

RATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday 1st February 2011 at Rattery Village Hall
Meeting Commenced at 8.00pm.

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

Attended by – 1 member of the Public

Apologies for absence – none received

1) Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 4th January 2011.

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

2) Police Report / Neighbourhood Watch – e-mail report received – no crimes last month but residents are asked to be aware that with metal prices soaring thefts are on the increase.

Vice-Chair – Cllr Mrs B Palk confirmed she had received contact from neighbourhood watch to say there has been a spate of metal gates being stolen from farms as the cost of scrap metal is high at the moment.

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

a) Royal Wedding Day – Cllr B Evans confirmed that the Village Hall have reserved this weekend to see if any suggestions come forward - maybe a childrens party during the day and a dance in the evening - thoughts and ideas to be got together for the March meeting.

b) Mr L Bass has confirmed that his woodland is now closed to the public, he has had them open for the 12 years which was obligatory and has now put signs on to close them.

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

a) D Cllr C Jones – reported as follows - Executive meeting last week at SHDC discussed the budget and the suggested cuts some of which are not now going ahead, Villages in action, Youth games grant, domestic violence partnership, carpark charges in some smaller parishes - all are not now going to be cut. The money to pay for the saving of these things will come out of a reserve. The council tax will also be frozen - then a grant will be received from main government for the freezing of this. £10,000 extra to go to the CAB to help with debt counselling. Future of SHDC - the vision for the future from the new Chief Executive was presented - shared services are good but that they should not go for a full merger was agreed on as it would make the area of the council too large - but there is further scope for more shared services. Senior management are being restructured and 19 top management staff will be reduced to 9 by April 2011 when the changes will have taken place. Planning - development plan with allocated sites for development - a final decision was made and the inspector has ratified the proposals as being sound - this document will now be worked from when new development proposals are put forward. DCC recycling centre at Buckfastleigh - proposal to close this there is a lot of feeling locally that this should not be closed as Parishioners would have to travel a lot further to get to another facility. The Parish Council will write to DCC support keeping this facility open. National Parks review of governance arrangements has been put forward and a consultation document is currently going on - however they have not consulted the Parish Councils directly on this matter – the consultation can be viewed on the DNPA website.

- b) C Cllr T Pennington – reported as follows – Budget process at the moment - 28% reduction over 3 years needs to be achieved, it will be front loaded being at 11% in the 1st year in money terms it means £140 million reduction over 4 years. £186 million received this year from government - 26 million less than last year but a government grant of 8 million extra will be received for a freeze in council tax. Central government schools grants 430 million has been slightly increased from main government. Per pupil Devon is 146 in the tables for funding as government perceive Devon to be a wealthy place. Concessionary fares now in the hands of DCC to administer the government grant is 5 million short so this will have to be found. Vacancy management is being practised if someone leaves then the posts will not be filled unless absolutely necessary, bulk buying with other councils needs to be practised to cut costs. Children’s services, Old peoples homes, buses, highway maintenance will all be reduced. Senior and middle management will be reshuffled and some jobs lost.

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

- a) Application no 39/2933/10/F – Mr & Mrs R Keen – Site opposite Springfield, Rattery – Variation of condition 2 (accord of plans) of planning permission 39/1716/10/F (erection of dwellinghouse and garage) to enable erection of timber frame balcony on south elevation. The applicant was present and outlined the changes to the plan - no objections – proposed by Cllr B Evans & seconded by Cllr S Levy with all in agreement.

Decisions Received from South Hams District Council

- a) Listed Building Consent Granted – Application no 39/2679/10/LB – Mr G Beare – The Ballroom, Marley House – Structural re[air of floor beam supporting first floor and ornate ceiling rose.

6) Matters Arising –

- a) Emergency Planning – Chairman - Cllr P Smerdon reported that he had attended a SHDC cluster meeting and asked about DCC guidelines about snow clearing but nothing has happened on this, it seems the snow came early before the document had been finished. Next Tuesday a gritter / spreader demo at Westpoint to which cllrs have been invited. Ask DCC to come and refill all the bins as they are empty. Ask C Cllr T Pennington about locality budget for purchasing 3 more bins £300.

7) Correspondence.

- a) SHDC – Play Areas – Insurance, Inspection and Maintenance - £100 the same this year – Cllrs all in agreement for the Play Area to remain in this agreement with SHDC for another year.
 b) DNPA – Whats on Listings – Chairman – Cllr P Smerdon to complete.
 c) DALC – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties - Cllr Brian Evans & Gill Evans to be put forward.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the folder for circulation.

8) Main Agenda.

- a) P3 Report – Cllr S Levy reported – Brownston Lane good at present – some works to do at Venton.
 b) Reports from members of the Parish Council – no reports given.

- c) Highway Maintenance.
 - 1) Road to White Oxen at Drybridges on the Parish Boundary – all drains are blocked up.
 - 2) Items which have been dumped – mattress, hoover and tyres – ask SHDC to come and collect by entrance of the Village Hall.
- d) Play Area.
 - 1) See Saw renewal – users of the play area to be spoken to about what type of seesaw they would like.
- e) Parish Meeting Speaker – April 2011 – Chief Executive of SHDC.

9) **Cheques for Signature.**

Cheque no 485 = £105.75 - P Smerdon (New Grit Bin).

Bank Account February 2011 = £6,453.75

P3 2010 = £281.84

Playing Field = £151.87

Parish Plan = £150.00

Proposed by Cllr J Hampton and seconded by Cllr B Evans 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 9.32pm NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 8th March 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 .