

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr S.Geake	Cllr Mrs G.Praed
	Cllr D.Blencowe	Cllr R.Royds
	Cllr W.Dear	Cllr J.Taylor
	Cllr Mrs K.Doesser	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** Ms Brewer, Ms Burkett, Mr and Mrs Holmwood, Mr Moseley and Miss Somerfield.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the November meeting.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CCllr Keeling and PCSO Fuller 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 Doesser proposed, Cllr Royds seconded, Cllr Dear who was absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday October 1, 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

Introducing herself as the owner of the Wheal Grey China Clay Works and lay-by at Tresowes Green, Ms Burkett said that she is particularly interested in the historical significance of the site and is actively seeking the thoughts of local people on what might be done to make the works accessible. The Chairman suggested that she should talk with Ivor Bowditch of Imerys and John Tonkin (an acknowledged expert on China Clay workings in Cornwall) and also with the owners of the adjacent historic sites who themselves are interested in their significance locally. It was noted that the recently erected *No Parking* signs in the lay-by have been a cause of concern, particularly as members of the Angling Club are still parking there. Ms Burkett acknowledged that perhaps a *No Unauthorised Parking* sign might be more appropriate. Members of the Angling Club have her permission to park in the lay-by.

Speaking of PA15/81884, members of the public aired concerns that

- the visual impact of the proposed twenty additional caravans on the World Heritage Site is unacceptable
- the increase in vehicular traffic will compromise the safety of walkers, cyclists and horse-riders
- the individual size of the proposed caravans is missing from the application papers
- and there is no indication of the way in which screening will be undertaken.

The applicants stated that

- there is evidence to justify an increase in holiday accommodation
- the introduction of static caravans (rather than touring) will reduce the volume of traffic on the roads
- the size of caravans will vary between 28 and 40 feet long

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- their aim is to tidy the area where spoil from the mine was tipped in the past
- in order to alleviate concerns, they are prepared to reduce the permitted number of touring caravans on the site by twenty
- most of the caravans will be sold, but retained by their new owners as their own holiday homes (that is they will not be let out on a weekly basis)
- the screening will involve the planting of native species and the re-introduction of Cornish hedges
- their longer-term plans do not envisage further expansion.

Speaking as the agent for PA15/08951, Mr Moseley

- rehearsed the planning history of the two cottages, Honey Bee and Curlew Cottage
- stated that it is his belief that the S106 Obligation imposed when permission was granted no longer serves a useful purpose (if indeed it ever did)
- added that the removal of the holiday let restriction (particularly on Honey Bee) is in line with present planning legislation.

*The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to debate agenda item 9 at this point*

## 9 PLANNING

### Applications

PA15/081884 Mr C.Holmwood – Stationing of 20 additional static caravans and associated landscaping works – Boscrege Caravan Park, Boscrege. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Mrs Praed seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council objects to this application. It believes that the imposition of a further twenty large caravans on this site will have an adverse visual impact on the landscape in general and on the World Heritage Site in particular. It has further concerns about the inevitable increase in traffic along the narrow lanes approaching the site. Nevertheless, it feels that there may be a case for an increase in holiday accommodation and that, possibly, the application with suitable revisions may be acceptable.*

PA15/08091 Mrs B.Hosking – Erection of a dwelling and a detached garage – Kel Don, Germoe Lane. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council objects to this application as it stands on the grounds of road safety (because the proposed access meets the road from the A394 into Germoe Churchtown at its narrowest point). If the applicant were to create an access of sufficient size to allow traffic to pull in, then there may be a case for reconsideration.*

PA15/08951 Mrs P.Batten – Removal/Variation of Condition 2 of Decision PA03/01140/F dated 25/02/2005 to allow the property known as Curlew Cottage to be occupied as permanent residential accommodation – Nevada House, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Royds seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council would support the removal of the holiday let condition on Honeybee Cottage to permit residential accommodation, but, bearing in mind the need for holiday accommodation, would prefer the condition to remain on Curlew Cottage.*

*The Planning Authority might like to note that, had the hard copy of this application not been posted to the Council, it would have been impossible for the Council to consider it properly. The application, as it appeared on the Planning Authority's website, omitted the justification for the proposal. If the Planning Authority is to go ahead with paperless planning then Germoe Parish Council believes that all the relevant information should be available to view on the website.*

PA15/09168 Mr & Mrs J.Beedle – New three bed-roomed dwelling – St Mary's, Helston Road. 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.*

### Decisions

PA15/06339 REFUSED – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling – Norbury, Tresowes – *noted*

## 6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, CCllr Keeling reported that

- his personal circumstances have enabled him to focus on the integration of Health and Social Care, which forms part of the Deal for Cornwall. It is his view that a lot of care and support within our health service relies on the good will of doctors, consultants, nurses, carers and support staff; and that the current lack of resources creates problems. He believes it is possible to make savings and efficiencies in the system – but only if the right decisions are made, particularly when people leave hospital.

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- the findings of the Comprehensive Spending Review are due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and Cornwall is expecting further cuts in local government grant funding; the news that all councils will be able to use the income arising from business rates in their area is to be welcomed and a further move away from dependency on central government grants and funding
- the fact that councils will in future be able to cut business rates to attract new jobs and investment is welcome. He foresees no problems in removing business rates from public toilets
- he contacted CCllr Edwina Hannaford about paperless planning and the lack of consultation and was assured that a response was made directly to Germoe Parish Council. (The Clerk reported that no such response has been received.)

## 7 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PCSO Ashley Fuller reported that, during the month of October, no crimes were reported to the Police, though seven calls were logged.

## 8 PARISH MATTERS

### A defibrillator for Balwest

Cllr Blencowe reported that the electrical work for the new defibrillator has been completed. The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from representatives of the Ronnie Williams Trust concerning dates for training. It was agreed to advertise a free short training course which will equip interested parties with the skills and confidence to use a defibrillator on the evening of Wednesday November 18, 2015 at Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

### PROW 25 Footpath along the top of Tregonning Hill

Cllr Royds reported that this work has yet to be completed. Following discussion, it was agreed to put the matter on hold – certainly until the spring. The Clerk reported that the path to the War Memorial has now been cleared and for the moment a temporary handrail put in place. Cllr Royds reported that the path up from the quarry is now difficult to use.

### Projects within the Parish

Cllr Mrs Doeser reported that there is interest in creating a small Tourist Information Centre (particularly equipped with details of walks in the surrounding area) in the telephone kiosk opposite Trewithen Terrace. She agreed to look further into the possibilities.

Cllr Mrs Doeser stated that the lack of a presence on Twitter or on Facebook means that Germoe Parish Council is well-nigh inaccessible to younger people. She added that her husband has offered to create a Facebook page for the Council. Mr Doeser's offer was swiftly and gratefully accepted!

## 11 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at November 5, 2015 is attached to these minutes.

Members noted that a wreath for the Armistice Day Service on Tregonning Hill has been ordered and considered the question of a donation towards the work of the Royal British Legion. Cllr Royds proposed Cllr Dear seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should forward the sum of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion using the General Power of Competence (adopted by Germoe Parish Council on May 9, 2013).

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Steven MacDonald	£ 70.00	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (October)	£ 219.11	
travelling	£ 10.00	
telephone	£ 18.10	
office expenses	£ 17.36	
use of home as office	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 284.57

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

## 12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

**Balwest Methodist Church** acknowledgment of and thanks for donation – *noted*

**Peninsula Community Health** Annual Review – *noted*

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

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**13 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Cllr Mrs Praed drew members' attention to a letter from the WI concerning the potential closure of the public convenience at Praa Sands. Members noted that recent reports suggest that Breage Parish Council will take on management responsibility for this facility.

**14 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman reminded members of the Armistice Day service at the War Memorial on Wednesday November 11.

**15 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

No matters for inclusion at future meetings were tabled.

**DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday December 3, 2015 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman's initials.....*