

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Cllr S.Geake Cllr R.Royds  
Cllr J.Taylor  
Cllr Mrs K.Doesser Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** Mrs Quinney (Headmistress Germoe School) and Mr Edwards.

Welcoming members and visitors to the March meeting, the Chairman introduced Mrs Paula Quinney the Executive Headteacher of Germoe School and invited her to outline the Governing Body's proposals for federation with Boskenwyn School.

Mrs Quinney stated that she had been the Executive Head Teacher of both Germoe and Boskenwyn Schools for the past eighteen months. The partnership between the two schools had worked well and both the teaching staff and the pupils had benefited from working together. It was felt that now was the right time to make the partnership more formal. Germoe School Governors have approved the proposal in principle: Boskenwyn School Governors are meeting in the course of the coming week to make a decision. Assuming the governing body at Boskenwyn is in favour, a consultation paper will be made available to both communities and comments invited. At the end of the consultation period on May 29 the governors of both schools will meet and make a final, binding decision. If that decision is in favour of the creation of a 'hard' federation, the two existing governing bodies will be disbanded and a single governing body will take responsibility for both schools.

In answer to questions, Mrs Quinney stated that the staff at Germoe School are in favour, not least because they will have greater job security and that the children have greatly enjoyed and benefited from interaction with the children of Boskenwyn. A decision to opt for federation is reversible – though a similar process to that which is presently being undertaken will have to be undergone.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Quinney for coming to the meeting and agreed to consider the Parish Council's comments at the meeting in April.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CCllr Keeling, Cllr Blencowe and PCSO Branningan 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 Royds proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded, Cllr Taylor who was absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday February 5, 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

Mr Edwards asked why the Council was again considering a proposal to site a bus shelter at Great Work. The matter had twice been discussed and twice dismissed in his tenure as a Parish Councillor. He made the following points

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- Great Work is not on a bus route
- a bus shelter would only be used in inclement weather during term time by a very few individuals
- construction will create problems of visibility for motorists
- great care needs to be taken in positioning a shelter in order not to detract from the historic engine house
- the money involved might be better spent on other projects, for example creating a safer route along the road to school for the children.

The Chairman explained that there is dedicated funding available for bus shelters, but that without such funding being awarded the Parish Council would be unable to take the project further.

Mr Edwards asked if the Parish Council would consider trimming the roadside verge at Greatwork to allow greater visibility for motorists turning out onto the Godolphin/Tresowes Hill Road

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

Through the Clerk, Cllr Keeling reported that

- the Council Tax will be increased by 1.97% in 2015/16 This represents an increase of 48 pence a week or £25 a year for a Band D property
- he had abstained from voting on this issue, not least because he would have liked to have seen the members' highway budget reinstated
- moreover, Adult Social Care in Cornwall is funded at a lower rate than other local authorities in the country. He feels that, given our high population of elderly people, continuing care is not sustainable in the future and therefore the whole issue of health and social care needs to be addressed both locally and nationally
- his work with the Learning Disability Partnership Board continues and now includes a focus on autism.
- he has been out and about in the Ward, talking to people about some of the matters affecting them: these have included various planning and enforcement issues
- his work with Germoe School continues: at present he is engaged in progressing the matter of a possible federation. Aside from this change on governance, he has pledged funding for a new fridge in the staff room that will benefit staff and children alike.

## **7 POLICE REPORT**

Through the Clerk, PCSO Liam Brannigan reported that, in the Parish of Germoe, two crimes of burglary were reported to the police during the month of February. He reports that a new PCSO (who will have responsibilities for the area) will be joining the force later this month.

## **8 PARISH MATTERS**

### **The Adit**

Members noted that Mr McLean has undertaken to start the necessary work in the near future..

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

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mrs Sandra White of the Germoe Village Association and that she had undertaken to obtain quotations both for a replacement (and more aesthetically pleasing) grill and for the refurbishment of the explanation stone.

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

Members noted an estimate from Bob Sanders in the sum of £185 for the repair and painting of the telephone kiosk at Trewithan Terrace. Cllr Royds proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should accept Mr Sanders' estimate and ask him to do the work as soon as he is able.

### **A defibrillator for Balwest**

The Clerk reported that he has yet to hear from the Trustees of Balwest Methodist Church.

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

The Clerk reported that to date he had received replies from five families with a total of ten children who either are or will be catching the bus to Helston School.

### **Projects within the Parish**

The Clerk reported that Bob Sanders has suggested that possibly the best way forward for the repair of the steps down to and up from the old quarry on the way to the War Memorial is to employ him on a daily rate for a maximum of two days (but more likely for one) and then look at what might then be necessary. Mr Sanders' daily rate for two people is £256.00. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should accept Mr Sanders' estimate and ask him to do the work as soon as he is able. The Clerk was asked to seek permission to do this work from the landowner.

Bob Sanders has not had an opportunity to estimate quantities of material necessary for the repair of the path along the top of Tregonning Hill. It was agreed to contact Mr Liddicoat with a view to installing "stepping stones" over the

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muddiest parts. Failing this (or indeed as well as) the suggestion of using clean granite chippings to make a surface over the wettest, muddiest patches was made.

## 9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

### The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

Members noted the recently published requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities which will apply to Germoe Parish Council and which, with effect from April, requires publication

- of draft minutes from all formal meetings, (no later than one month after each meeting)
- and of meeting agendas and associated meeting papers not later than three clear days before the meeting takes place.

The Code further requires publication (with effect from July) of

- all items of expenditure above £100 (date incurred, summary of purpose, amount and VAT that cannot be recovered)
- End of Year Accounts (the statement of accounts should be accompanied by a bank reconciliation and an explanation of significant variances and any differences between ‘balances carried forward’ and ‘total cash and short term investments’)
- Annual governance Internal Audit report List of councillor responsibilities
- Internal Audit report
- list of councillor responsibilities
- details of public land and building assets (description, location, owner/custodian, date and cost of acquisition and present use)

Members noted that, for some while, the majority of the above requirements have been fulfilled, though the actual information may require a little research. Following discussion, Cllr Taylor proposed Cllr Royds seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should delegate responsibility for fulfilling the obligations of the Code to the Clerk.

### The electronic delivery of agendas and other documents

Members noted that the electronic delivery of agendas and other documents is now permitted though only at the request of the member concerned.

## 10 PLANNING

### Applications

PA15/01545 Mr C.Bows – Removal of condition 2 in relation to decision notice PA10/04294 dated 16.02.2011: Barn conversion to be used unrestricted for 12 months of the year – Trennal Barn Bal Lane Germoe. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council views this application as being for a new residential unit in the countryside in an unsustainable location and requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission.*

PA15/01847 Mrs C.L.Atkinson – Retention of hardcore tracks – Trethewey, Tresowes Hill Germoe. 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.*

### Decisions including the following

PA14/10391 WITHDRAWN – Proposed holiday let – The Old Vicarage, Germoe – *noted*

PA14/11980 APPROVED – Installation of 16 no. 250W solar PV panels on a property within the Conservation Area – The Bungalow, Balwest – *noted*

PA14/12130 WITHDRAWN – Conversion and extension of a traditional barn to create a self-contained dwelling and installation of septic tank. Formation of new vehicular access – Redundant Barn opposite Trethewey Farm Cottage – *noted*

PA15/00229 APPROVED – Dormer extensions, replacement ground floor extensions at front and rear, terrace, solar panels, rooflights, alterations to parking area and replacement garage – Welloe View, Newtown – *noted*

PA15/00603 APPROVED – Renovation of existing cottage, including replacement windows and construction of conservatory extension – Hillside, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

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**11 FINANCE**

The following account was presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
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 Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded, all others in favour that the above account should be paid.

**12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE****Correspondence**

**Jefferys Chartered Surveyors** notification of a forthcoming planning application – *noted*

**13 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Members noted that

- horses are being ridden into the Preaching Pit and their hooves are spoiling the path
- the Public Right of Way over the Hill is a footpath and therefore horses should not be ridden along it
- motorists using the Tresowes Hill road are driving in a dangerous and inconsiderate fashion

**14 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman stated that he was very pleased that Mr Paul Langford, one of the Trustees of the Cory Environmental Trust, had attended the Balwest Heritage Society meeting at which he, the Chairman, had delivered a talk on the Adit. Mr Langford had expressed his pleasure at the Trust's ability to help the Parish Council in the recent repair of the Adit.

**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 April 2, 2015 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

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