

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday May 5, 2011 following the Annual Parish Meeting in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Present: Cllr G Ross (Chairman) Cllr S Geake
Cllr D Blencowe Cllr J Taylor
Cllr Mrs E Clarke Mr C Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Keeling and PCSO Sadler

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Sid Geake be elected to the Chair of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2011 – 2012.

2 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Geake read aloud and signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2011 – 2012 in the presence of the Clerk and the Council.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Doeser.

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 Ross proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday April 7, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

6 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA

It was noted that a hedge has been planted at Tresheba, Main Road, but that a gap has been left to allow users of the footpath 17 to exercise their rights. It was further noted that the stile at the western end of this footpath would benefit from a post to help users up and over the hedge.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

8 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling thanked members for the warm welcome he invariably receives at meetings of Germoe Parish Council and reported that the last twelve months have been some of the toughest experienced by local government. During the year

- the cuts and changes to the way in which Local Authorities are funded had resulted in a drop in funding from Central Government of some £56 million
- he had been particularly disappointed by the loss of funding for the proposed new Isles of Scilly link and described it as a blow both for the people of the islands and for the future prosperity of Penzance
- the widely publicised Ofsted report describing children's services as 'Inadequate' is being addressed

- community engagement with the Council had been short-listed as being one of the most improved services in the country
- a Local Enterprise Partnership has been established
- Arts Council funding for Cornwall's cultural programme was increased by 17%
- the 'Smarties' awards scheme had been introduced: the first awards were made to members of staff and to Cormac (for their sterling efforts in dealing with the snow and ice during last winter)
- funding from the People's Millions Big Lottery Fund has enabled the *Furry Café* in Helston to open its doors to young people
- the South West Regional Development Agency will be replaced by Locality Teams by March 2012
- the end of the year leaves Cornwall Council in good shape financially. Providing efficiency savings are achieved, essential frontline services should be maintained.

More recently

- he had discussed a number of local issues (such as road signs, hedge trimming, road conditions including potholes and additional warning signs for dangerous corners) with the Cormac team
- this discussion had included a suggestion that a list of local landowners whose land fronts the highway might be drawn up, in order that Cornwall Highways may remind them of their responsibility for ensuring their hedgerows do not encroach upon the highway
- he is awaiting a list of prices for the work he has asked to be done. This work includes speed signs, a Vehicle Activated Sign and associated sockets sited around the area (these will enable the VAS to be moved around).

9 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sadler reported that there had been no crimes notified to the police in the month of April: three crimes had been reported in the same period last year.

PCSO Sadler warned members and residents alike that at this time of year there is an increase in thefts from gardens. She urged everyone to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious immediately.

The major restructure of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary means that, although PC Vaughan will remain the Neighbourhood Beat Manager, he may find it difficult to attend meetings. PCSO Sadler will maintain the vital link between the Parish Council and the Police

10 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Blencowe be elected to be Vice-Chairman of Germoe Parish Council for the year 2011 – 2012.

11 STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should re-adopt Standing Orders as last substantially revised in April 2006.

12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should re-adopt Financial Regulations as last substantially revised in April 2006.

13 ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO POSTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Bank signatories

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Clarke, Cllr Geake and Cllr Ross should continue to sign cheques on behalf of Germoe Parish Council.

Internal auditor and Scrutineer

It was agreed that Mr J.P.Richards (formerly Kerrier District Council's Senior Auditor) should continue to act as Germoe Parish Council's internal auditor and that Cllr Ross should scrutinise the accounts on a quarterly basis.

Notice-boards

It was agreed that the following Councillors would be responsible for the notice-boards

Balwest	Cllr Blencowe
Great Work	Cllr Ross
Nevada House	Cllr Mrs Clarke
Germoe	Cllr Taylor
Newtown	Cllr Geake
Tresowes Green	Cllr Mrs Doeser

Footpaths and bridleways

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Clarke and Cllr Mrs Doeser should be responsible for footpaths and bridleways.

Planning

It was agreed that Cllr Geake should, in the first instance, be responsible for planning observations.

Helston and the Lizard Peninsula Community Network Panel

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Doeser should continue to represent Germoe Parish Council at meetings of the Helston and the Lizard Peninsula Community Network Panel.

14 PARISH MATTERS

Members noted that seventy-six replies to Germoe Parish Council's Local Needs Affordable Housing Survey have been received. These demonstrate support for the building of scattered units of Local Needs Affordable homes within the Parish. The completed questionnaires will now be passed to Cornwall Council for detailed evaluation.

Cllr Keeling reported that two chevrons will be sited at the Boscreege junction to warn motorists coming from both directions of the bend in the road.

The Clerk reported that, despite application to the Land Registry, ownership of Moors Lane remains unclear.

15 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that he has received no expressions of interest in standing for co-option as a Parish Councillor.

16 PLANNING

Decisions

PA11/01601 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission (two storey extension to dwelling) – Rosemary Cottage, Germoe – *noted*

PA10/07785 Formal notification not to make a Tree Preservation Order following an application to fell one sycamore tree and re-pollard one sycamore tree at Braeside, Germoe – *noted*

17 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Western Power Distribution invitation to a workshop on future investment plans – *noted*

CALC invitation to re-join the Association (subscription £156.91 + VAT) – *it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should decline the invitation*

Mr Royds copy of a letter to South West Water concerning problems with mains water pressure – *noted*

National Trust copy of paragraph for the Parish Magazine concerning Julie Hanson's new position – *noted*

18 GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY

Members reviewed the terms of Germoe Parish Council's Insurance Policy which, with a policy excess of £250, insures

Mandatory cover

Public liability	£10,000,000
Employers Liability	£10,000,000
Money	£ 250,000
Fidelity guarantee	£ 100,000
Legal expenses	£ 50,000

Optional cover

Property damage (War Memorial)	£ 5,171.18
Officials' indemnity	£250,000.00
Libel and slander	£250,000.00

Also included in the cover at no extra charge on the premium are the following

Business all risks	£ 5,000.00
Money and Assault	£ 1,000.00

Additionally, when on Parish Council business, all volunteers are covered under this insurance.

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all in favour to insure Germoe Parish Council through Aviva and to pay the premium demanded of £264.54.

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all in favour that Germoe Parish Council should self-insure all assets other than the War Memorial for the year to June 1, 2012.

19 FINANCE

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Germoe Parish Council’s financial position as at May 5, 2011. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk reported that Mr Peter Richards, Germoe Parish Council’s Internal Auditor, has signed off the Annual Return for the year to March 31, 2011 making no comments, observations or suggestions.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
RTS (Garden Services) Ltd		
Open areas	£ 45.00	
Gold paths	£ 295.26	
	£ 408.31	£ 68.05
J.P.Richards (Internal Auditor)		
GLS (storage of salt)	£ 122.50	
	£ 50.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (April)	£ 202.50	
mileage	£ 8.60	
administration	£ 33.12	
telephone	£ 12.59	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 281.81

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

The following receipt was noted

HM Revenue & Customs (VAT repayment)	£ 287.47
Mrs A.Dawson (walks booklet)	£ 5.00

20 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

Cllr Blencowe presented a report from Mr Berwick drawing members’ attention to an outbreak of phytophthora on Rhododendron ponticum and bilberry populations on Tregonning Hill. Following advice from Cornwall Council and the Food Environment Research Agency, Mr Berwick has cut down and treated the affected plants which are growing on his land. It was agreed to thank Mr Berwick for undertaking this work and to write to FERA expressing Germoe Parish Council’s disappointment at the lack of information concerning the project work being undertaken on Tregonning Hill. Cllr Blencowe agreed to monitor the situation on behalf of Germoe Parish Council.

21 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Other than to state that he hoped he would become as good a Chairman as Cllr Ross had been, the Chairman made no comment.

21 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday June 2, 2011 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....