

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday March 5, 2009 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

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

Visitors: CCllr Robertson, KDCllr Mrs Greenstreet, KDCllr Keeling and Mr Steer.

Before the meeting began the Chairman made the following statement:

“It is with great sorrow that I report to you the death of Mike Clarke, the husband of Cllr Mrs Eileen Clarke.

“Mike had become increasingly ill over the last few weeks and, after a particularly bad morning on Tuesday, he eventually collapsed at home. After dialling 999 an ambulance with paramedics on board arrived in very quick time. At the same time the Fire Brigade responder unit also attended, as did the Air Ambulance with a doctor on board. They all worked with great professionalism, but unfortunately could not revive Mike.

“Mike will be greatly missed by his family and friends. The way I shall remember him will be as a remarkable fighter who, although spending a lot of his later years in discomfort and pain, was always ready for a laugh and a joke with his dry sense of humour.

“My wife, Pauline, and I were with Eileen at the time of his death and, on her behalf, would like to pay tribute to the emergency services who attended that day. The date of Mike’s funeral has not yet been arranged, but Eileen has stated that any contributions should be made to the Air Ambulance Service or the local ambulance paramedic service to whom she will ever be thankful.”

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs E.Clarke and Cllr Mrs S.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 Felstead seconded, Cllr Taylor (being absent from the last meeting) abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on Thursday February 12, 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 from the minutes of the last meeting which were not covered in this agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Steer thanked members for their support over residents’ concerns about the proposed development of the Cornwall Motel. He stated that the southern end of Moors Lane is at present very muddy, making riding a bicycle along it difficult. He asked the Parish Council to scrape it and to spread stone or road scalplings. Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact CCC to ask if the Parish Council can take up their earlier offer of stone and to report back to next month’s meeting. Finally, Mr Steer asked for the Parish Council’s help with an issue relating to water from the highway flooding into his property during periods of heavy rainfall. He stated that he had sought help from Cornwall Highways, that officers had been to his

property, had expressed sympathy, but that to date nothing had been done. CCCllr Robertson agreed to speak to Cornwall Highways about the matter.

6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

KDCllr Keeling reported that

- this would be his final report as a Kerrier District Councillor and that he is presently attempting to conclude a number of outstanding issues within the ward
- his time in the position as the Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Committee is drawing to a close as indeed is the Committee itself, but he is proud of the Committee's achievements not least the production of a pre-candidature leaflet, the insistence of a necessary increase in the budget for the coming year of £3 million, team-building exercises at which best practices have been identified (and which will help to provide better public services in the future) and the recognition at County level of the importance of localism
- the twenty Cornwall Community Networks are due to come into operation on April 1: they are designed to empower local communities although there will undoubtedly be considerable changes to their initial design
- Breage Parish Council had met earlier in the week when considerable alarm had been voiced about proposals to build an estate of twenty-five homes within the Parish.

CCCllr Robertson reported that

- elections to the new Unitary Authority, Cornwall Council, will be held on June 4, the date of the European Elections and the Royal Cornwall Show. Central Government's decision had been well received at County Hall although there are concerns about the number of seats to be contested
- the budget for the coming financial year (which was set by the Joint Implementation Executive) has been approved. The effect is to increase the precept over the County as a whole by 2.6%. The Adult Social Care budget is increased by 5.5%, the Children, Young People and Families' budget by 4%: but the Highways Department receives no increase in funding
- the Fire Brigade has received an addition £1.5 million which reduces fears about the loss of twenty-four hour cover from both the Falmouth and the Camborne Fire Stations. The Audit Commission rating does not reflect on the front line services but rather on the management strategies
- Paul Wilkinson from County Highways is retiring at the end of this month and his place will be taken by Chris Biddick
- the inquiry concerning the delay over the opening of Newquay Airport is expected to be concluded by the end of March
- decisions concerning the proposed incinerator at St Dennis will be taken shortly
- funding in the sum of £990.00 from Cornwall County Council's Members' Community Grant Fund to cover the full cost of three Parish Welcoming Stones has been approved.

KDCllr Mrs Greenstreet reported that

- she has attended a number of Old Peoples' Forums and two Homeless Review Panel meetings
- it has been agreed that the majority of Kerrier's memorabilia will be given to the Helston Museum for display
- it is anticipated that the new Unitary Authority will make a saving of £1.5 million on insurance premiums alone
- a new carpet has been laid in the offices at Dolcoath Avenue in readiness for the new council.

Finally, she thanked Germoe Parish Councillors for their hospitality in the past two years adding that she had enjoyed working for the Parish.

7 POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police. It was noted that a new Community Police Support Officer has been appointed, Mrs Carey Sadler from Porthleven. Her training should be completed by the end of May, when she will commence working with WPC Butcher.

8 FOOTPATHS, SIGNPOSTS, MAINTENANCE

Concerning a proposal to seek a Modification Order to the Definitive Map by the addition of a bridleway over Greenberry Downs, the Clerk reported that he had spoken to the officer dealing with Public Rights of Way in Cornwall. His advice had been first to identify the line of the track and then to seek witness statements from people who have used it. He had further suggested that, once the route has been identified and maps drawn up, the best way forward may be to hold an open meeting say from 3:00pm to 7:30 pm

It was reported that the collection of witness statements to enable the modification of Footpaths 9 and 11 is no further forward. It was suggested that the best way forward might be to invite local residents to complete these statements at the same time as they view the route over Greenberry Downs.

The weathering of the ancient estate boundary stones on Tregonning Hill and the consequent degrading of the lettering on them was considered in the light of evidence from Cllr Geake. He advised that the Parish Council should not re-incise them as had been suggested, not least because he felt that it was unnecessary at the present time. Following discussion, members agreed to accept his advice.

The Clerk reported that the stainless steel inserts for the interpretation stones at Greenberry Downs have been manufactured and that they are now with David Pascoe ready for mounting on granite boulders.

The Clerk reported that the replacement fingerpost for the crossroads at Millpool is now in Helston and ready for erection. Bob Sanders has undertaken to do the necessary work within the next fortnight. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Felstead should be present to advise about the exact siting of the fingerpost.

It was noted that

- the bus shelter at Germoe Crossroads needs cleaning and the encroaching hedge requires trimming
- the millennium stone at Millpool has been knocked over
- the footpath sign at Badgers Holt has yet to be re-erected.

The Clerk was asked to instruct Bob Sanders to deal with these three matters.

9 PLANNING

Applications

PA09/00152/F Mr Shorthouse – Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling – Chygwins, Tresowes. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked ‘No observations’.

PA09/00184/F Mrs L.Battacharya – Retention and completion of a pitched roof over existing flat roof of dwelling – Neath House, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked ‘No observations’.

PA09/00185/F Mr & Mrs Fulford – Erection of a dwelling – The Spinney, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked ‘The Council notes that, in the recent past, an application for outline planning permission for an additional residential unit within the curtilage of The Spinney was submitted and approved (PA08/01406/O). The Council raised no objection to this application. The current application is for a further additional residential unit. The Council considers that the current application, when viewed in conjunction with the other recent permissions for development represents a gross overdevelopment of this restricted site and would be to the detriment of the amenities of the area which is a designated conservation area. The additional car-parking that would be generated by the additional residential unit is also considered objectionable on road safety grounds. The Parish Council raises strong objections to the current application. Had the Parish Council been consulted on a dwelling rather than a double garage (PA08/01943/F), strong objections would have been raised.’

PA09/00193/CAC Mr & Mrs Fulford – Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of a wall – The Spinney, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked ‘No observations’.

Decisions

PA08/01943/F Conditional Permission for Development (conversion of integral garage to living accommodation and erection of detached double garage) – The Spinney, Germoe – *noted*

PA08/01944/CAC Conservation Area Consent under Section 74 (demolition of a wall) – The Spinney, Germoe – *noted*

Correspondence

North Cornwall District Council Publicity of Planning Applications – *noted*

10 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

It was noted that

- at The Spinney, Germoe Churchtown, a very tall mast (possibly from a yacht) with a television aerial on the top has been erected in the garden
- at Greycott, Tresowes Green, mature trees have been felled and, residents have been told, an orchard will be planted. The erection of two aluminium sheds on the property was also noted.

11 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comment at this time.

12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that

- the website is now accessible www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk although he warned that it still very much 'under construction'
- he had met Mr Ian Sherriff who is collating the responses to the sustainable communities questionnaire and who would like to meet members. It was agreed to invite him to attend the next meeting.

Correspondence

CCC Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Newsletter – *noted*

Information Commissioner's Office Confirmation of renewal of register entry – *noted*

KDC Full Council Agenda for March 4 – *noted*

Standards Board for England Town and Parish Standard (Newsletter) – *noted*

Helston Community College consultation on a proposal for Helston Community College to become a foundation school with a charitable trust – *it was agreed that this is an internal matter for the school and its stake-holders and therefore that Germoe Parish Council should not comment*

Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter – *noted*

13 FINANCE

Members considered a request from Cruse Bereavement Care in Cornwall for financial help with their work. Following discussion, it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council is unable to accede to this request.

Members considered a request from Shelter for financial help with their work. Following discussion, it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council is unable to accede to this request.

The following account was presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
Colin Chapman		
Salary (February)	£ 180.78	
telephone	£ 7.01	
office expenses	£ 15.58	
travelling	£ 16.34	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 239.71

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

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion at future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday April 2, 2009 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....