

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday July 2, 2009 at 7:00pm in The Church Hall, Germoe.

Present: Cllr G.Ross (Chairman) Cllr J.Taylor
Cllr S.Geake (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A.Martin Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Mrs Charlotte Chadwick (Cornwall Council's Community Network Manager for Helston and the Lizard), PC D.Vaughan.

The Chairman, Cllr Ross, welcomed members and visitors to the July meeting. In particular, he welcomed Mrs Charlotte Chadwick, Cornwall Council's recently appointed Community Network Manager for Helston and the Lizard, and invited her to speak about what the Community Network will mean both for the Parish Council and for residents of the Parish.

Mrs Chadwick introduced herself by saying that she has now been in post for three weeks, having previously worked for six years with Penwith District Council both as a Business Advisor and in community work. She stated that the Helston and the Lizard Community Network will have two levels. The first will consist of the seven Cornwall Councillors (from amongst whom the Chairman will be elected, simply because meetings at this level will be meetings of a sub-committee of Cornwall Council) sitting together with representatives from town and parish councils, the police, the health authority, the community and voluntary sector and, she hoped, the business community. This panel will meet at least four times a year when, possibly, the meetings will be theme based (although she stressed that there is no intention that Cornwall Council will, in any way, be prescriptive about their content). During the course of these meetings *Task and Finish Groups* will be created in order to see projects through to their conclusion. The first meeting for this group is scheduled for September 10, 2009 and the second for March 18, 2010. The second level of the Community Network will be a general forum for residents, community groups and organisations (although Mrs Chadwick said its similarity to the PACT forum possibly means that the second level already exists).

The day-to-day administrative duties of the Community Network will be undertaken by Amy De'Ath, whose principle task is to aid the seven elected members of Cornwall Council, but who will additionally deal with minor concerns and enquiries. Mrs Chadwick will deal with more complex concerns. Speaking more generally, Mrs Chadwick intimated that, as the Community Network Manager, she will be in a position to hold individual services to account and to broker meetings between Cornwall's Councillors and Officers and Town and Parish Councils (and here she noted that there are already a number of issues outstanding concerning active partnering).

It was noted that

- the number of town and parish councils in the Community Network presents problems which are yet to be resolved of a suitable meeting place
- each town and parish council will have a single vote and none will be disenfranchised because of the size of its electorate
- the Community Network should not become Helston-centric
- representatives from town and parish councils will play a full rôle
- marginalisation of non-Quality Status Councils appears to be occurring.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Chadwick for attending the meeting and invited her to stay and listen to the proceedings, an offer which Mrs Chadwick accepted.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Clarke. The Chairman stated that he has received a letter of resignation from Cllr Mrs Mackenzie.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

of gifts (received as a result of being a member of the Council) of a value greater than £25

There were no declarations of gifts of a value greater than £25.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday June 4, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

There were no matters arising which are not covered in this agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

The Chairman congratulated CCllr Keeling on his successful election campaign and said that Germoe Parish Council looked forward to working with him again.

CCllr Keeling reported that

- he was very pleased to be able to represent the electors in his ward at County level
- the new Cornwall Council which came into being on June 8 has been pre-occupied with induction processes and house-keeping measures
- Cornwall Council is composed of 123 members representing in excess of 500,000 people
- Alec Robertson is the new leader of the Council which is composed of Conservative and Independent Members: the Liberal Democrats have decided to work as an opposition
- there is an immediate and pressing need for an independent audit of Council finances
- nine portfolio holders have been appointed of whom five are Conservatives and four are Independents
- committees have been formed and Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be elected shortly
- he is a member of both the Scrutiny and Standards Committees and will additionally act as a substitute member of the West Area Planning Committee
- as promised in his election campaign, he has started holding surgeries throughout the ward.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, CCllr Keeling promised to look into the present position of the small schools protection fund

7 POLICE REPORT

PC Vaughan stated that no crimes were reported to the Police in June 2009 compared to two reported in June 2008. PC Vaughan took the opportunity to remind vehicle owners to ensure that their vehicles are locked and all property (and particularly sat navs and mobile phones) is removed from view. Concluding he said that PCSO Ceri Sadler has spoken to children and staff at the School

8 PARISH MATTERS

Welcoming Stones The Clerk reported that David Pascoe has installed the four welcoming stones and the replacement Breage/St Hilary/Germoe boundary stone at western end of Greenberry Down. Members noted an observation that the area near Nevada House with the notice-board, the dog bin and now the welcome stone looks a little cluttered. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor should meet with interested parties and report findings back to the meeting in September.

Hedge trimming

Members considered ways of encouraging Cornwall Highways and landlords to trim roadside hedges. It was noted that, in response to a written enquiry from the Clerk concerning the possibility of partnership working, Mr Chris Biddick, the Area Highways Manager, had replied "... it is unlikely that additional trimming works will be authorised other than what will be trimmed on our programmed tractor routes. The 'A' roads are cut as a priority with the more minor road network being cut following these works." Considerable discussion followed concerning the possibility of partnership working, of ensuring that landowners are forced to take responsibility for their hedges and of conflicting advice emanating from Cornwall Council. It was also noted that tidy verges and hedges have implications for residents other than issues simply of health and safety. As a result of this discussion both CCllr Keeling and Mrs Chadwick agreed to pursue the matter at County level.

Fly tipping

Members noted that, although the incidence of fly-tipping at Wheal Gray had recently increased, the Angling Club had kept its word and removed the offending unsightly mess.

9 PLANNING

Applications

PA09/00751/F Mr & Mrs A Usher – Erection of a two-storey extension to rear of dwelling and erection of a domestic garage – Gweal Brogue, Germoe Lane. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked “No observations”.

PA09/00828/F Mrs L Bhattacharya – Retention and completion of a pitched roof over existing flat roof of dwelling – Neath Hill Farm, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Ross seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked “No observations”.

Decisions

PA09/00452/F Conditional Permission for Development (installation of a single domestic microgeneration wind turbine) – Lower Balwest Farm, Lower Balwest – *noted*

Correspondence

CC erection of a shed at Greenbury Farm Cottage, Rosudgeon notice of conclusions – *noted*

10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Geake reported that he is now a member of the Board of Heritage Kernow.

11 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this stage.

12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Audit Commission notice of conclusion of audit – *noted*

Cornwall Council notification of receipt of claim under the Local Maintenance Partnership scheme – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

13 FINANCE

Members noted the successful conclusion of the Annual Audit for the year 2008/2009

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
J.Meadows (website)	£ 260.00	
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 150.00	
R.Pascoe & Sons	£ 1,610.00	£ 210.00
Colin Chapman		
Salary (June)	£ 200.58	
telephone	£ 33.94	
office expenses	£ 30.40	
travelling	£ 20.21	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 305.13

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded, all others in favour that the above four accounts be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

HM Revenue and Customs (on-line incentive)	£ 100.00
CC (re KDC) grant for welcoming stones	£ 560.00

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider the adoption of a formal *Code of Practice for Complaints against the Council*.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday September 3, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....