

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday June 5, 2008 at 7:00pm 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: KDCllr Keeling and Mr Steer.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr Robertson, Cllr Mrs Mackenzie, WPC Butcher and PCSO Mitchell

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 Felstead proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 1, 2008 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

Cllr Felstead proposed, Cllr Geake seconded, all others in favour that, subject to the hand-written amendments, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday May 1, 2008 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 were not covered in the agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Referring to planning application PA08/00642/FM, Mr Steer stated that, in respect of the proposed foul drainage from the site, there is little difference from the previous application and that therefore the observations originally made by Germoe Parish Council still apply. He noted that disposal of the effluent in the manner proposed may put several species of wildlife at risk and that he understood that Natural England has opposed the application. For not unrelated reasons, he further understood that the Environment Agency has also opposed the application. It was his belief that no proper research has been done on the existing system and that the anticipated volume of liquid has been underestimated.

6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, CCCllr Robertson reported that

- the Boundary Committee is currently assessing whether or not they can progress the Implementation Executive's proposal, for a Unitary Council of 130 members, in the time they have available. There will be a further six-week period of consultation to help assess the case for an increase on the existing number of County Councillors. If they decide that there is insufficient time or that the requirement for a bigger Council has not been proven, the 2009 elections for the new County Council will be based on the existing 82 Electoral Divisions

- it is possible that, out of the present total of 213, we can expect between 30 and 40 Post Office closures in Cornwall. Those Sub-Post Masters/Mistresses whose offices have been earmarked for closure were informed in person before Friday 23rd May. Under pain of loss of their compensation payments (28 months salary), they are now required to keep this information secret until the official announcements, on July 15. Following the official release of information, there will be a seven-week further consultation period. Any reversal of a decision to close one office will result in the closure of another as the target number of 65 (in the combined counties of Cornwall and Dorset) has been set by Parliament. A meeting of the Community Committee in June will draw up recommendations to mitigate the impact on rural areas and to examine what support can be offered to rural businesses to help achieve rural sustainability
- despite growing concern over the effect of increased fuel prices on aviation and lobbying by anti-aviation environmentalists, the County Council remains committed to the development of this important transport link and the successful acquisition of a Civil Aviation Authority license, by 1st December 2008.
- a quote for the Millpool Finger Post in the sum of £2,081.00 + VAT has been received by Highways which, if it is to come from his 'highways improvement' budget, is probably inappropriate
- there is no news as yet about the Greenberry Downs Signs
- the rules concerning 40mph repeater posts stipulate that, where pedestrians are involved, roundels should be set above 6'6" but not excessively so. Highways have been tasked to check and take any necessary remedial action
- Cornwall's surfacing supervisor's view is that the resurfacing work on the Balwest to Greatwork road is of an adequate standard and will settle down in time. It will be monitored.

KDCllr Keeling reported that,

- he has attended several meetings of note this month including that of the planning committee
- a meeting of the Implementation Executive at Penzance had resolved that the CEO, in consultation with the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the One Cornwall Joint Scrutiny Committee should be given delegated authority to take urgent decisions.
- another meeting of the Implementation Executive had agreed to advertise for a CEO, five corporate directors and the Heads of Service, all of whom will be essential to the smooth functioning of the new council
- there is widespread consternation about the Boundary Committee for England's statement that they have serious concerns about the methodology employed both by the Implementation Executive in calculating a future unitary council size of 130 members and by Cllr David Whalley who had submitted a 90-member proposal. This means that it is unlikely that the Electoral Commission will be in a position to implement any Boundary Committee recommendations in time for elections in May 2009. The Committee has decided to carry out a further stage of public consultation
- at the Annual Kerrier Council Meeting he had retained his chairmanship of the scrutiny committee.
- he had attended the recent PAROW (Penwith Access and Rights Of Way forum) meeting and had again thought what a good and useful organisation it was for restoration and protection of public rights of way.

KDCllr Keeling and Mr Steer left the room at this point.

7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PCSO Mitchell reported that there has been one crime of a very minor nature since May.

8 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillors considered a consultation document concerning the date of the next Parish Council election. Cllr Felstead proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded and it was agreed to make the following representation

It is Germoe Parish Council's opinion that the next Parish Council elections should be held in May 2013, as outlined in the Cornwall (Structural Change) Order. Further, it is Germoe Parish Council's opinion that, in the event of an election in 2009, it is unlikely that there would be competition for seats.

9 FOOTPATHS, SIGNPOSTS, MAINTENANCE

The Clerk reported that he now has the necessary documents to begin the process of correcting the anomalies at the eastern end of footpaths 5 and 9 and at the western end of footpath 11 all in Germoe Churchtown.

The Clerk reported that he is actively seeking funding for a replacement noticeboard at Greatwork.

10 ST GERMEO'S WELL

The Clerk reported that Frederick Wearne and Sons have repainted the wording on the stone which outlines the history of the well, that Bob Sanders has dug and seeded the verge adjacent to it and that Mrs Matthissen has planted the area around it.

Councillors considered completing an application to CCC for a licence to maintain the highways verge adjacent to St Germoe's Well at a cost of £14.50 Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded all in favour that Germoe Parish Council should pay for this licence.

11 PLANNING

Applications

PA08/00642/FM Bronzemill Ltd – Demolition of existing motel and associated buildings and erection of twenty self-catering units of holiday accommodation – Cornwall Motel, Main Road, Ashton. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should send the following observations to the Planning Authority: 'Germoe Parish Councillors note the amendments from the earlier application. However, they believe that the drainage submission lacks sufficient detail to justify the scheme. Therefore, they re-iterate their previous concerns about this development which were: 'because the proposed development lies within the neighbouring Parish of Breage, Germoe Parish Councillors do not consider it appropriate to comment fully on this application. Despite that however, they strongly support the observations made by Breage Parish Council. Moreover, they view with considerable alarm the applicant's intention to connect foul waste from the proposed development to the existing drain which flows to the existing septic tank both of which lie within the Parish of Germoe. It is Germoe Parish Councillors' understanding that both the drain and the septic tank are broken and are thus incapable of coping with the waste this development will produce. They ask that, should the Planning Committee be minded to grant permission for development, the capability of both the drain and the septic tank to cope with the anticipated volume of waste effluent is investigated before such permission is granted'

PA08/00848/F Mr J.Nowman –Erection of a replacement dwelling and installation of a septic tank (amended design) – Trevabyn, Helston Road, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, Cllr Martin abstained all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors support this application

Decisions

PA08/00469/F Mr & Mrs T.Blencowe – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a shed) – Chycarne Cottage, Balwest – *noted*

Correspondence

KDC PA08/00577/F insertion of window to dwelling and repositioning of driveway at Hawthorn Cottage, Germoe – *noted*

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

It was noted that the Clerk had written an article for the Parish Newsletter concerning residents' responsibilities for trimming hedges which adjoin public roads. It was agreed that a similar statement of responsibilities should be pinned to the noticeboards and that the question of road-side hedge-cutting and verge trimming should be further debated at next month's meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this stage.

14 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that Mrs Liddicoat had telephoned him to ask if the seat near the reservoir might be re-varnished. She had also reported that two groups of holiday-makers had said independently how very pleasant the Preachers' Pit was looking. One lady had said that she had felt honoured to think that perhaps she had sat on the same granite seat as John Wesley had done all those years ago!

Correspondence

English Heritage notification of listing of the War Memorial (Grade II) – *noted*

KDC official notification of listing of the War Memorial (Grade II) – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter

Devon & Cornwall Police Authority appointment of Independent Members to the Police Authority – *noted*

The Boundary Committee acknowledgement of receipt of Germoe Parish Council's views – *noted*

KDC agenda for the Annual Council Meeting – *noted*

KDC Dog control Order: Dogs on leads by direction Order 01/2008 – *noted*

Philip Tucker correspondence re Parish Magazine – *noted*

OneCornwall invitation to a meeting with the Parish Liaison Officer Steven Ford on Tuesday July 8, 2008 from 1900 until 2100 at the Methodist Church, Coinagehall Street, Helston (limited to two representatives) – *it was agreed that two representatives form Germoe Parish Council should attend this meeting*

15 FINANCE

The Clerk reported a request from the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Rural Transport Partnership for help with funding. It was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should not help fund this organisation.

The Clerk reported a request from Victim Support Cornwall for help with funding. It was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should not help fund this organisation.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
RTS (Garden service) Ltd	£ 188.22	£ 28.03
CCC (licence to maintain a verge)	£ 14.50	
CALC (subscription)	£ 144.37	£ 10.14
RTS (Garden Services) Ltd		
St Germoe's Well	£ 300.00	£ 52.50
Open spaces	£ 37.00	£ 6.48
Preachers' Pit	£ 45.00	£ 7.87
Whippers Lane	£ 45.00	£ 7.87
Total	£501.72	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (May)	£ 162.63	
telephone	£ 1.45	
office expenses	£ 23.75	
travelling	£ 22.00	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 229.83

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

An invitation to renew membership of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils in the sum of £154.51 was considered. Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded all in favour that Germoe Parish Council cannot justify this expense.

16 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Hedges adjoining public roads.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday July 10, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....