

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday February 6, 2020 at 7:00pm in Germoe Church Hall.

Present:

Cllr K.Doerer	Cllr L.Molcher
Cllr G.Bell	Cllr G.Praed
Cllr D.Blencowe	
Cllr R.Johnson	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Mr G.MacKenzie and Mrs Salter.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the February meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Keeling and Cllr Pickles 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 Praed seconded, Cllr Bell who was absent from the last meeting abstained, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday January 2, 2020 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 the meeting's agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Speaking of her application PA19/10252 for the siting of four universally accessible OmniPods at Morvargh, Mrs Salter thanked the Parish Council for its qualified support for a similar project in early 2017 and in line with the comments made then had moved the pods against the hedge thereby making them less visible. She stressed that she and her husband have every intention of creating and keeping the site sympathetic to the existing environment.

Mr MacKenzie said that he was present simply to support Mr and Mrs Salter who are trying to make their future financially more secure. It was his opinion that the pods would not be visible in the landscape and that further development could be secured by the use of an S106 agreement. He reminded members that he had served on Germoe Parish Council for twelve years and that, had he still been on the Council, he would have had no hesitation in supporting the application.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to consider Agenda item 9 immediately.

9 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA19/10252 Mr W.Costeloe – Siting of four universally accessible OmniPods for the purposes of providing accessible holiday accommodation for Cornwall's visitors who have access needs. The proposal includes provision of access and drainage – Morvargh, Balwest. The Chairman proposed, Cllr Bell seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council is not able to support this application because ...*

Chairman's initials.....

Balwest is not served by facilities that cater for holiday visitors. The hamlet has no bus service and is accessed via unlit narrow and winding country lanes. This is not an appropriate location for new tourist accommodation and would be contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 5 "Business and Tourism".

The site is an isolated location in the countryside and visitors to the development would be likely to be reliant on using private motor vehicles during their stay. This would not accord with the requirements of CLP Policy 27 "Transport".

Bearing in mind the site location within the former Ball West Croft fields, Germoe Parish Council requests an appropriate Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken in accordance with NPPF paragraph 189.

PA19/11030 A Ballard Oakland Homes – Construction of a new single storey residential dwelling – Plot 2, land South of Westacre, Helston Road. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Molcher seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council would be able to support this application if landscaping or fencing features were added in order to provide privacy to the main amenity areas of each property, plus adequate provision for drainage of surface water within the site to avoid any adverse effect to highway drainage on Helston Road caused by water running off the new access roads.*

Decisions

PA19/07339 APPROVED – Demolition of existing redundant outbuildings. Proposed 2 storey side extension, proposed replacement double garage and associated landscaping, proposed replacement of existing boat shed with an annex for ancillary use – Catherstone Cottage, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

PA19/09432 REFUSED – Construction of a new 4 bedroom house with additional garage / workshop. Ground Solar power array – Pengwins, Tresowes, Ashton – *noted*

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, Cllr Keeling reported that

- he had attended a number of meetings at County Hall during the course of January including the cabinet, full council, and the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee
- the cabinet had discussed the forthcoming budget and all indications point to a 3.99% increase, of which 2% will be an adult social care precept and used solely to support this vital service
- the proposed budget has a forecast overspend of £0.7m and measures need to be in place to mitigate future risks. He stated that much of the proposed overspend comes from the Adult Social Care sector both where demand outstrips supply, and where the council has had to step in to rescue failing care providers
- the council meeting on January 21 saw two motions being put to councillors: transparency in planning enforcement proceedings (which aims to make them more open allowing members of the public to be able to follow, understand and participate in these proceedings) and the eradication of Tuberculosis from badgers both on the farm estate and other managed land. (Both motions were deferred to allow a detailed investigation to take place before bringing them back for a decision by the full council.)
- he drew members' attention to a Community Network meeting on February at 6 pm at Isaac House, Helston. The agenda comprises two topics: Affordable Community Led Housing and Community Enforcement Partnership.

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 has attracted forty-three likes and that Cllr Bell continues to update it.

Planning Training

Cllr Blencowe reported that, with effect from April 2 and following Parish Council meetings, planning training for members will be held at Balwest Sunday School with the proviso that the Council meeting has finished by 8.30pm.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Bus Shelter

Members noted that the refurbishment of the bus shelter is complete.

Public Rights of Way

Members considered an invitation from Cornwall Council to continue with the Local Maintenance Partnership scheme. The grant offered for the year to March 31, 2021 is £1,259.60 (or 100% of eligible costs, whichever is the lower). Cllr Praed proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should accept the terms relating to the Local Maintenance Partnership as offered by Cornwall Council for the year to March 31, 2021.

Chairman's initials.....

The Clerk again asked for a volunteer to approach individual long-term residents to ask them to complete a Public Path User Form testifying to the use of the track between the present end of PROW 9 and the village.

Litter bins

The Clerk reported that he understands that it is the National Trust's policy not to site litter bins in the open countryside on land belonging to the Trust. Members considered the purchase and servicing of a second post-mounted litter bin within the Parish (the first, as agreed at the last meeting, to be sited at the bus-stop). Following discussion, Cllr Praed proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed to purchase a second litter-bin to be sited on the triangle at Great Work. It was further agreed to instruct Biffa to service both bins on a fortnightly basis.

Footbridge to the Church

Members noted that Cormac's quotation for the necessary repair to the footbridge is beyond the funds available to the Parish Council. Roger McLean (who repaired the wall of the Adit) has been asked to inspect the abutments and to quote both for their repair and for the repair to the bridge. Mr McLean's quotation is awaited.

The triangle at Balwest

Members noted a letter from Jane Sharp-Hall concerning the impact on the environment of parking on the triangle at Balwest. Cllr Blencowe reported that Kath Chaston has filled the ruts with stones and done the best she can to tidy up the area. Access to the bench and litter bin seems clear, but the parking area could be improved by the addition of two tons of 20mm local stone chippings. Cllr Blencowe proposed, the Chairman seconded and it was agreed to ask Bob Sanders to do this. It was further agreed to replace the sign on the back of the bench seeking motorists' consideration in the way that they park and, if Balwest Methodist Church is agreeable, to put a sign on the litter-bin pointing the way to the Chapel's donation car-park. The Clerk was asked to write both to Mrs Sharp-Hall and to Ms Chaston thanking them for their concern and action.

Climate Emergency

Members noted that Cornwall Council's Localism Team has announced a series of six Climate Change workshops based on Community Network groupings. The first is being held in Liskeard but the dates and venues of the remaining five have yet to be announced.

Gateway Scheme

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

Having a prior commitment, Cllr Johnson left the room

10 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at February 6, 2020 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Tanya's Courage Trust for financial help towards the cost of its work. Following discussion, it was agreed that the size and resources of Germoe Parish Council preclude making any donation to this very worthy cause.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

		GROSS	NET	VAT
Information Commissioner		£ 40.00		
C.F.P.Chapman (December's account represented)		£ 340.72		
R.Sanders				
Greens	£ 85.00			
Bus shelter refurbishment	£ 750.00			
	total	£ 1,002.00	£ 835.00	£ 167.00
Colin Chapman				
Salary (January)	£ 241.72			
travelling	£ 10.00			
telephone	£ 23.15			
office expenses	£ 25.13			
use of home as office	£ 20.00			
	total	£ 320.00		

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

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Derek Thomas MP Drop-in Surgery times and venues – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

CC Off-Street Parking Order – *noted*

Chairman's initials.....

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members noted that Germoe Green has suffered badly during the course of the winter and is very muddy particularly near the seat closest to the bridge.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that she had attended the recent Community Network meeting

- sixteen authorised Speed-Watch sites have been identified in the Network area as a whole, including sites in both Ashton and Germoe
- the Police Force is actively seeking volunteers to undertake training in the use of speed guns with a view to setting up a Kerrier-wide team to monitor the inappropriate use of speed
- James Peck from the Community Enforcement Partnership programme had drawn attendees' attention to the "Report It" section on Cornwall Council website front page
- new signage about dog-fouling and littering including Fixed Penalty Notice fines is available. ("We're watching You" posters with glow-in-the-dark eyes are being piloted in particularly unhygienic spots)
- Noreen Jeffries, the Rural Housing Enabler, provided information about small scale, community-led housing schemes. There is particular enthusiasm for the provision of local-needs housing at properly affordable prices
- considerable discussion about quite how accurately the Home Choice register identifies actual local needs followed
- the Community Network Panel issued an invitation to the forthcoming 50/50 Visioning event for Helston and District.

The Chairman reported that she had also attended a meeting for those interested in the creation of an International Dark Sky designation for the Lizard and surrounding area based on the AONB, though the proposed area could well include Germoe. The next step will take the form of a steering group, not necessarily composed of Councillors. Keen amateur astronomers are invited to express an interest.

Finally, the Chairman drew members' attention to the death of Fred Davies who served as a Parish Councillor for some years. The Council will be represented at his funeral service by Cllr Bell.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion in future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday March 5, 2020 at 7.00pm in **Germoe Church Hall**.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....