

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday April 1, 2010 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

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

Visitors: CCllr Keeling, PCSO Sadler, Mr and Mrs Barnett, Mr Johnson, and Mrs Vaughan.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the April meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Ross declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 Planning – PA10/00096/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 Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded (Cllr Ross being absent from the last meeting abstained) all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday March 4, 2010 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 which were not covered on the agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Johnson asserted that the minutes of the last meeting had inaccurately recorded what he had said. He maintained that he had not undertaken to replace the fig tree which had been felled.

Mr Johnson stated that he had spoken to Mr Andy James (Cornwall Highways Regional Engineer West) about the newly painted white lines in Germoe Churchtown. Mr James had told Mr Johnson that only the lines at the junction immediately opposite the entrance to the Church had been painted with his authority, but that nevertheless, those near Hawthorn Cottage are probably necessary. The others, near Dolphin Lodge, will be removed if Mr James receives further letters of complaint.

Mrs Vaughan stated that, contrary to public perception, recent studies have suggested that white lines do not increase driver safety.

Mr Barnett stated that it was his understanding that, at the last meeting, the Parish Council had undertaken to seek the removal of the white lines.

On behalf of parishioners, CCllr Keeling undertook to ask Mr James to have the white lines near Dolphin Lodge removed.

Speaking as a member of the public, Cllr Davies raised issues relating to parking at road junctions which, he noted, is contrary to the Highway Code.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- he had attended a number of meetings during March. These had included a meeting at which the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers had been the main topic of discussion, a Standards Board Committee Meeting, a Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting, a Planning Meeting in Penzance and a meeting of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs
- he had visited the Devon and Cornwall Police Headquarters at Middlemoor in Exeter, where he had questioned the authority about apparent inequalities relating to funding the work of policing in Devon compared to Cornwall. He had also taken the opportunity to seek greater involvement at local level from the police, particularly through the Community Networks
- for a trial period of six months, Cornwall Council will broadcast some of its meetings on the web.

7 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sadler reported that five crimes (four of criminal damage and one of assault) had been reported to the Police in March 2010, which compares to two crimes reported in March 2009.

Speaking of the incidents of criminal damage along Tresowes Hill, Cllr Mrs Clarke again publically thanked the police for their prompt and effective response.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Resignation from the Council

Members noted the resignation for personal reasons of Cllr Martin from Germoe Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to set in train the process for the election of a replacement member.

Parish Design Statement

It was agreed that a further informal meeting is necessary and the Chairman undertook to contact members within the week with a date, place and time for such a meeting.

A bus shelter at Greatwork

Members considered a request for the provision of a bus shelter at Greatwork. It was agreed that further enquiries should be made, specifically to establish whether or not there is a real need for a bus shelter at this location. CCllr Keeling undertook to contact the member of the public who had raised the issue to see if he would make the necessary enquiries.

9 PLANNING

Applications

As a neighbour of the applicant, Cllr Ross declared a personal interest in the following application. He relinquished the chair, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or the voting.

Cllr Geake assumed the chair

PA10/00096/F Mrs S Dyer – Dormer extension to dwelling – The Bungalow, Balwest. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Davies seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked with the following observation “Germoe Parish Councillors believe that the potential for overlooking the neighbouring property from the proposed dormer windows is exacerbated by the lie of the land. They also believe that the proposed dormer windows are an inappropriate addition to the building because they are too large and out of keeping with it. For these reasons they ask the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.”

Cllr Geake relinquished the chair. Cllr Ross re-assumed the chair.

Decisions

PA09/01178/F Notice of Conditional Permission for Development (conversion of barns to form a single dwelling) – Morvagh, Balwest – *noted*

PA09/01449/F Notice of Conditional Permission for Development (erection of extensions to dwelling) – Trebarwith, Tresowes – *noted*

Correspondence

CC Notice of Informal Appeal Hearing against the enforcement notice served on the use of land at Tresheba, Main Road – *CCllr Keeling reported that he had attended this hearing and had done his best to represent the views both of the parish and of local residents concerning the breach of planning control. The Planning Inspector has yet to make a decision.*

CC notification of a planning enforcement complaint concerning the erection of a shed at The Bungalow, Balwest – *noted*

CC notification that the erection of a shed at The Bungalow, Balwest is considered to be permitted development under Part 1, Class E of the 1995 GPDO even though it is within a World Heritage Site and Conservation Area – *noted*

Mr Coulthard further request for information concerning planning observations made by Germoe Parish Council in respect of the application for development at Comocean – *noted*

10 FINANCE

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded, all others in favour that, subject to audit by the Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Richards (former Senior Auditor with Kerrier District Council), Germoe Parish Council accepts the accounts for the year April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010. Members noted that the Audit Commission has chosen Germoe Parish Council's accounts for the year to March 31, 2010 for an intermediate audit and that accordingly they will be subjected to more intense scrutiny.

Parish Councillors considered the Statement of Assurance required for the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2010. Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Davies seconded, all others in favour that, with the exception of paragraph 7 (which is not applicable), Germoe Parish Council should answer "Yes" to each of the questions posed by the Statement of Assurance which forms part of the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2010.

Members considered a request from CAB Cornwall for help with funding their work of support. Following discussion, it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council is unable to accede to this request.

Members considered a request from Cruse Bereavement Care for help with funding their work of supporting bereaved families. Following discussion, it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council is unable to accede to this request.

Members considered a request from the Ashton Community Association for help with funding the costs of maintaining the play area. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded all others in agreement to forward a cheque in the sum of £100 under the terms of S19(3)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 152.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (March)	£ 202.50	
telephone	£ 10.40	
office expenses	£ 31.60	
travelling	£ 8.60	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 273.10

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

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that a hole, believed to be the result of a collapsed mine adit, had opened on Greenberry Downs necessitating the closure of the newly-opened path along the southern edge of the Downs. Although Cornwall appears to have taped off the area no further work has been done, nor has the Parish Council been informed of the action taken. CCllr Keeling undertook to look into the matter.

Correspondence

CC Town and Parish Council Newsletter – *noted*

Audit Commission confirmation of the appointment of Mr Wayne Rickard as the external auditor – *noted*

CC Minerals & Waste Planning Policy – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

CC Parliamentary Elections map showing new parliamentary constituencies – *noted*

CC Cornwall Countryside Access Forum – annual recruitment 2010 – *noted*

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Mrs Clarke reported that the upper stretch of Moors Lane is in a parlous state as a result of farming activities. Members were unsure whether or not the farmer has completed the work he is doing on the land, but nevertheless it was agreed to contact him informally about the state of the lane.

Cllr Mrs Clarke reported two dangerous potholes on the road near Helm's Deep and also the collapse of the metalled edge of the road between Greenbank Farm and Tresowes.

Noting that it represents a hazard to two wheeled vehicles in particular, Cllr Taylor drew members' attention to the grass growing in the centre of the road between Balwest and Germoe Churchtown and asked if Cornwall Highways might remove it. CCllr Keeling agreed to report these three matters to Cornwall Highways.

Cllr Taylor reminded members of the perennial problem relating to overgrown hedges along the lanes throughout the Parish. It was noted that Highways had previously indicated that partnership working with the Parish in the matter of cutting hedges and trimming verges was likely to be a non-starter. CCllr Keeling agreed to speak to Cornwall Highways about the matter.

Members noted an observation from a resident at Millpool that parishioners there would have liked to have a welcoming stone. A suggestion was made that the stone near Wheal Grey might be moved to Millpool. Members agreed to make the matter an agenda item at a future meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this stage of the meeting.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion in future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday May 6, 2010 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom

Annual Meeting – Thursday May 6, 2010 following the Annual Parish Meeting in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom

Signed.....

Dated.....