

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday December 3, 2009 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

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

Visitors: CCllr Keeling and Mr R.Johnson.

The Chairman, Cllr Ross, welcomed members and visitors to the November meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PC Vaughan.

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 Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Geake seconded, all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 5, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

It was reported that Mr Felstead had expressed his concern about the state of the small triangle of grass at the northern end of Moors Lane which has recently been trampled by cows. Members agreed to keep an eye on the situation.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Johnson reported that the notice-board at Balwest now has a hole in the back board. He further stated that he had strong reservations about a statement which he had been told had been made by a sitting Councillor concerning the erection of a satellite dish in the Conservation Area at Germoe Churchtown. In answer, the Chairman said that repairs for all the notice-boards in the parish are in hand and that if a local resident feels in any way aggrieved or alarmed by what an individual Councillor has said those concerns should be brought to the Council in person.

7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Vaughan reported that no crimes were reported to the Police in November 2009, which compares to three crimes reported in November 2008. He further reported that there are 10,000 fewer victims of crime in Cornwall today than there were five years ago.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Village Design Statement

Cllr Davies presented members with a draft of what he described as simply being a structure showing a statement of intent. It was agreed to photo-copy this draft and to circulate it to members before the next meeting. Additionally, the Clerk was asked to contact Andrew Richards (Cornwall Council's Conservation Officer) with a view to seeking his help with the creation of a Village Design Statement particularly in the light of the number of recently received planning applications for buildings which depart from the vernacular. On behalf of members, the Chairman thanked Cllr Davies for the work he has already done on this project.

CCllr Keeling entered the room during discussion of the last item

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Apologising for his lateness, CCllr Keeling asked for two amendments to be made to last month's minutes

- firstly, that Cornwall Council has been awarded a grant from Central Government of ~~£161 million~~ £151 million for the delivery of affordable housing: there is apparently an annual need in the county for some 2,300 dwellings
- and secondly, a Cabinet Meeting at which the question of Primary School provision will be discussed is scheduled for the coming week. In the present financial circumstances, there are doubts that the commitment to retain ~~small rural schools~~ the Small Schools' Protection Grant can be justified.

He went on to report that

- during the last month, local residents will have heard that the County's provision for Child Care has been described by OFSTED as inadequate. Cornwall continues to run the service but with out-of-county help
- the removal of certain types of cancer care from the County illustrates the inequality of Health Service provision throughout the country as a whole
- the budget setting process is well in hand but, even at this early stage, it is apparent that there will be financial constraints on the services provided by Cornwall in the coming year
- it is anticipated that Central Government Council Settlement grants in the coming year will be similar to those received this year, but that they will drop in 2011/2012
- it has been mooted that more planning training for Councils and Councillors alike will result in better decision making. Pre-application procedures, particularly for larger developments, are now an established part of the application process
- the hoped-for award from Building Schools for the Future to re-build Helston Community School had not materialised
- he hopes that a media bus (funded by the Regional Redevelopment Agency) will shortly be visiting Carleen Village Hall. This will be of particular interest to the 16-25 year olds
- he had been very pleased to approve Germoe Parish Council's application for grant funding towards the cost of a replacement notice-board at Newtown.

In answer to a question from Cllr Geake concerning the parlous state of the footpath leading out of the quarry on the way to the War Memorial, CCllr Keeling said that he may have some money left in his Community Grant to help pay for steps to be created at this point.

Cllr Mrs Clarke reminded CCllr Keeling of his undertaking to attend to the missing sign and the fly-tipping of garden waste in Higher Lane. She further reported that South West Water's electricity box on the Tresowes Hill road is open and CCllr Keeling additionally offered to attend to this.

The Chairman thanked CCllr Keeling for his support with the Community Grant towards the cost of the replacement notice-board

CCllr Keeling left the room

9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Members agreed that, unless there are pressing reasons for change, the times, dates and places for the meetings in 2010 will be as follows

January 7, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
February 4, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
March 4, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
April 11, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
May 6, 2010	Annual Parish Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
May 6, 2010	Annual Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
June 3, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
July 1, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
September 2, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
October 7, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall, Germoe
November 4, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
December 2, 2010	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
January 6, 2011	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
February 3, 2011	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom

All meetings are due to begin at 7:00pm

Members considered the appointment of a representative from Germoe Parish Council to sit on the Helston and the Lizard Community Network Panel and a substitute. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all in favour that Cllr Mrs Doeser should represent Germoe Parish Council on the Helston and the Lizard Community

Network Panel. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all in favour that Cllr Ross should represent Germoe Parish Council on the Helston and the Lizard Community Network Panel should Cllr Mrs Doeser be unable to attend a meeting.

10 PLANNING

Applications

PA09/01449/F Mr S Neal – Erection of extensions to dwelling – Trebarwith, Tresowes. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked with the following observation “Germoe Parish Councillors do not believe the revisions meet the objections raised in their observations on the earlier application for development (PA09/01193/F) on this site and accordingly repeat them –

“Germoe Parish Council considers that the existing size and scale of the existing bungalow on this surprisingly prominent site is in keeping with the surrounding residential area. More generally, Germoe Parish Council is sympathetic to the idea of improving existing residential accommodation.

“However, the size and scale of the ‘extensions’ proposed in this application are such that they can only be considered to represent an overdevelopment of the site and, as such, are completely inappropriate within the ‘townscape’ of the immediate area. By increasing both the footprint and the height of the existing building by such a massive extent the proposal can only be considered to be seriously detrimental to the visual amenities of the surrounding area. Notwithstanding the comments submitted concerning the level of the peripheral screening to the site (and there is no guarantee that such screening will be maintained) the introduction of so many windows at first-floor level will create problems of overlooking and privacy in adjoining houses and must be considered to be prejudicial to the reasonable enjoyment of those properties. For these reasons Germoe Parish Council raises strong objections to this application.

“Germoe Parish Council notes that the design of the building and level of accommodation proposed is such that, with relatively small alterations, two separate units could be provided. The application states that this is not the current intention; however, once the size of the proposal is accepted Germoe Parish Council feels that it would be very difficult to resist an application for more than one unit. Therefore, in the event of planning permission being granted, Germoe Parish Council requests the imposition of a legal agreement ensuring that only one unit is permitted on this site and further that planning conditions be incorporated into the permission which remove permitted development rights concerning additional extensions or buildings”.

Correspondence

CC re PA09/01178/F conversion of redundant agricultural building to a dwelling at Morvagh, Balwest – *noted*

CC Notice of appeal against the decision to refuse permission for the change of use of church to dwelling and erection of an extension to premises at St Mary’s Church, Helston Road – *noted*

CC Planning Liaison Group and pre-application consultation paper and questionnaire – *Cllr Geake agreed to complete this on behalf of Germoe Parish Council*

Mr & Mrs Bax re PA09/01449/F Erection of extensions to dwelling at Trebarwith, Tresowes. – *noted*

11 FINANCE

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Geake, seconded by Cllr Davies all in favour that the Precept for the year 2010/2011 be set at £7,800. It was noted that this represents a weekly charge to residents of 67.64p on a Band D house (an year-on-year increase of 73p).

The Clerk reported a request from the Trustees of Balwest Methodist Chapel for financial help towards the cost of maintaining the Churchyard. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all in favour that the sum of £300 be forwarded to the Trustees of Balwest Methodist Chapel to be used towards the cost of maintaining the Churchyard under the terms of S214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The following account was presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
Colin Chapman		
Salary (November)	£ 216.74	
telephone	£ 13.56	
office expenses	£ 16.48	
travelling	£ 25.80	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 292.58

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all others in favour that the above account be paid.

The following receipt was noted

Cornwall Council (Community Grant)	£ 600.00
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12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine – *noted*

Cornwall Council appointment of Parish Council representatives to its Standards Committee – *noted*

CC November Town and Parish Council Newsletter – *noted*

CC proposed street naming and numbering policy – *noted*

CC Mary Cooper Head of Localism announcement of retirement from the Council – *noted*

13 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no members' questions.

14 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this point in the meeting.

15 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

To debate whether or not to proceed with a review of Parish Plans

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday January 7, 2010 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....