

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday August 6, 2009 at 7:00pm in The Church Hall, Germoe.

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

Visitors: CCllr Keeling, PC Vaughan, Mr Arafn, Mr and Mrs Barnett, Mr Collins, Mr and Mrs Davies, Mrs Dooser, Mr and Mrs Earle, Mr and Mrs Elmer, Mrs Vaughan.

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence. The Chairman stated that he has received a letter of resignation from the Council from Cllr Felstead.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the agenda

Cllr Mrs Clarke, Cllr Geake and Cllr Ross declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8 Planning application number PA09/00949/F

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 Taylor proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, Cllr Mrs Clarke (being absent from the last meeting) abstained all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday July 2, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Taylor reported that he had met with Mr and Mrs Liddicoat and that they had expressed concerns about the use of their land around and about the notice-board opposite Nevada House. In particular, they would like the dog bin to be moved further up the lane and nearer the gate. They will move their stone to a similar position. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for discussion at the meeting in September.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In relation to planning application PA09/00949/F members of the public observed that

- a number of letters of objection from residents of Germoe Churchtown have been forwarded to the Planning Authority
- there are so many errors and omissions in the application document that it is impossible to make an informed judgement on the merits of the proposal
- contrary to what is stated in the application, there is no mains drainage in Germoe Churchtown
- although the application is for the construction of a dwelling in the applicant's garden, the applicant has never used the site as his garden
- work, which will need to be done on the boundary/party wall, is not mentioned in the application
- despite what is stated in the application, issues relating to safety and particularly access to and from the highway are real and of concern
- permission to demolish the existing ruin should be sought

- the application makes no mention of the existing trees which form a screen between the site and neighbouring properties.

The applicant's agent confirmed that he had made an error in stating that Germoe Churchtown enjoys the advantage of mains drainage. He added that certain revisions have been made to the original plans, namely

- the access from the highway has been altered
- the trees are now shown on the plan and it is not intended to fell them

and that these revisions have been lodged with the Planning Authority but, in answer to a question, he allowed that the existing application has not been withdrawn.

The Clerk advised that the application as it stood should be the subject of the Parish Council's observations.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCLr Keeling reported that

- July has been an interesting and busy month for the 123 newly elected Cornwall Councillors
- he had attended a planning procedural seminar where the emphasis had been on lessons learned from experience and the need for a resolution of existing problems
- the seven Cornwall Councillors attached to the Helston and the Lizard Community Network Panel met recently to discuss opportunities for the community to become part of the decision-making process
- there is an urgent need for Cornwall Council to address the problem of waste
- he toured Cornwall on a Fire and Safety induction course which underlined the diverse rôle of fire-fighters. He believes there is merit in holding a Community Safety Awareness Day in the Ward
- he intends to hold surgeries throughout the Ward and warned those present to watch out for the posters
- he plans to tour the Ward with Divisional Engineer, Andy James, in order to draw his attention to some of the dangerous and poorly maintained stretches of the highway within the Ward. Further to this matter, he suggested that a surcharge or levy on landowners may be a way forward to tackle perennial concerns about poorly maintained hedgerows adjacent to the highway
- he will seek further information relating to the loss of the Small Schools Protection Grant on village schools (and Germoe School is one of those affected) within the Ward
- Community Payback is a scheme which enables low category offenders to work within the community to make amends for their misdeeds and he commended it to the Council
- there is a determination within Cornwall Council to improve its performance markedly. At the last inspection in November 2008 this had been far from satisfactory
- the estimated savings resulting from the creation of the Unitary Authority are on the way to being achieved: the figure saved to date amounts to 62% of the target figure of £15.6 million.

7 POLICE REPORT

PC Vaughan stated that two crimes (the theft of a pedal cycle from a rear garden and harassment) were reported to the Police in July 2009 compared to no reports in July 2008. PC Vaughan again took the opportunity to remind everyone to secure all property, to post-code it and to keep it out of sight. It was noted that certain Police powers relating to on-street parking have been removed by statute.

8 PLANNING

Applications

PA09/00897/F Mr M Heath – Conversion of garage to form ancillary accommodation – Trehoward, Tresowes. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked "Germoe Parish Council supports this application subject to a legal agreement tying the use of the proposed ancillary accommodation to the occupation of Trehoward. Additionally, Parish Councillors have concerns about the consequent loss of on-site parking and requests that the Planning Authority requires a scheme designating an area within the curtilage of Trehoward for off-road parking should the Authority be minded to grant planning permission".

As Councillors who, up and until April 2007, had sat with the applicant and his wife on Germoe Parish Council, Cllr Mrs Clarke, Cllr Geake and Cllr Ross declared a personal interest in the following application. Cllr Ross declared a further personal interest in this application in that on occasions he employs the applicant to cut hedges. All three Councillors remained in the room and discussed and voted on the application.

PA09/00949/F Mr Johnson – Erection of a dwelling– Hawthorn Cottage, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked "Germoe Parish Council's comments are based upon the drawings as submitted. However, Councillors understand that revisions are proposed to these and would wish to comment on any revised drawings.

“In principal, Germoe Parish Council has no objections to the erection of a new residential unit on this site, although Councillors feel that an affordable housing unit would be preferable.

“With reference to this application, the Parish Council considers that the scheme as proposed represents too large a unit for this restricted site. Furthermore, it presents overlooking and privacy concerns for adjoining properties and has the potential for an adverse impact on existing trees growing on the site. Additionally, the proposed design is considered unsuitable for such a prominent location within the designated conservation area. For these reasons the Parish Council raises strong objections to this application and urges the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.”

Decisions

PA09/00441/F Conditional Permission for Development (use of land for the stationing of eight static caravans and construction of a sewage treatment plant) – Boscreege Caravan Park, Ashton – *noted*

PA09/00751/F Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a two-storey extension to rear of dwelling and erection of a domestic garage) – Gweal Brogue, Germoe – *noted*

Correspondence

CC application withdrawn (PA09/00828/F retention and completion of a pitched roof over existing flat roof of dwelling at Neath Hill Farm) – *noted*

CCTP Planning Training Monday 14 and Monday 28 September, The Guildhall, Helston – *Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Geake seconded, Cllr Martin abstaining, all others in favour that Cllr Martin should attend these training sessions and that Germoe Parish Council will cover the £25 cost.*

9 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

There were no questions or comments from members.

10 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this stage.

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Cornwall Council Town and Parish Council Newsletter (July) – *noted*

CC closure of the A394 for gully emptying – *noted*

Truro Cathedral United Nations Climate Change Conference (December 2009) – *noted*

Mr Davies concerns about the spread of Japanese knotweed in Germoe Churchtown – *noted*

Cornwall Council Town and Parish Council Newsletter (August) – *noted*

12 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider the adoption of a formal *Code of Practice for Complaints against the Council*.

To consider Mr and Mrs Liddicoat’s proposals for the future use by the Parish Council of their land.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday September 3, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....