

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday May 1, 2008 following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Church Hall, Germoe.

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

Visitors: CCllr A.Robertson, KDCllr Mrs A.Greenstreet, KDCllr Mrs L.Jenkin, KDCllr J.Keeling, Mrs Foster, Mrs Hoyland, Mr Nicholls and Miss Smith

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Graham Ross be elected to the Chair of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2008 – 2009.

2 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Ross read aloud, signed and dated the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2008 – 2009 in the presence of the Clerk and the Council.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Mackenzie, WPC Ann Butcher and PCSO Mark Mitchell.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations of gifts (received as a result of being a member of the Council) of a value greater than £25

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday April 3, 2008 are a true record.

6 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA

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

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Hoyland told members that, in her opinion, the amendment to the planning application in respect of Bargess Croft had ignored concerns relating to the proposed height of the dwelling and the consequent impact it will have on the surrounding countryside.

Agreeing with Mrs Hoyland, Mrs Foster added that the amendment sought to move the building closer to a badgers' sett which is currently in use. She also drew members' attention to problems relating to the use of the lane (and in particular the footpath which runs along it) by heavy vehicles going to and from the site.

KDCllr Keeling reported that the planning application for the replacement dwelling at Bargess Croft will be decided at a meeting of the Planning Committee and reminded all those present of the opportunity now afforded to members of the public to speak at these meetings.

Speaking of the posts and chain which the owner of Eve Cottage has recently erected on land over which worshippers at Balwest Methodist Church have, for many years, enjoyed unrestricted access, Mrs Smith sought advice on ways forward. It was established that Mr Nicholls has cut the grass on this plot of land for

some forty years and, as she had reported, that worshippers at the Chapel have used this plot of land without hindrance for even longer. In the circumstances, she was advised both to register the land on which Balwest Methodist Church stands, to include the land in question and to involve the Methodist solicitor in the dispute.

KDCllr Keeling offered his services as a mediator between the trustees of Balwest Methodist Church and the owner of Eve Cottage.

Mr Nicholls said that, having appointed a new agent, he will shortly be applying for planning permission on the land he owns in the Parish of Breage.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr Nicholls on behalf of the community for all the voluntary work he has done and continues to do in the Parish.

Mr Nicholls and Mrs Smith left the room.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to discuss agenda item 17 Planning at this point.

17 PLANNING

Further to planning enforcement allegations at Bargess Croft and at West End, it was agreed that what is currently being done at Bargess Croft, whilst generally unacceptable, is nevertheless within planning law. Nevertheless, although it was agreed that Kerrier District Council has no choice but to act within the constraints of the law, members considered that what is happening at West End goes against planning law and moreover that the apparent lack of action by officers brings the District Council itself into disrepute. The Clerk was asked to write in the strongest possible terms to Kerrier's Planning Enforcement department requiring officers to take action before time runs out and an application is made for a Certificate of Lawfulness on the use of the site.

Applications

PA07/01969/F Mr M.Berryman – Erection of a replacement dwelling and installation of a septic tank (amended design) – Bargess Croft, Balwest. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that the following observations be returned to Kerrier District Council:

“If the Planning Officer is minded to approve permission for this development, Germoe Parish Councillors request that it goes before the full Planning Committee.

“If planning permission for development is granted, Germoe Parish Councillors make a strong recommendation that a legal agreement is required from the applicant to the effect that the buildings existing at the time of the original application will be removed and that the site will be reserved for a single dwelling. Furthermore, in the light of the Permitted Development which has been and is being undertaken on this site, they request that a condition is imposed preventing any further Permitted Development. Additionally, before building commences, Germoe Parish Councillors request that full surveys are made both of archaeological remains and wild life habitat.

“Nevertheless, Germoe Parish Councillors would urge the Planning Committee to refuse permission for this development on the grounds of its bulk, design, appearance and prominent setting within the landscape (which is adverse to visual amenities and within both the area of the World Heritage Site and an area of Great Landscape Value). Germoe Parish Councillors further note that the proposed site has the potential to prejudice historic mining artefacts and wild life.

Germoe Parish Councillors note that there is strong public feeling against this application.”

PA08/00577/F Mr & Mrs A.J.Collins – Erection of a conservatory extension, installation of two roof-lights in dwelling and repositioning of driveway – Hawthorn Cottage, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that although they would have no objections to the erection of a conservatory extension to the rear of this property, Germoe Parish Councillors consider that the addition of such an extension to the front of the dwelling in the centre of a Conservation Area is inappropriate. They therefore urge members of the Planning Committee to refuse permission for development.

Decisions

PA08/00020/F Mr F.J.B.Edwards – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a replacement conservatory extension to dwelling) – Tregonning Brea, Trewithen Terrace – *noted*

PA08/00079/F Mr & Mrs P.Batten – Conditional Permission for Development (installation of two windows in the south-eastern elevation of the single storey bar – holiday let) – Nevada House, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

Correspondence

KDC Planning Enforcement Engineering or building operations at Bargess Croft (file closed) 17 – *noted*

8 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

CCCLr Robertson reported that

- although the consultation period for proposals to the Boundary Committee concerning the number of Unitary Authority Members and the geographical boundaries of electoral divisions has expired, there will be a further opportunity for comment once the Committee has made its initial proposals
- under the Implementation Executive's proposal, Germoe will be grouped with Breage and Sithney
- final decisions will be made by the Electoral Commission in October
- elected representatives sitting on the Convergence Performance Monitoring Committee at present number three: this will be reduced to two under the Unitary Authority and moves are afoot to increase this number
- at a meeting of Cornwall County Council, he had proposed that the Council should express its opposition to the proposed Identity Card scheme: this was passed almost unanimously
- he has recently highlighted the concerns of Retained Fire Fighters regarding their new duty system.

In answer to a question CCClR Robertson denied that the cheap airfares offered by airlines using Newquay airport are subsidised at arm's length by Cornwall County Council (which subsidises the airport itself).

Answering a further question, CCClR Robertson agreed that the height of the poles on which the 40mph repeater signs are placed appears to be excessive and promised to make enquiries about this.

Noting that the maintenance of hedges within the Parish was an agenda item, CCClR Robertson reminded members that the Asset Management Team rather than Cornwall Highways is now responsible for this matter and that the need to charge landowners when County undertakes the work remains.

Speaking of the work being done by the Implementation Executive in advance of the new Unitary Authority, KDCIlr Mrs Jenkin said that

- Kerrier District Council had indicated to the Boundary Committee that significantly more than the 130 seats proposed by the Implementation Executive is necessary to ensure proper democratic representation in Cornwall
- although financial calculations had initially indicated some staff redundancies, it now looked as if significantly more would be made in the name of efficiency which gives rise to concerns about the future delivery of services
- there is no sense of quite how matters currently within her remit at Kerrier will be managed in the future: these include museums, open spaces, heritage sites and leisure services
- in areas of partnership there are considerable concerns about the way forward for organisations such as West Cornwall Together, Healthy Communities and Older People and the Children and Young People Strategy all of which have been developed but now appear in danger of being lost
- funding for the Cornish Language Partnership is nearly at an end, but there are hopes that further funding will come from Central Government.

Also speaking of the work being done by the Implementation Executive in advance of the new Unitary Authority, KDCIlr Keeling said that

- staff are presently being lost to OneCornwall despite the need to ensure staff are in place at District level to ensure delivery of services
- the matter of a new logo had kept the Implementation Executive busy for nearly two hours before a decision was made that it should be both left to the new council and kept in house
- there is poor communication between the Implementation Executive, existing elected representatives and indeed members of the public
- in the matter of the number of elected representatives on the new authority, he believed that if localism is considered to be of prime importance then more Councillors than the proposed 130 will be necessary and conversely that if financial efficiency is to be the motivation then fewer Councillors will be required.

On local matters KDCIlr Keeling reported that the Church has offered some land at Carleen to be used for affordable housing.

KDCIlr Mrs Greenstreet spoke of the day-to-day changes resulting from the uncertainty surrounding Cornwall's change to a Unitary Authority with which officers of Kerrier District Council are currently having to cope, but added that they appear determined to maintain the delivery of services. She reported that she has attended a number of meetings and training events during the course of the last month, and spoke particularly warmly of preparations for a St George's Day Parade of scouts at which she was present.

9 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, WPC Ann Butcher presented her apologies for her absence and promised to bring the annual figures to the June meeting.

The report for the period from April 4 to April 30, 2008 records one crime: that of criminal damage to a vehicle. The speed detection equipment has been used on the A394 and further use in the parish is planned for June.

Mrs Foster and Mrs Hoyland left the room.

10 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Martin proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Mrs Eileen Clarke be elected to be Vice-Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2008 – 2009.

CCllr Robertson, KDCllr, Mrs Greenstreet, KDCllr Mrs Jenkin and KDCllr Keeling left the room.

11 STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Felstead proposed, Cllr Geake seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should re-adopt Standing Orders as revised in April 2006

12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should re-adopt Financial Regulations as revised in April 2006

13 ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO POSTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Bank signatories

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Clarke, Cllr Felstead and Cllr Ross should continue to sign cheques on behalf of Germoe Parish Council.

Internal auditor

It was agreed that Cllr Ross should continue to act as Germoe Parish Council's internal auditor.

Notice-boards

It was agreed that the following Councillors would be responsible for the notice-boards

Balwest	Cllr Ross
Great Work	Cllr Martin
Tregonning Hill	Cllr Mrs Clarke
Germoe	Cllr Taylor
Newtown	Cllr Geake
Tresowes Green	Cllr Felstead

It was agreed to seek funding for a new, larger notice-board at Great Work.

Footpaths and bridleways

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Clarke and Cllr Mrs Mackenzie would be responsible for footpaths and bridleways.

Planning

It was agreed that Cllr Geake would, in the first instance, be responsible for planning observations.

14 MAINTENANCE OF HEDGES WITHIN THE PARISH

Having noted that many landowners in the Parish are meticulous in cutting hedges which adjoin public roads but that other are less so, Councillors considered ways of encouraging all landowners to carry out their duties in respect of cutting hedges in their ownership. It was agreed that the Clerk should write an article for publication in the Parish Magazine exhorting all landowners to make an effort to cut hedges adjoining the public highway.

It was noted that the hedge on the left hand side of the road from the A394 to Tresowes Green requires immediate attention.

15 ST GERMEO'S WELL

The Clerk reported that Mrs Matthissen has, for some years, made an effort to ensure that there is water in the well and is happy to continue this work. Bob Sanders has painted the guard railings and Frederick Wearne and Sons have been instructed to repaint the wording on the interpretation stone. Cllr Felstead

proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded and it was agreed to seek permission from Cornwall County Council to maintain the verge adjoining the well.

16 FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES

Footpath Anomalies

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to make any progress with the anomalies noted on footpaths

18 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members' questions.

19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman, Cllr Graham Ross, reported that he had attended an open day at the Carleen Day Care Centre where he described the atmosphere as being very good. He further reported that he had encouraged the Day Care Centre to contact the Dial-a-Ride scheme with a view to the possibility of increasing attendance.

20 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Helston Town Council invitation to a Civic Service on June 8 at St Michael's Church – *noted*

Cornwall Hospice Care Make a Will Week – *noted*

KDC Full Council Agenda for April 9 – *noted*

KDC survey of cultural events and activities – *noted*

CCC notification of a recommendation that "a study be commissioned to fully explore the potential of introducing concessionary bus travel for residents of Cornwall aged 19 years and under" – *noted*

NALC Local Councils Conference Eastbourne May 20 – 22, 2008 – *noted*

Interlink Cornwall magazine – *noted*

CCC copy of correspondence from Breage and Germoe Bridleways Association – *noted*

CCC Are you Linked? Having your say on Health and Social Care in Cornwall – *noted*

CCC Local Maintenance Partnership offer of grant for the year 2007/2008 – *it was noted the grant offered for this year is for £754.60*

CCC Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall – Consultation – *noted*

KDC Out There: Things to do Places to Go April – June 2008 – *noted*

One Cornwall Newsletter Issue 8: End of April 2008 – *noted*

CCC Cornwall Minerals Development Framework – *noted*

Mr and Mrs Anderson-Archbold speed limits within the Parish – *the Clerk was asked to reply and to send a copy of this letter to CCllr Robertson*

21 GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY

Members reviewed the terms of Germoe Parish Council's Insurance Policy which covers

Optional items:

Property damage	£ 4,924.93	Cost	£52.68	(2007/2008	£50.18)
Officials indemnity	£250,000	Cost	£18.55	(2006/2007	£17.85)
Libel and slander	£250,000	Cost	£18.55	(2006/2007	£17.85)

With an excess of £125.00 property damage covers

War Memorial £4,924.93 (2007/2008 £4,690.41)

It was noted that nothing else listed on the Asset Register is covered by insurance.

It was further noted that Germoe Parish Council requires cover (which is mandatory) for the following items

Public liability	£ 5,000,000
Employers Liability	£10,000,000
Money	£ 250,000
Fidelity guarantee	£ 2,000
Legal expenses	£ 50,000

Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded all in favour to accept the invitation from Allianz Insurance to renew insurance cover with that company.

22 FINANCE

Members considered the decision made at the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday March 3, 2005 that the sum of £100.00 be forwarded to Praa Sands & District Community Centre on condition that sufficient funding is obtained for the project (described in a letter written by the Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Management Committee dated February 19, 2005) to go ahead in its entirety. The

Clerk reported that the Community Centre is actively seeking funds for this project and it was agreed that in the circumstances this decision should be honoured

The Clerk reported that Peter Richards, Germoe Parish Council's Internal Auditor, had signed off the Annual Return for the year to March 31, 2008.

Members noted the findings of the Internal Auditor as reported in his Annual Review of the Effectiveness of Annual Audit. These state, "Satisfactory Assurance can be provided that proper practices are in place within internal audit in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice 2006". Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Geake seconded and it was agreed that a copy of these will be attached to the financial records for the year to March 31, 2008.

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the findings of the Internal Auditor before members of the Council.

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded and it was agreed that the Clerk should have delegated powers to complete and sign the Internal Auditor's Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
Allianz Cornhill Insurance	£ 334.81	
J.P.Richards Esq. (Internal Auditor)	£ 120.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (April)	£ 162.63	
mileage	£ 20.00	
administration	£ 32.03	
telephone	£ 37.80	
use of home	£ 20.00	
total	£ 272.46	

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all in favour that the above three accounts be paid.

23 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday June 5, 2008 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....