

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday October 10, 2019 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Present: Cllr Mrs K.Doesper Cllr R.Johnson
Cllr G.Bell Cllr Mrs G.Praed
Cllr D.Blencowe Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: None.

The Chairman welcomed members to the October meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Keeling, Cllr Molcher and Cllr Pickles sent apologies for their 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 Mrs Praed proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday September 5, 2019 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Blencowe reported that Mike Peters from Cornwall Highways has identified two places where the proposed 'gateways' on the road under Tregonning Hill might be sited. Cornwall's Design Team is now involved and has confirmed that, whilst World Heritage Site and identification signage will be acceptable, there may be a problem with the use of Quiet Lane signage.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, Cllr Keeling reported that

- the prime minister's promise to replace EU Funding in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly with a dedicated fund that could be worth up to £600m over the next decade had come as particularly welcome news
- and there was further good news about a new hospital for Cornwall to take the pressure off Treliske. Some £450m is promised and the only question really, is where will it be built?
- important issues that had been part of his work during September had concerned Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE), Customer Access and Digital Services and Resident Engagement and Customer Satisfaction
- Cornwall has the highest volunteering rates in the UK and there is a need for VCSE to strengthen its links with Town and Parish Councils, Community Networks and the many voluntary groups in villages and towns across Cornwall
- Customer Access and Digital Services strives to drive the Digital Cornwall 2 program, which is the process of exploiting technology to help solve traditional public sector problems. In other words, it is about connecting and modernising public services for the people of Cornwall
- Cornwall Council is held in high regard nationally, which is at odds with the local perception of the council. Discussions with resident groups reveal that satisfaction rates are worryingly low at about 51%

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- Cornwall Council is making preparations for BREXIT, Operation Yellow Hammer, (the worst case scenario) in terms of inflammatory pressures, panic buying and the care market. There are no immediate concerns about public disorder, shortage of fuel, fresh food or medical supplies
- the new waste contract has not yet been awarded: further negotiations are required before the present contract runs out on 31st March 2020. In terms of the new contract, there are concerns related to the proposed increase in the associated capital programme of some £62m, but the alternative would result in an increase in contractual costs associated with the successful bidder having to fund the capital cost. There is a need for the council to standardise materials collected for recycling, including separate food waste collection. Cornwall's recycling rates are still very low nationally
- locally, he is working on highway issues, including action on the long-awaited Speedwatch initiative
- flooding (following recent heavy rain) caused problems and he will be speaking with highways about clearing drains that, clearly, could not cope with the deluge.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Germoe Parish Council, social media and the wider reporting of the Council's activities

Thanking Cllr Bell for his labours on the internet, the Chairman commented that Germoe Parish Council's Facebook page appears to be working well, and now relays information both from the Parish Council and from Cornwall Council. Although the NextDoor neighbourhood website may not be entirely the right platform for the dissemination of Parish Council information, it was agreed to continue using this for the present.

Public Protection

Two members reported that they had received training in non-confrontational reporting of dog-fouling, littering and fly-tipping from the Public Protection department at Cornwall. This process enables offenders to be reported to Cornwall Council and, possibly, for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be served on them by post.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Climate Emergency

The Chairman reported that, having rewritten the leaflet, she is now seeking to arrange a meeting to discuss issues relating to climate change and what individuals can do to help.

Footbridge to the Church

The Clerk reported that the proposed repair of the slate bridge across the stream on Germoe Common will be challenging. In particular, there are safety concerns bearing in mind that slate becomes slippery in the wet and that there is currently no hand-rail. Following some discussion, during the course of which it was noted that the bridge is on Common Land, it was agreed that, having looked at the problem, members will consider options at a future meeting.

Clean Cornwall

The Chairman reported that a number of litter-picking specific items for use by the community had now been purchased and that they are available on loan to volunteer groups.

Public Rights of Way within the Parish of Germoe

The Clerk reported that during the course of the last month, whilst some problems with the proposed route of PROW 11 have been resolved, a further problem has been flagged up which he will now pursue.

9 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA19/06545 Mr A.Ballard – Proposed construction of new sustainable dwelling with parking and on-site drainage. provision of new access and re-location of existing access – Plot 2, land South of West Acre, Helston Road. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *It is Germoe Parish Council's view that, resulting from their close proximity, the proposed property on plot 2 would appear overbearing upon the property on plot 1 – to the detriment of the residential amenity of each. The proposed buildings' frontages are beyond the frontages of neighbouring properties, to the detriment of this otherwise open and spacious area to the north of the A394 and to members of the public using the footpath along the edge of the highway. The development as a whole would result in the loss of generous spacing between properties and of mature hedging, both of which are characteristic of this section of the A394 when approaching Germoe crossroads from the west. The development would create a dense and continuous strip of mono-form buildings that would establish a precedent that does not accord with the existing variety of residential dwellings in the vicinity. Road safety would be adversely affected due to the increased volume of rain-water run-off from the hard-surfaces onto the A394. Germoe Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.*

PA19/07255 Mr and Mrs Peters – Demolition of existing extension, replacement single storey kitchen and sun room – 5 Trewithen Terrace. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that this application

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should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council notes that this proposal seeks an improvement to the quality of the existing extension to the building and will create improved internal living space and therefore supports the application.*

PA19/07088 Mr S.Neal – Erection of a detached garage with guest bedroom over and sun room to the rear – Norbury, Tresowes. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council believes that the height and mass of the proposed building will create an imposing feature, sited so close to the miner's cottage frontage that it will detract from the appearance and setting of this significant heritage asset and will therefore be contrary to CLP Policy 24. Accordingly, Germoe Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.*

PA19/07160 Mr and Mrs Terry – Replacement of existing poly-tunnel for green house structure – Bos Verbas, Helston Road. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council notes that this application is for a change from a temporary structure to a permanent and more efficient building and accordingly supports the application.*

Decisions

PA19/05149 APPROVED – Siting of two purpose built Glamping pods on existing camping pitches with all year use – Tremorvu, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

PA19/05908 APPROVED – Proposed two storey rear extension with first floor raised terrace – Coppernoon, Germoe – *noted*

10 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at October 10, 2019 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Balwest Methodist Church for financial help with the cost of the annual maintenance of the open churchyard. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Johnson seconded by Cllr Blencowe all others in favour that the sum of £300.00 be forwarded to Balwest Methodist Church under the terms of Section 214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members considered a request from Balwest Methodist Church for financial help towards the purchase of its Christmas tree. Cllr Johnson proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, all others in favour that, the sum of £100.00 be forwarded to Balwest Methodist Church under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

Members considered a request from the Merlin MS Centre for financial help towards the cost of outreach physiotherapy in Cornwall for people with Multiple Sclerosis. Following discussion, it was agreed that the size and resources of Germoe Parish Council preclude making any donation to this cause.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	NET	VAT
R.Sanders			
Greens (07/08 and 22/08)	£ 204.00	£ 170.00	£ 34.00
St Germoe PCC (cemetery)	£ 153.12		
Davey and Gilbert (Balwest defibrillator)	£ 220.92	£ 184.10	£ 36.82
R.Sanders (Open spaces; repair Great Work board)	£ 324.00	£ 270.00	£ 54.00
Helping Hand (litter picking equipment)	£ 789.53	£ 657.94	£ 131.59
Colin Chapman			
Salary (September)	£ 241.72		
travelling	£ 10.00		
telephone	£ 23.52		
office expenses	£ 23.52		
use of home as office	£ 20.00		
total	£ 329.07		

Cllr Mrs Praed proposed, Cllr Johnson seconded and it was agreed that the above six accounts should be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

CC Cemetery grant	£ 153.12
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11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

Came and Company notification of change of structure to Parish Council insurance (transfer to Arthur J.Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd) – *noted*

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12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Blencowe reported that the new cabinet for the defibrillator at Balwest is now in place and that the defibrillator is again ready for use.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no further comments.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion on the agenda at future meetings were raised.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday November 7, 2019 at 7.00pm in **Germoe Church Hall**.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....