

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday December 5, 2019 at 7:00pm in Germoe Church Hall.

Present: Cllr K.Dooser Cllr R.Johnson
Cllr G.Bell Cllr J.Pickles
Cllr D.Blencowe Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr J.Keeling, Mr Francis and Mr Heath.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the December meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Molcher and Cllr Praed 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 MEETINGS

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 7, 2019 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

In answer to a question concerning the progress of the Speed Watch initiative, CCllr Keeling reported that he intends to discuss the lack of progress with fellow Cornwall Councillors at their forthcoming Community Network meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Francis stated that he was present to seek the Council's support for his planning application (PA19/09432) for a new home in the garden of Pengwins. Adding that he had already gone through the pre-application process, he expressed disagreement with the Planning Officer's opinions. Contrary to her statements, he maintained that

- the site of the proposed dwelling is not set within the open countryside, but in a village
- there is a considerable history of planning attached to the site as a whole
- the paucity of services is reasonable in the light of the geography of Cornwall. (He drew members' attention to the housing estate to the north-west of Helston which, he said, was more remote from services than the proposed new dwelling in Tresowes would be.)

Moreover

- the site has clearly been a garden within living history: there is historic evidence of a garden in 1924 and a local resident can remember picking black-currants in the 1950s
- the site is enclosed; it adjoins both Pengwins and Chygwins and the proposed dwelling would not be immediately visible
- the proposed dwelling will feature recycled granite both from the Helston Gas Works and from Wheal Grey
- the solar system, being ground-mounted, will not be visible
- having measured it carefully, the width of the lane will not be an issue for emergency vehicles.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to discuss Agenda item 9 at this point

Chairman's initials.....

9 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA19/06582 Mr A.Ballard – Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline permission of PA18/08595 Construction of single sustainable dwelling including parking and on site drainage – land South of West Acre, Helston Road. Cllr Doeser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

PA19/09432 Mr J.Francis – Construction of a new 4 bedroom house with additional garage / workshop. Ground Solar power array – Pengwins, Tresowes, Ashton. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded, Cllr Johnson against, all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *The site is inappropriate for new development because it is in the open countryside and does not accord with the special requirements of the Cornwall Local Plan Policy 7.*

The built forms of the garage and the house would be overbearing on the users of the adjacent public footpath which would be contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 12.

The settlement of Tresowes does not have adequate facilities and services to support growth, consequently the proposal conflicts with CLP Policy 21c.

The introduction of modern buildings and domestic paraphernalia within this tranquil rural location could be harmful to the distinctive landscape character and natural environment as detailed within the Landscape Character Area Description contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 23.

Within the settlement of Tresowes there is strong visual evidence of a complete early mining community and as such, this is an attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Mining Site. The proposed development of modern buildings could be harmful to the public's visual appreciation of the historic mining attributes within the settlement contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 24.

Additionally, the site has an historic connection with the adjacent tin miner's cottage named Chygwins. These features comprise a complete "tin miner's small-holding". This, being an "attribute of the Outstanding Universal Values" of the Mining World Heritage Site requires appropriate assessment. The proposed development will neither conserve nor enhance this heritage asset contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 24.

Germoe Parish Council cannot support the application without the completion of a Heritage Assessment and its review by an appropriate specialist on behalf of the Planning Authority in compliance with the requirement of CLP Policy 24.

The following paragraph, which was noted at the meeting during discussion of the above application, was omitted from the original forwarded observation and added a day later

The site for proposed development is identified as lot 1003 within the 1840 Tithe Map and is described as arable land, which together with a cottage and two small gardens (lot 1002) formed the miner's small-holding now known as Chygwins. At the time the small holding was held by Mine Agent Richard Thomas, and according to the 1841 census he lived at the property with his wife, two daughters and six sons, three of whom were Tin Miners. As such Chygwins together with the existing open green space provide strong visual evidence of a complete tin miner's? small-holding. Tin miners' small-holdings are an attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Mining Site.

Decisions

PA19/07088 APPROVED – Erection of a detached garage/studio/office – Norbury, Tresowes – *noted*

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

CCllr Keeling reported that

- the council meeting at which funding for the Spaceport for Cornwall had been discussed had attracted numerous protesters who, throughout the meeting, had expressed their dismay that this should come so soon after the Authority had declared a climate emergency
- at their monthly meeting with the Community Link Officer, the Community Network Cornwall Councillors had had an informative discussion about The Children's Locality Program, which provides early help and social care for teenagers and children across Cornwall
- the next Community Network Meeting with parishes will include discussions on planning enforcement and affordable homes. He has concerns about the principle of Rural Exception Sites and the perception that this policy is losing sight of the original aims (which sought to provide affordable homes for local people)
- road safety issues, particularly along the A394, are frequently raised by residents and the matter is never far from his mind when dealing with the police, the Community Network and the Highway Manager

Chairman's initials.....

- the recent wet weather has caused considerable flooding in the division and he has contacted the Highway Steward to require drains and leats to be cleared of debris and leaves
- the new exercise equipment at Praa Sands is now in place and ready to use.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

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

Members noted that Germoe Parish Council's FaceBook page now has forty-five followers and that the recent work on Moors Lane has been chronicled. It was suggested that a photo-quiz along the lines of "Where's that?" might prove popular.

Dates of Parish Council meetings 2020/2021

Members agreed that, unless there are pressing reasons for change, the times, dates and places for the meetings in 2020 – 2021 will be as follows

January 2, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
February 6, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
March 5, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
April 2, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
May 7, 2020	Annual Parish Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
May 7, 2020	Annual Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
June 4, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
July 2, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
September 3, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
October 1, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Balwest Methodist Schoolroom
November 5, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
December 10, 2020	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
January 7, 2021	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall
February 4, 2021	Ordinary Meeting	Church Hall

8 PARISH MATTERS

Bus Shelter

Members considered an estimate from Bob Sanders in the net of VAT sums of £500 to refurbish the bus shelter and of £250 to improve the vision from the shelter. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Blencowe and agreed that Bob Sanders should be instructed to carry out both tasks. It was agreed to consider the cost of providing a post-mounted litter-bin near the bus shelter at the meeting in January.

Footbridge to the Church

Members noted that Cllr Johnson has been advised by his Insurance Company not to undertake the repair to the slate bridge. The Clerk was asked to seek a quotation for the necessary work from Cormac.

Climate Emergency

Members noted both that Fi Garrard is happy to be involved in presentations, but needs to be asked and that Germoe School has planted a number of trees around its perimeter.

Gateway Scheme

Cllr Blencowe reported that the 'gateway' scheme on the Tregonning Hill road is "on-going."

Public Rights of Way within the Parish of Germoe

Cllr Johnson reported that, having spoken to a number of residents, there appears to be a general willingness to support the Parish Council in the matter of the addition to the Definitive Map of gaps in Public Rights of Way in the Parish.

10 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at December 5, 2019 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

Members noted that the Clerk had earlier forwarded copies of anticipated income and expenditure of Germoe Parish Council for the coming Financial Year. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Blencowe, seconded by Cllr Doeser all others in favour that the Precept for the year 2020/2021 should be set at £9,600.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	NET	VAT
HMRC	£ 181.20		
R,Sanders (greens and Greenberry Downs footpath)	£ 294.00	£ 245.00	£ 49.00
R,Sanders (greens)	£ 102.00	£ 85.00	£ 17.00
Cornwall Council (Planning Training)	£ 15.00		

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Colin Chapman		
Salary (November)	£ 241.72	
travelling	£ 10.00	
telephone	£ 21.32	
office expenses	£ 35.05	
Cornwall Records Office	£ 5.00	
use of home as office	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 333.09

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Johnson seconded and it was agreed that the above five accounts should be paid.

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Cornwall Council Cornwall guide to Winter Wellbeing for 2019 – *noted*

CC Local Maintenance Partnership 2020/2021 – *noted*

War Memorials Trust Bulletin – *noted*

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Pickles questioned the use of the honorific 'Mrs' in Germoe Parish Council's written publications. The Clerk stated that the decision to use the title was entirely down to him and had not been a Council decision. Members agreed that the title should no longer be used by the Parish Council.

Cllr Blencowe stated that that the Historic Environment department of the Planning Authority is so under-staffed that it can no longer act pro-actively. It follows that the Parish Council must identify historic assets and draw the Authority's attention to any possibility of damage when planning applications are considered. To assist in the identification of historic sites, he encouraged members to make use of the layers available on the Cornwall mapping page of the web-site.

Members noted that a concert will be held in Balwest Chapel to raise funds to replace the boiler.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Other than to wish everyone a very happy Christmas, the Chairman made no further comments.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion on the agenda at future meetings, other than those already noted, were raised.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday January 2, 2020 at 7.00pm in **Germoe Church Hall**.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....