

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday June 2, 2011 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

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

**Visitors:** Mrs Ann Payne (FERA), CCllr Keeling, PC Vaughan, Mrs Geake, Mr Rowe and Mr Royds.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the June meeting and in particular the Phytophthora officer, Mrs Ann Payne, from the Food and Environment Agency who had been invited to address members as the result of a confirmed outbreak of Phytophthora on Tregonning Hill. He invited her to speak to those present.

Mrs Payne thanked the Chairman for his introduction. In a very scholarly fashion she described the spread of both Phytophthora ramorum (Pr) and Phytophthora kernovia (Pk) and the steps the Food and Environment Agency (FERA) is taking to contain it. Both Pr and Pk are commonly known as Sudden Oak Death. It is a notifiable pathogen and statutory action is being taken to prevent its introduction and spread. However, the landowner is responsible for managing the disease.

Throughout the country, there are 80 areas where Pr has been identified, 16 areas where Pk has been identified and 48 areas where both have been identified. On the plus side, there are 18 areas where the disease has been eradicated, though these sites are still being monitored.

Both Pr and Pk attack shrubs such as rhododendron, viburnum and camellia and trees such as magnolia, beech and horse chestnut, though the list is growing. The disease has been identified in gardens, parks, woodlands and open heathland (such as Tregonning Hill) where it has attacked bilberry. It is a devastating disease and can kill mature trees within three years of first infection. In mono-culture forest, larch trees in particular have proved susceptible to attack and great swathes have been felled in recent years in an attempt to halt its spread.

There is no known cure. Fungicides simply mask the disease. The most effective action is the removal and destruction of the host plant. In Cornwall, traditional practices such as grazing and burning (because both destroy the leaf where the spores are produced) may help to keep the disease in check. However, members of the public are urged to pay attention to site notices, to clean their footwear after visiting infected areas and not to take cuttings. Both Pr and Pk have the potential to cause significant damage to our environment.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Mrs Payne for coming to speak at the meeting.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

### 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.

*Chairman's initials.....*

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Ross seconded, (Cllr Mrs Doeser being absent from the Annual Parish Meeting abstained) all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 5, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as being accurate.

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded (Cllr Mrs Doeser being absent from the Annual Meeting abstained) all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday May 5, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA**

Cllr Geake reported that he had attended the Planning Committee meeting at which PA11/01284 the construction of an agricultural storage barn at Tresheba, Main Road had been an agenda item. In the event, a decision on the application had been deferred.

### **4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Rowe outlined the details of and the circumstances behind his application for the construction of an agricultural building and whole grain clamps at Tresowes Farm and asked for the Parish Council's support.

### **6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS**

CCllr Keeling reported that

- the recent report in a national newspaper to the effect that both Cornwall Councillors and their Officers have been profligate in the use of credit cards is misleading in the extreme
- Cornwall Council does not make use of credit cards, although Payment Cards (as approved by Whitehall) are used by Senior Officers
- rather than having to submit an invoice, many companies prefer payment to be made in this way
- Cornwall Councillors do not have the use of Payment Cards
- much of the reported spending has been done by Cornwall Council on behalf of organisations such as schools, who will repay the money in full
- other amounts have been misquoted: for example, hotel costs in India for an educational exchange were quoted as £114,142 when the true price was Indian rupees 114,142 which equates to about £1,600
- a review of the way in which the matter was reported to the press has been commissioned and a report will be made to Cornwall Councillors on July 21
- Eric Pickles MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has said that expenditure of £500 and above by local authorities must be made public
- he is aware that the chevrons have not, as yet, been put into position at the Boscreege bend. He will follow the matter through
- he had recently chaired a hearing of the Standards Committee at which two cases were considered. The details of these cases had left him with the firm belief that something must replace the soon-to-be-abolished Standards Board for England
- he had attended the meeting of the Planning Committee to which the Chairman had made reference. He drew Councillors' attention to S56 of the ODPM Circular 01/2006 *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites* which refers to mixed use on rural exception sites.

### **7 POLICE REPORT**

PC Vaughan reported that a single crime (the theft of an insecure copper tank) had been reported to the Police in May 2011, which compares favourably to the three crimes that were reported in the same period last year.

### **8 PARISH MATTERS**

#### **Local Needs Housing Survey**

The Clerk reported that he had handed the completed questionnaires to the Affordable Housing Department at Cornwall Council and was awaiting officers' conclusions.

#### **Footpath 26**

Cllr Mrs Clarke asked if there had been any information forthcoming from Cornwall Council concerning the proposal for a Modification Order to be made on Footpath 26. The Clerk stated that he had had no reply to an e-mail sent to the Countryside department.

### **9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

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

*Chairman's initials.....*

**10 PLANNING**

**Applications**

PA11/03409 M & J Rowe – Construction of agricultural building and whole grain clamps – Tresowes Farm, Ashton. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked “Subject to satisfactory planting to screen the development on the northern side so as to minimise the visual impact from Tregonning Hill, Germoe Parish Council supports this application.”

**Correspondence**

CC Amended public speaking procedure at Planning Committee meetings – *noted*

**11 FINANCE**

The following account was presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Colin Chapman		
Salary (May)	£ 202.50	
telephone	£ 17.20	
office expenses	£ 39.60	
travelling	£ 30.53	
Land Registry	£ 14.95	
Return postage (76 x 24p)	£ 18.24	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 343.20

Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, all others in favour that the above account should be paid.

**12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence**

**Clerks and Councils Direct** Newsletter – *noted*

**Cornwall Council** Complimentary tickets for Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition at the Gaia Centre, Delabole on July 29, 2011 – *noted*

**Came and Company** receipt of cheque for insurance cover commencing June 1 – *noted*

**FERA** invitation to a meeting with Ann Payne to discuss the current situation concerning the impact of *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* in Cornwall and the west of the county – *noted*

**13 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

Cllr Ross reported that an explanation concerning the prolonged closure of the Church Hall had been published in *The Messenger*. Both the floor and the ceiling are in need of urgent and expensive restoration.

Cllr Taylor reported that he had spoken to the owner of Great Work Farm and that he is unwilling to have the Parish notice-board affixed to his home. Councillors noted that the notice-board can be put on legs and moved onto the verge to a point where it will be protected by the existing historic milk-stand (although that is currently in a state of disrepair). Cllr Taylor undertook to speak again to the owner of Great Work Farm with a view both to repairing the milk stand and siting the notice-board on the adjoining verge.

**14 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

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

**15 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

To consider re-siting the parish notice-board and the repair of the historic milk-stand at Great Work Farm.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday July 14, 2011 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman’s initials.....*