

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday October 1, 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, Mr F.Davies and Mrs Doeser.

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PC Vaughan and PCSO Sadler.

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 PA09/00823/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 Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Geake seconded, all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendments, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday September 3, 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 which were not covered in this agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- knowing how concerned members are about overgrown hedgerows, he intends undertaking a tour with Tom Childs, CC's Maintenance Manager at the Water-Ma-Trout depot, to review the issue
- ditch clearing and verge trimming work along the A394 has recently been undertaken by CORMAC
- he has attended *Standards Board Committee* hearings both at County Hall and at St Austell. These are held in private because of the confidential nature of the business being transacted. He finds it encouraging that, nowadays, potential breaches of the councillors' code of conduct are dealt with so professionally and expedited as swiftly as possible
- he is chairman of the *Chairs and Vice-Chairs Management Committee* the aim of which is to monitor and manage the council's scrutiny function as well as providing effective challenge to cabinet members through formal questioning of cabinet agendas
- the *Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee* of which he is Chairman has looked at a framework to examine and scrutinise the budget setting process for 2010/2011 and beyond. It is also examining communications and the operation of the Concessionary Fares Scheme.
- there is a view that the new administration needs time to re-assess the more formal aspect of the Community Network panels. Despite this, some networks are holding informal meetings with communities and developing their own agendas and initiatives

- small schools are an area of concern and he will be asking the chairman of the *Children, Schools and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee* to consider raising the matter (it being one of public concern) later in the year
- a very successful Beachwatch event was held on September 19 at Sydney Cove. Local people, the National Seal Sanctuary, pupils from the Bolitho School and parish councillors got together to give the beach a good clean
- he is holding a councillor surgery drop-in on Saturday at Carleen Village Hall with more surgeries to be held at various venues in the ward in November.

7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Vaughan reported that two crimes had been reported to the Police in September 2009 compared to a single crime reported in September 2008. It was noted that the Carleen & District Neighbourhood Watch is hosting a PACT meeting in the village hall on October 3 and that the police will be present.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Parish Noticeboards

Members considered the state of repair of the parish noticeboards. Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all in favour to ask Bob Sanders to quote for the repair and refurbishment of the noticeboards owned by the Germoe Parish Council with the exception of those sited at Newtown and at Greatwork. Members agreed that the board at Newtown is too small to publish matters of interest to parishioners and the Clerk was asked to seek quotations for the supply of a new, larger board. The Clerk was also asked to seek out possible sources of grant-funding to finance the purchase of a new board.

Members noted that garden waste is being tipped on open land along Higher Lane. CCllr Keeling agreed to bring the matter to the attention of Cornwall Council and to arrange for signs detailing the penalties for fly-tipping to be sited at this point.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that because of the sensitive nature of this item members of the public should be required to withdraw from the meeting.

Following the resignation of Cllr Felstead and Cllr Mrs MacKenzie members considered the co-option of two Parish Councillors. It was noted that advertisements inviting suitably qualified persons to apply for co-option had been on the noticeboards for three weeks and that two applications (from Mr Davies and from Mrs Doeser) had been received. Following discussion, Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Geake seconded all in favour to co-opt Mr Davies as a Germoe Parish Councillor and Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all in favour to co-opt Mrs Doeser as a Germoe Parish Councillor.

Members of the public were invited to return to the meeting.

The Chairman announced the result of the voting and thanked Mr Davies and Mrs Doeser for their applications.

Cllr Mrs Doeser read aloud and signed her individual declaration of acceptance of office before Mr Chapman, Clerk to Germoe Parish Council, the Proper Officer. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Doeser as a member of Germoe Parish Council.

Cllr Davies read aloud and signed his individual declaration of acceptance of office before Mr Chapman, Clerk to Germoe Parish Council, the Proper Officer. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Davies as a member of Germoe Parish Council.

10 PLANNING

Applications

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.

As an immediate neighbour of the applicants, Cllr Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application and left the room.

PA09/00823/F Mr & Mrs R.Johnson – Retention of mobile home for use as temporary accommodation whilst building – The Caravan, Bargess, Lower Balwest. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Martin seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked “It is Germoe Parish Council’s belief that the permitted works at Church Cottage have been completed and indeed that Church Cottage is currently rented out as residential accommodation. Germoe Parish Council therefore believes there is no justification for the retention of the caravan and accordingly raises strong objections to the application. Additionally, Germoe Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to take steps to secure the removal of this residential caravan from the open countryside.”

Cllr Davies returned to the room.

PA09/01178/F Mr & Mrs R & C Salter – Conversion of barns to form a single dwelling – Morvagh, Balwest. Cllr Martin proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked “Notwithstanding the supporting information submitted to justify this application, it represents the introduction of a new residential unit in the countryside (contrary to approved policies) and accordingly Germoe Parish Council objects to the proposal. Germoe Parish Council has further concerns about the proposed introduction of new windows which overlook adjoining residential property and which would be prejudicial to the reasonable enjoyment of that property.”

PA09/01193/F Mr S Neal – Erection of extensions, raising of roof to form first floor level and erection of detached domestic garage – Trebarwith, Tresowes Green. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, Cllr Davies abstained, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors should return this application marked “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.”

Decisions

PA09/00897/F Conditional Permission for Development (conversion of garage to form ancillary accommodation) – Trehoward, Tresowes – *noted*

Correspondence

CC acknowledgement of letter re Tredrea – *noted*

Mr and Mrs Bax copy of letter to Cornwall Council concerning PA09/ 01193/F – *noted*

11 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members.

12 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman stated that, for personal reasons, he has resigned his position both as a Governor of Germoe School and as a board member of Community Wheels. It was noted that Mrs Hobday, the Head Teacher at Germoe School, is keen to maintain links with the community and might welcome an application from an individual Parish Councillor to join the Board of Governors.

The Chairman showed members the framed certificate which the village of Germoe was recently awarded in the Cornwall Best Kept Village Competition 2009 sponsored by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (Cornwall Branch). It was agreed that this award should be the subject of a press release.

13 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Carleen Community Church Care Centre acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

St Ives Constituency Conservative Association copy of submission to the Boundary Committee – *noted*

CC review of Designated Public Places Orders 2009 / 2010 (consumption of alcohol in public places) invitation to submit areas for inclusion – *noted*

University of Plymouth newsletter, thanks for participation in survey and drawing attention to results published on www.sustainableparish.com – *noted*

BT invitation to purchase the telephone kiosk at Trewithen Terrace for £1 (the telephone equipment will be removed) – *the Clerk was asked to make further inquiries and to report back to the next meeting*

14 FINANCE

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 150.40	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (September)	£ 200.38	
telephone	£ 10.89	
office expenses	£ 23.33	
travelling	£ 8.60	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 263.20

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

Members noted the following receipt

Cornwall Council (precept final instalment)	£ 3,750.00
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15 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

The repair and refurbishment of the parish noticeboards.

The replacement of the noticeboard at Newtown.

A decision whether or not to proceed with a review of Parish Plans (to be taken in January 2010 affording members time to familiarise themselves with the Parish Plan published in April 2004).

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday November 5, 2009 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....