7 April). Most significant agenda items were - a) Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan - for approval this heralds 'a significant change in the Council's approach to Community Engagement, putting communities at the heart of service design and enabling them to play a key role in influencing and shaping the delivery of local services.' The 'Vision' is 'to break new ground nationally in the way we engage with local people to deliver ~ top quality services, redesigned with the people who use them ~ local communities that feel supported and enabled to prosper' Let's hope that this Vision becomes a reality. b) Devon Rural Housing Enabler Service Members agreed to SHDC contributing £5,000 (as in previous years) to this valuable service. I very much welcome this continued funding - to help generate more affordable housing in rural areas.

c) Review of Landscape and Leisure Activities - Future Approach to delivering Grounds Maintenance Through an internal review, Council officers have identified significant savings that can be achieved in the current in-house operation - and these are now being implemented. Members are being recommended therefore to continue with the in-house operation - to undertake further cost saving work, and to review service delivery in two years time, having looked at the outcomes of the Localism Bill, had discussions with towns and parishes etc, and pursued integration opportunities with West Devon. The option remains to put the service out to competitive external tender.

#### 4. Elections

As well as town and parish council elections on 5 May, all 40 seats on SHDC will be up for grabs. I have decided to stand for re-election, but - as ever - 'other candidates are available' ....

b) C Cllr T Pennington – reported in the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Vice-Chair - Cllr Mrs B Palk asked if any further action on “Travellers” site at Marley, both the above Cllrs had not heard any more.

### **5) Planning Applications & Decisions.**

**Applications received from Dartmoor National Park - None.**

**Decisions received from Dartmoor National Park – None.**

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM South Hams District Council – None received.**

**Decisions Received from South Hams District Council**

a) Grant of Planning Permission - Application no 39/0443/11/F – Mrs A Samuel – Yelland Cross Farm, Rattery – Erection of a wind turbine.

### **6) Matters Arising –**

a) Emergency Planning – nothing further to report.

### **7) Correspondence.**

**Matters not requiring discussion placed in the folder for circulation.**

### **8) Main Agenda.**

a) P3 Report – Cllr S Levy – confirmed he would be standing down at next election, but he is happy to volunteer if he can help at any time. The Chairman thanked Steve very much for all his hard work over the years to keep the village paths open

b) Reports from members of the Parish Council.

1) Cllr J Hampton had a member of the public complaining about a tree / bushes that need trimming on old PO hedge and about a sewer overflowing nearby too. The Chairman had contacted the authority about the sewer leak and had been assured it would be dealt with.

2) The Chairman commented that a fire hydrant by Holwells was leaking i.e. between Mill Cross and The Mill .

c) Highway Maintenance.

1) Mrs Farrow Jones had been in discussion with Cllr P Smerdon as she and other residents had been promised signs along A385 – Apparently some new road markings have been applied.

2) Cllr Mrs B Palk reported that the pothole on Drybridge had been filled in.

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3) The Chairman reported that the lane to Brownston had been newly done to the yard entrance

d) Play Area.

1) See Saw renewal – grants of £500 have now been received which is part way towards the replacement sum of around £1,300.

2) The fence around the swings has 2 posts which need replacing.

9) **Cheques for Signature.**

Cheque no 490 = £20.00 – Petty Cash for Stamps.

Cheque no 491 = £25.00 – South Hams CAB (PC Donation).

Cheque no 492 = £25.00 – Totnes & Dartmouth Ring & Ride (PC Donation).

Cheque no 493 = £90.00 – Rattery Village Hall (Hall Hire).

Cheque no 494 = £35.00 – Devon Playing Fields Asso (Annual Sub).

Cheque no 495 = £78.39 – Castles (Stationary).

Bank Account April 2011 = £4,943.50

P3 2010 = £281.84

Playing Field = £151.87

Parish Plan = £150.00

The cheques above to be duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon and The Clerk – Mrs S Raggett.

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

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.33pm NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> May (AGM) 2011 - 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](http://www.ratteryvillage.co.uk) .**