

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday February 7, 2013 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Present: Cllr S.Geake Cllr Mrs E.Clarke
Cllr Mrs K.Dooser Cllr R.Royds
Cllr D.Blencowe Cllr J.Taylor
Cllr G.Ross Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Keeling, Mr Curnow.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the February meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC Wearne and PCSO Berry sent their 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 Mrs Dooser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, Cllr Mrs Clarke being absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday January 3, 2013 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Ross reported that the plans for the refurbishment of the Church Hall (which Germoe Parish Council had considered and, having considered them, had sought refusal) at the meeting in January had proved to be the wrong set of plans. Members noted that new plans will be presented in the near future.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Curnow stated that he was present primarily to listen to the discussion about the correction of omissions of lengths of Rights of Way from the Definitive Map. He explained that Rejarden had been in the ownership of his family for many years, that a Right of Way through the farmyard had never existed and that the family would contest any proposal to create one. The Chairman explained that the Council was looking at omissions from the Definitive Map in the light of the forthcoming cut-off date for additions. It is not this Council's intention to attempt to force through any Modifications to the Definitive Map.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- the Scrutiny Committee has examined the proposals for the 2013/2014 budget which will be presented to the full Council in the final week of February. The proposal is for a 1.9% increase in Council Tax which equates to a rise of 47p per week for Band D ratepayers
- Central Government has devolved the responsibility for administering Council Tax benefit to Local Authorities. At the same time it has reduced the grant it pays for this purpose. Consequently, Cornwall Council has decided that all households of working age will pay at least 25% of the Council Tax
- an interim Chief Executive will be appointed internally: the new Council will decide upon a final appointment – if it is felt to be necessary

Chairman's initials.....

- the previously agreed allowances payable to Cornwall Councillors will be reviewed next week
- there are concerns about the sale of the running track at Carn Brea the proceeds of which will be used to underwrite a replacement leisure centre
- there have been thirty-five land-slips on the coastal path in Cornwall: walkers using this route are advised to take great care
- there are problems with roads everywhere, not simply in Cornwall. Despite what was said at the last meeting, it is his opinion that the roads in Germoe are no worse than elsewhere in the county
- he would be very sorry if the Adit was lost for want of repair and will do his best to encourage Cornwall Council to take what steps it can.

The Chairman asked CClr Keeling to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to Cormac for the prompt and efficient way in which it closed the entrance to the Adit following the collapse of the wall. He added that he hoped the barrier and sign would remain in place until repair work can be undertaken.

7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Wearne reported that in January no crimes were reported to the police. Similarly, no crimes were reported in the same period last year. Parishioners are asked to take steps to secure their property and to remain vigilant to any suspicious vehicles or activity within the area.

8 PARISH MATTERS

The Definitive Map

Speaking of the outstanding applications for modifications to the Definitive Map, Cllr Mrs Clarke stated that Mr Rowe had forwarded the necessary papers to continue footpath 13 through his fields to the road. This fact is recorded in the Parish Council minutes of May 2, 2002. Additionally, Cllr Taylor stated that he himself had delivered the Public Path Creation documents relating to footpath 14 to Cornwall County Council at about the same time. Members were of the opinion that it is unreasonable to expect the Parish Council to resubmit these documents. They also noted that, despite a gentle reminder, there has apparently been no action from Cornwall Council in relation to WCA 472 (received by Cornwall County Council on September 2, 2002) and WCA 532 (received by Cornwall County Council in May 2007). The Clerk was asked to write to Cornwall Council detailing the concerns expressed.

The Adit

Further to the collapse of the side wall of the adit just before Christmas, the Clerk reported that he had pursued the matter with Cornwall Council and that Jane Powning of the Historic Environment department had been particularly helpful. The Chairman stated that Cornwall Council does not own this structure and that a report on the water quality carried out by Kerrier District Council in 1994 was simply that. The belief that Kerrier District Council effected a repair on the structure in the 1990s appears to be misplaced. The structure was added to the Register of Listed Buildings in August 1987 by the Department of the Environment and, at the time of listing, the owner may have been identified. However, English Heritage reports that the original record has been destroyed. A possible way forward is for Cornwall Council (as the Planning Authority) to serve a notice under Section 48 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 setting out the repairs needed for the proper preservation of the structure and, if it is not repaired within two months, the Authority may then serve a compulsory purchase order under Section 47 and, if the order is confirmed by the Secretary of State, proceed to acquire the building in accordance with the Acquisition of Land Act. If Cornwall was to follow this route it could lawfully undertake the repair. Although it is clear that for over one hundred years (and particularly up to the advent of piped mains water in the Parish) Germoe Parish Council undertook repairs not simply on the adit but on all natural sources of water considered fit for human consumption, the Council could legitimately stand accused of acting *ultra vires* if it were to undertake structural repairs to the adit today. He suggested that Germoe should write to the Planning Authority with a request that it exercises its power to insist on repairs. Following further discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded all in favour to adopt the Chairman's proposed course of action.

9 PLANNING

Applications

PA13/00456 Mr R.Hollinrake & Mrs A.Varndall – Installation of French doors, balcony and rooflights – Bos Vernas, Helston Road. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Ross seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked "Germoe Parish Council makes no observations."

Decisions

PA12/08091 APPROVED (Construction of agricultural storage barn) – Tresheba, Main Road – *noted*

PA12/10416 REFUSED (Retention of an agricultural building) – Field at Balwest – *noted*

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10 FINANCE

Members considered a request from the Helston and the Lizard Community Halls Network for financial help with on-going costs Following discussion, it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council cannot accede to this request.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
The Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (January)	£ 202.50	
travelling	£ 8.60	
telephone	£ 11.92	
office expenses	£ 18.24	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 261.26

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

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

South West Water What’s in the Pipeline (vision for water and sewerage services) – *noted*

Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

Andrew George MP schedule of casework surgeries – *noted*

24 newsletter from the South Western Ambulance Service – *noted*

12 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

Cllr Mrs Doeser reported that she had attended a meeting of the Community Network at which ways in which the Network might be re-invigorated had been discussed. The consensus had been that meetings should revolve around a matter which concerned everyone and with this in mind the question of public transport in the area will be on the next agenda. The guest speaker, Mr Arthur Roberts, spoke about Emergency Planning and invited individual Parishes to prepare their own Community Emergency Plan. It was agreed to invite Mr Roberts to attend a future meeting of the Council.

The Chairman stated that he and Cllr Blencowe had attended an AONB workshop in Penzance.

13 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman stated that he had no further comments.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion on the agenda of a future meeting were tabled.

The following item being of a confidential nature, members of the public were required to leave the room.

15 To consider the remuneration of the Clerk

Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded, all others in favour that the Clerk’s salary should be increased by two incremental points to Spinal Column Point 17 and further to increase his car allowance to 50p per mile, both with effect from April 1, 2013.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday March 7, 2013 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman’s initials.....