

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

C.F.P.Chapman  
Clerk to the Council  
Chy Lean  
St Keverne Road  
Garras, Mawgan  
Helston  
Cornwall TR12 6AY  
telephone 01326 221648  
germoeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday May 7, 2009 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:** CC Cllr A.Robertson, Mrs Hoyland and Mr MacKenzie

## **1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Felstead 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 2009 – 2010.

## **2 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr Ross read aloud and signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2009 – 2010 in the presence of the Clerk and the Council.

## **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Mackenzie and PC Vaughan.

## **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 Martin proposed, Cllr Geake seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday April 2, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

## **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**

Mr MacKenzie said that, although the agenda included an item under his name indicating that he had concerns about the website, it was inaccurate: he had no concerns about the Parish Council website. He was however concerned about information that had appeared on the website and in particular that his e-mail address together with his home address had been published. He asked who had made the decision to include his e-mailed correspondence with the Clerk as an agenda item and who had made the decision to include his e-mail address on the website. On learning that the Clerk had been responsible for both, he reminded those present that it is members who make decisions and not paid employees. He acknowledged that he had given permission for his wife, Cllr Mrs MacKenzie (who, he said, does not use e-mail and indeed has no computer) to receive one e-mail via his e-mail address, but added that, should confidential information be e-mailed for her attention, then it would come to him and would no longer be confidential. He stated that his collection of guitars had recently received considerable media attention and that, for obvious reasons, he had taken care to avoid publicising his address. He asked for both an oral and a written apology from the Council for mis-using his personal e-mail address in this way.

The Chairman consulted with members and it was resolved to offer Mr MacKenzie an unequivocal apology for what was an innocent error.

## **8 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS**

CCClr Robertson congratulated Cllr Ross on his re-election as Chairman and reported that

- last week he had attended the last meeting of Cornwall County Council or the first meeting of Cornwall Council (depending on one's viewpoint)
- at that meeting, the constitution for Cornwall Council had been ratified
- as a result of which, Councillors' speaking time had been reduced from five minutes to three
- the report on the problems at Newquay Airport promised for the end of March has not been published because it is considered that it may be controversial and may therefore affect the outcome of the forthcoming election. CCClR Robertson added that he hopes and trusts that this report will be both open and transparent
- he has found matters such as planning, housing and licensing, all of which have previously been dealt with by the District Councils, very interesting
- a meeting with Inspector Coad has resulted in a change of policy on the part of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and there is now an opportunity for members of the community to be involved in checking the speed of vehicles. He is actively seeking volunteers who will be taught how to use a speed gun, will report offenders to the police and this will generate a written warning
- Planning Enforcement matters in the parish and surrounding area will be dealt with by Kirsty Smith
- he and Chris Biddick from County Highways have recently toured the Parish when he (CCClr Robertson) had pointed out problem areas including the fly-tipped asphalt on the A394
- this would be his last visit to the Parish as a County Councillor. Despite having strong ties with the area, in the coming election he will be standing for Helston North. He thanked Councillors for their warm welcome over the last four years.

In turn, the Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked CCClR Robertson for all he has done for the Parish over those four years and wished him every success in the future.

*The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to take agenda item 15 at this point.*

## **15 PLANNING**

### **Applications**

PA09/00452/F Messrs R Ash & C Hoyland – Installation of a single domestic micro-generation wind turbine – Lower Balwest Farm, Lower Balwest. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return the application marked *Germoe Parish Councillor have no comment to make on this application.*

PA09/00485/F Mr & Mrs Fulford – Erection of a dwelling, formation of a vehicular access and installation of a sewage treatment plant – The Spinney, Germoe. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return the application marked *Germoe Parish Councillors have no further comments to make on this application. However they would draw the Planning Committee's attention to the comments made on PA09/00185/F.*

PA09/00579/TCA Mr P Hollis – Felling of one Sycamore tree – The Old Pottery, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return the application marked *Germoe Parish Councillors express their regret at the loss of this tree, but, due to the circumstances of the application, have no further comments.*

### **Decisions**

PA08/02010/F Mr & Mrs H Thomas – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of an extension to existing agricultural building for storage of implements and farm machinery) – Sunset Farm, Bal Lane – *noted*

PA09/00184/F Mrs L Bhattacharya – Conditional Permission for Development (retention and completion of pitched roof over existing flat roof of dwelling) – Neath House, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

PA09/00185/F Mr & Mrs Fulford – Notice of Refusal of Permission for Development (erection of a dwelling) – The Spinney, Germoe – *noted*

PA09/00193/CAC Mr & Mrs Fulford – Conservation Area Consent under Section 74 (demolition of a wall) – The Spinney, Germoe – *noted*

## **Correspondence**

**KDC PA08/01753/F** erection of a storage shed, field at Balwest: application withdrawn – *noted*  
**CC Planning and Regeneration Service** proposals following Steering Group meeting – *noted*

## **9 POLICE REPORT**

Through the Clerk, PC Dave Vaughan presented his apologies for his absence. There was a single crime reported to the police for the month of April (a theft from a shed in Germoe) and, for comparison, a single crime reported in the same period last year. PCSO Ceri Sadler completes her training next week and will then start work immediately. The Police Community van will be parked outside the Church at lunchtime on Wednesday May 20 and any concerns Parishioners may have may be reported then.

## **10 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs Clarke said that, for personal reasons, she would not be standing for election as the Vice-Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the coming year. The Chairman, Cllr Ross, thanked her for what she has done as the Vice-Chairman and added that all Councillors would fully understand her decision.

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Geake be elected to be Vice-Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2009 – 2010.

## **11 STANDING ORDERS**

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

## **12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Geake 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 and Mr J.P.Richards (formerly Kerrier District Council's Senior Auditor) should continue to act as Germoe Parish Council's internal auditors.

### **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

### **Footpaths and bridleways**

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Clarke 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 FOOTPATHS, SIGNPOSTS AND OPEN SPACES**

### **Welcoming stones**

Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed and it was agreed to site the four welcoming stones at Germoe Crossroads, at the southern end of the lane leading up to Tregonning Hill House (with thanks to Mr and Mrs Liddicoat for their agreement to this proposal), at Great Work (on the island) and on the junction of the A394 and the road leading to Wheal Grey and Tresowes.

It was noted that a replacement for the triangular boundary stone at Greenberry Downs has also been commissioned: this will read Breage, St Hillary and Germoe on the appropriate face.

It was resolved to seek funding for a replacement noticeboard at Newtown which will include an interpretation panel describing Greenberry Downs.

## 16 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that Mrs Tanis Board had offered her thanks to Germoe Parish Councillors for their (very successful) efforts in re-opening the old track which runs along the southern boundary of Greenberry Downs.

**Information Commissioner** Freedom of Information dvd – *noted*

**Cornwall Hospice Care** Make a Will poster – *noted*

**Boundary Committee** notification that the final recommendations will be published by the end of September – *noted*

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** Public Sector Equality Duties – *noted*

**CC** Notice of election – European and Unitary – *noted*

**Mr Mackenzie** concerns about the website – *it was noted that this matter had been discussed under agenda item 7. It was resolved to remove all e-mail addresses, other than the Clerk's, from the site and to add links to Cornwall Council and the school. It was further resolved to publish the accounts for the year to March 31, 2009 on the website.*

**Digital UK** help with switching – *noted*

**Clerks and Councils Direct** newsletter – *noted*

**CC** Guide to Cornwall Council services – *noted*

## 17 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

Officials indemnity               £250,000

Libel and slander                   £250,000

With an excess of £125.00 property damage covers

War Memorial                      £ 4,924.93

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

It was further noted that Germoe Parish Council's present insurance covers the following mandatory items

Public liability                     £ 5,000,000

Employers Liability               £10,000,000

Money                               £ 250,000

Fidelity guarantee               £ 2,000

Legal expenses                   £ 50,000

The Clerk presented an invitation to renew from Allianz Cornhill in the sum of £350.18 and a quote for what he considered to be superior cover from Norwich Union in the sum of £270.35

The quote from Norwich Union offers increased cover as follows

Public liability                     £10,000,000

Fidelity guarantee               £ 100,000

Personal accident               £ 50,000

Additionally, when on Parish Council business, all volunteers are automatically covered. The single disadvantage is that the excess for property damage under this policy is £250.00

Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded all in favour to accept the quotation from the Norwich Union as arranged by Came and Company.

## 18 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. In view of the passage of time, it was resolved that this decision should no longer be binding on Germoe Parish Council. However it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council would consider any future request for funding from the Praa Sands & District Community Centre.

The Clerk reported a request from Home-Start Kernow for help with funding. It was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should not accede to this request.

The Clerk reported that Peter Richards, Germoe Parish Council's Internal Auditor, had signed off the Annual Return for the year to March 31, 2009

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
J.P.Richards Esq. (Internal Auditor)	£ 118.75	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (April)	£ 200.58	
mileage	£ 43.86	
administration	£ 23.50	
telephone	£ 8.60	
use of home	£ 20.00	
VAT	£ 0.90	
total	£ 297.44	

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

The following receipts were noted

Cornwall Council (precept 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment)	£ 3,750.00
HM Revenue and Customs (VAT refund)	£ 334.65

#### **19 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no members' questions.

#### **20 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman made no comments at this stage.

#### **21 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday June 4, 2009 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....