

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday September 1, 2011 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

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

Visitors: CCllr Keeling and Mr Royds.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the September meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J.Taylor sent his 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.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday July 14, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Ross reported that he had not, as yet, collected the parish notice-board from Mr Tom Salkeld of Bear Joinery, but added that he would do so before the next meeting. He also agreed to visit the telephone box at Trewithen Terrace with a view to adding a notice-board.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from members of the public.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- the issue of Concessionary Travel and cuts in funding for public transport had arisen during August and an inquiry held to inform councillors as to why the situation had occurred half-way through the financial year
- he had been very disappointed by Cornwall's presentation to Breage Parish Council on the general theme of devolving powers and duties to Parish Councils. He felt the arrangements proposed had been devoid of proper financial provision under usual active partnering schemes
- it is his view that Cornwall Council's decision to require a zoo licence for a Tortoise Sanctuary near St Austell is extreme
- the great raft race at Praa Sands was spectacular and hosted more people than he had seen for many years
- he now has it confirmed that chevrons at Boscreage Corner, on the road from Ashton to Godolphin, will be installed and positioned to help prevent future accidents
- the Council will debate a proposal that Cornwall should have an annual holiday to celebrate St Piran's Day
- he will again be asking the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to remove the 10% discount on rates levied on second homes.

7 POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police.

Chairman's initials.....

8 PARISH MATTERS

Local Needs Housing Survey

The Clerk reported that Breage Parish Council had declined Germoe's proposal for the two parishes to co-operate in the provision of affordable housing: a suggestion which had originally been made by Mr Jody Jeffrey of Cornwall Council's Affordable Housing Team. The Chairman voiced the disappointment felt by all members that Breage Parish Council had rejected this proposal. Discussion followed concerning the absence from the parish of land-owners willing to offer small parcels of land for affordable housing. The generally held view was that it is up to individual land-owners to offer sites: it is not the Parish Council's job either to encourage or seek out such offers. In the circumstances it was agreed that, at present, Germoe Parish Council has gone as far as it is able with this project.

The historic milk-stand at Great Work Farm

In the absence of Cllr Taylor, members agreed that this matter could not be taken further.

The memorial seat on the triangle at Balwest

The Clerk stated that Mr Sam Nicholls had reported that the memorial seat on the triangle at Balwest is certainly in need of repair and may be due for replacement. He reminded members that he had purchased a teak seat inscribed with the words *Germoe Parish Council* following a misunderstanding between the Council and the supplier some years ago and that he would be happy to sell this to the Parish for the same sum as he had paid, £180. Following discussion, Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded and it was agreed to purchase this seat from the Clerk for £180. Following further discussion, Cllr Ross proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded that the Clerk should instruct Bob Sanders to collect the bench, install it (complete with the commemorative plaque) and remove the old bench.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Members considered the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. A number of ways of marking this occasion were voiced and giving a commemorative mug or Cornish tin medallion to each of the children living in the Parish was deemed to be most appropriate. To this end it was agreed to publicise the Council's intention and to invite parents to contact the Clerk so that an indication of the numbers involved might be obtained. The Chairman agreed to obtain a price for Cornish tin medallions and Clerk was asked to obtain prices for commemorative mugs.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Co-option of a Councillor

The Clerk reported that he had received an expression of interest in standing for co-option as a Parish Councillor from Mr Bob Royds. He read aloud a letter of introduction from Mr Royds.

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 discussion, Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded all others in agreement that Mr Royds should be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

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

The Chairman announced the result of the vote.

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

Code of Conduct

In view of the proposed changes emanating from the Localism Bill, Members considered whether or not there will be a future need for a written Code of Conduct for Germoe Parish Council. It was agreed that when the Localism Bill comes into law, Germoe Parish Council will adopt the existing written Code of Conduct for Councillors. Members recognised the shortcomings attached to this decision.

Planning policy/guidance

Members considered a resolution drawn up by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council in Suffolk which calls upon the Government to create new planning policy/guidance in respect of applications that will have a significant effect on an area. Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposal is unrealistic not least because Town and Parish Councils do not act as the planning authority. Members also recognised that the proposal is unlikely to be applicable to the Parish of Germoe. It was agreed that Germoe Parish Council would not support the proposal.

10 PLANNING

Applications

As the applicant, Cllr Royds declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application and left the room.

PA11/06012 Mr R.Royds – Extension to dwelling – Tredrea, Balwest. Members noted that this application (which had been received during the summer break) had, following an exchange of e-mails between Councillors, been

Chairman's initials.....

returned by The Clerk stating that he had taken informal soundings and that it would be likely that Germoe Parish Council would have no observations to make. However, he had added that the application will be on the agenda for the September meeting, when it will be discussed in public and that if there are any other comments or views expressed then, these will be sent immediately to Cornwall. Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should make no further comments.

Cllr Royds returned to the room

PA11/06138 Mr R.Dale – Demolition of existing garage/shed and construction of shed – Tolvan, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked “No observations.”

Correspondence

Mr F.Davies copy of letter to the Local Planning Authority concerning the stone facing being applied to the dwelling currently being erected within the Germoe Churchtown Conservation Area – *noted*

CC Revision of the Local Validation List – *Cllr Mrs Doeser agreed to read through this document and to report back to members at the meeting in October*

11 FINANCE

Members noted the conclusion of the audit for the year to March 31, 2011.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
RTS Garden Services	£ 462.31	£ 77.05
Audit Commission	£ 144.00	£ 24.00
Colin Chapman		
Salary (July)	£ 202.50	
Salary (August)	£ 202.50	
telephone	£ 24.09	
office expenses	£ 25.18	
travelling	£ 8.60	
use of home (two months)	£ 40.00	
	total	£ 502.87

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

12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

FERA Phytophthora Project report on composting infected *Vaccinium myrtillus* – *noted. Members agreed that copies of the notice which FERA has erected on the Hill should be displayed on the nearby notice-boards*

Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom (opportunities for volunteers) – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter – *noted*

13 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

The following matters were noted

- Cllr Blencowe will attend the Local Planning Forum on October 3
- a Community Network meeting is scheduled for September 13 but, as yet, there is no agenda
- concerns had been voiced locally about a notice prohibiting vehicles on Tregonning Hill. The Clerk stated that, as access is via a bridleway, there is no right of way for vehicles on the hill
- a surveyor has examined the Church Hall and a meeting will shortly be called.

14 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no comments at this point.

15 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion at future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday October 6, 2011 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman’s initials.....