

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

C.F.P.Chapman
Clerk to the Council
Chy Lean
St Keverne Road
Mawgan
Helston TR12 6AY
telephone 01326 221648
colinchapman@lineone.net

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday November 2, 2017 in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Present:

Cllr Mrs K.Do eser (Chairman)	Cllr L.Molcher
Cllr G.Bell	Cllr Mrs G.Praed
Cllr D.Blencowe	Cllr Mrs D.Whitehead
Cllr R.Johnson	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: There were no visitors.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CCllr Keeling 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 MEETINGS

Cllr Johnson proposed, Cllr Mrs Praed seconded, Cllr Molcher and Cllr Mrs Whitehead being absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday October 5, 2017 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 in this agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

In the absence of CCllr Keeling there was no report.

7 PARISH MATTERS

Armistice Day November 11, 2017

The Chairman stated that she now has the wreath and that, traditionally, members meet at Balwest at 10.30am before walking up Tregonning Hill to the War Memorial.

Pop-up camp sites and Freedom Camping

Cllr Molcher stated that he understands that Cornwall Council is continuing to look closely at those campsites holding an exemption certificate issued by the Freedom Camping Club. Although the Club has the legal power under paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the First Schedule, Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 and Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 to issue certificates exempting land-owners from the usual planning processes and licences, it also has its own set of rules which, amongst other matters, requires the Club to assess each and every site before issuing a certificate. Further, it works within its own criteria which limits occupation of its sites by factors such as access, locality, impact on neighbours and the facilities available. (Indeed in respect of the latter, section 269 paragraph 6 of the Public Health Act 1936 requires that the organiser takes reasonable steps for securing *that camping sites belonging to or provided by it, or used by its members, are properly managed and kept in good sanitary condition*). The Club's policy also states that certificates are issued solely to small non-commercial sites though a

Chairman's initials.....

glance at the Club's website would suggest that it grants licences to very large commercial enterprises. It is Cllr Molcher's opinion that exemption certificates are being issued by the Club without assessment, without thought of the factors listed above and without consideration of whether or not the site is commercial. This lax attention to detail leads to abuse of the system. As the owner of a registered camp-site within the Parish, he has no objection to fair competition, but the present situation does not make for parity within the business as a whole. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Planning at Cornwall Council, Mr Phil Mason, to ask for a statement of Cornwall Council's position vis-à-vis the Freedom Camping Club.

Speeding within the Parish

Members were reminded that at the last meeting CCllr Keeling had reported that he was going to tour the Parish with Mike Peters from Cornwall Council Highways and that he had offered to make the suggestion that the 40mph signs along Tregonning Hill might be replaced with signs warning of pedestrians and horse-riders using the road. The Clerk confirmed that he had heard nothing further about this proposal. Cllr Mrs Praed said that she was still working on the poster campaign and members noted that, during the course of the summer, individuals had sited signs warning variously of children, pedestrians and horse-riders.

8 PLANNING

Decisions

PA17/06433 REFUSED – Siting of four camping pods for holiday use, together with access, parking and drainage – land North-West of Morvagh, Balwest – *noted*

9 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at November 2, 2017 was placed before members and 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 Mrs Praed proposed Cllr Molcher seconded all others in favour that, under the terms of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, Germoe Parish Council should forward the sum of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	VAT
Colin Chapman		
Salary (October)	£ 224.08	
travelling	£ 10.00	
telephone	£ 18.00	
office expenses	£ 29.60	
use of home as office	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 301.68

Cllr Johnson proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that the above account should be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

Nationwide (interest for six months)	£ 1.71
--------------------------------------	--------

10 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint from a resident concerning chippings being spread on a worn patch of the Village Green. Members agreed that the Clerk should forward a letter expressing the Council's regret over this action and explaining the law relating to common land.

The Clerk reported that the Council had been asked by St Germoe PCC to pay a £15 deposit for a key to the Church Hall. He added that having one in his possession meant that the Hall could more easily be opened and closed and thus be kept more secure. Following a short discussion, Cllr Johnson proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should pay a refundable deposit of £15 for the convenience of having a key to the Church Hall.

Correspondence

CC Cornwall Legal details of the services the department is able to offer parish councils – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

11 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members noted that

- locally, there have been a number of examples of burglary and theft, and further that the Police have sadly been conspicuous in their absence

Chairman's initials.....

- paradoxically, there has been no interest in reforming the Neighbourhood Watch group
- Breage Parish Council has shut the toilets at Praa Sands permanently. The Clerk was asked to write to CCllr Keeling expressing Germoe Parish Council’s disappointment about this decision and to request that he does everything in his power to persuade the Unitary Authority to bring them back into service
- Cllr Mrs Whitehead is organising further training for using the defibrillators within the Parish. She is trying to involve the school in this
- CORMAC had sent an operative to spray the knotweed on PROW28 though it was noted that no signs had been positioned to warn pedestrians that a herbicide was being used
- individuals (mainly farmers and small-holders) in receipt of rural payments are now forbidden to cut hedges on their land between March 1 and August 31
- the Germoe Village Association elected James Kerr as its new Chairman at its recent Annual General Meeting
- the public bench on the way up to Tregonning Hill House is coming away from its mounting. The Clerk was asked to speak to Bob Sanders about this.

12 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that one of the series of Localism Summits is scheduled for November 28, adding that she had found an earlier one of interest and she therefore encouraged members to attend.

13 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Speeding within the Parish

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday December 7, 2017 at 7.00pm in Germoe Church Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman’s initials.....