

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday February 5, 2015 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

**Present:** Cllr S.Geake Cllr R.Royds  
Cllr Mrs K.Doeser Cllr A.Thomas  
Cllr D.Blencowe Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** CCllr Keeling, Mr Bell, Mr and Mrs Praed and Mrs Rutherford.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the February meeting.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Dear, Cllr Taylor and PCSO Whitford 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 Doeser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday January 8, 2015 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 which were not covered on the agenda.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillors noted the following matters relating to planning application PA14/12130

- similar applications have been refused on three occasions in the past
- development on the west side of the lane sets a precedent
- the scale of the proposed development is disproportionate to the size and height of existing nearby buildings
- the application is misleading: no reference is made to neighbouring historic buildings and neither the public footpath nor the adjacent barn is identified on the accompanying site plan
- the proposed access to the site is on a blind corner and will represent a hazard to other road users, in particular pedestrians and horse-riders
- the lane cannot be used by larger vehicles. Presently, when such vehicles reach the corner, they have no alternative other than to reverse back down into Churchtown
- the lane is too narrow to take more vehicular traffic
- the field is currently populated by a great deal of wild life, including barn owls and bats
- there is a lack of services in Germoe as noted in the *Five Parishes Plan*
- the application is in effect not for a change of use but for a new dwelling.

## 6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- he has attended a number of Council meetings, in particular a political group leaders' meeting which was called to reach a consensus on taking forward the "Case for Cornwall" (a considered attempt to shift power from central government to the local authority in order to benefit the people of Cornwall)

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- he is seeking a meeting of parish and town councils with the aim of exchanging views and identifying issues concerned with the creation of Neighbourhood Plans
- the Local Government Ombudsman has forwarded a booklet entitled “Not in my back yard: Local people and the planning process”. This covers the legal background, how the department remedies injustice and the role of local councillors. It further identifies what might go wrong and lists common complaints. He found it a useful document and has asked for it to be forwarded to all town and parish councils in Cornwall
- having taken a look at St Germoe’s Well, he believes that it would benefit from a tidy up and, perhaps, the information plaque and the grid over the well itself might both be replaced. He has spoken to the Germoe Village Association and will try to source some funding.

## 7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PCSO Paul Whitford reported that no crimes in the Parish of Germoe were reported to the police in the month of January. He reports that a new PCSO (who will have responsibilities for the area) will be joining the force later this month.

*The chairman proposed and it was agreed to consider Agenda item 10 at this moment.*

## 10 PLANNING

### Applications

PA14/12130 Mrs B.Thornton – Conversion and extension of a traditional barn to create a self-contained dwelling and installation of septic tank. Formation of a new vehicular access – Redundant Barn opposite Trethewey Farm Cottage, Germoe. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council can see no material difference between this application and the application which was refused planning permission in 1990 – a decision that was endorsed by the Planning Inspector on appeal.*

*Germoe Parish Council questions the accuracy of the plans: the barns concerned do not contribute to the enhancement of the area and are not worthy of retention. Moreover, the existing agricultural field has been subdivided to create a paddock.*

*The scale of the proposed dwelling is out of proportion with the existing buildings and the location. Vehicular access on to the very narrow lane, particularly at this point, will create an unacceptable hazard to other road users as will the inevitable subsequent increase in traffic .*

*Germoe Parish Council views this application as being one for a new home in the countryside, in an unsustainable location and therefore contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework.*

*Germoe Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.*

PA15/00229 Mr D.Shenton-Phelps – Dormer extensions, replacement ground-floor extensions at front and rear, terrace, solar panels, roof-lights, alterations to parking area and replacement garage – Welloe View, Newtown. Cllr Royds proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council makes no observations.*

PA15/00603 Mrs L.Salter – Renovation of existing cottage including replacement windows and construction of conservatory extension – Hillside, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council makes no observations.*

### Correspondence

**Mr and Mrs Rutherford** copy of letter of objection to PA14/12130 addressed to the Planning Authority – *noted*

**Mr and Mrs Praed** copy of letter of objection to PA14/12130 addressed to the Planning Authority – *noted*

## 9 PARISH MATTERS

### Public Rights of Way

Members considered an invitation to renew partnership working with Cornwall Council with the offer of a grant of £989.00 (or 100% of the eligible costs whichever is the lower). Members noted with alarm that this grant has not been increased since April 2011. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should accept Cornwall Council’s invitation to renew partnership working.

### The Adit

Members noted that, despite expectations, work on the western wall of the adit has yet to be started. The Chairman undertook to contact Mr McLean with a view to securing a start date.

### Pancake Race

Members noted that a Pancake Race will be held on Saturday February 14, 2015 in Germoe Churchtown. The Parish Council has received a comprehensive Risk Assessment document and a request for support from the volunteer

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Germoe Village Association. Cllr Royds proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded that the volunteers concerned (who include Cllr Dear) should, in this instance, act as an Advisory Committee on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **The telephone kiosk at Trewithen Terrace**

Members noted that Mr John Marshall has very kindly offered to look after the telephone kiosk on a day-to-day basis. It was agreed to seek an estimate from Bob Sanders for its repair and painting prior to taking up Mr Marshall's offer.

#### **A defibrillator for Balwest**

The Clerk reported that the Trustees of Balwest Methodist Church will be meeting within the week when the Parish Council's proposal to fix a defibrillator to the exterior wall of the Sunday School will be discussed.

#### **A bus shelter for Great Work**

Members agreed the wording of a letter to be sent by post to residents of Boscreage, Great Work and Trewithen Terrace with the intention of ascertaining likely numbers of secondary school pupils travelling by bus from Great Work. This will help to inform any application for grant-funding for a bus shelter from Cornwall Council.

#### **Projects within the Parish**

The Clerk reported that he is awaiting a quotation for the repair of the steps down to and up from the old quarry on the way to the War Memorial. Similarly awaited, is an estimate of the amount of material necessary for the repair of the path along the top of Tregonning Hill.

#### **St Germoe's Well**

CCllr Keeling again drew Members' attention to the possibilities raised by the Germoe Churchtown Resident's Association both of renewing the grid over St Germoe's Well and of restoring the surrounding area. The Clerk undertook to ask the Association for more detailed (and costed) plans.

### **11 FINANCE**

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Information Commissioner (Data Protection)	£ 35.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (January)	£ 273.91	
travelling	£ 10.00	
telephone	£ 16.44	
office expenses	£ 19.95	
use of home as office	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 340.30

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

### **12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Correspondence**

**Cornwall Council** notification of Tree Preservation Order at Poldhu, Helston Road – *noted*

**Cornwall Council** Draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document Consultation – *noted*

### **13 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Members noted

- a resident's concerns that planning applications are no longer published in local newspapers. (Planning Authorities are neither required to do this nor to write to people in neighbouring properties: however, neighbours of an application for a property situated in a Conservation Area are required to be informed)
- there will be a consultative meeting at the School on February 10 concerning federation
- notification of the recent Community Network meeting had not been received.

### **14 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

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

### **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 March 5, 2015 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman's initials.....*