

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of a virtual Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday June 4, 2020 at 7:00pm using the Zoom facility

Present:

Cllr K.Do eser	Cllr G.Praed
Cllr G.Bell	Cllr J.Pickles
Cllr D.Blencowe	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Keeling.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the June meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Johnson sent his apologies for absence, citing reasons of seasonal work. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to accept Cllr Johnson's apologies.

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 Doeser who was absent from the last meeting abstained, and it was agreed that, with the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday March 5, 2020 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 TO NOTE DECISIONS MADE USING DELEGATED POWERS SINCE MARCH 6, 2020

Members noted the actions taken and the decisions made on behalf of Germoe Parish Council since March 6, 2020 using delegated powers and recorded on two documents which have since been added to the official minutes.

Matters arising and not covered in this agenda

There were no matters arising which were not covered in this meeting's agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Cllr Keeling reported that

- since the national lockdown on March 23 he has forwarded as much information as possible to parish councils and community groups concerning the impact of Covid-19 on our daily lives
- he has participated in some twenty virtual meetings during the past couple of months
- schools are making efforts to get started again, though that will bring its own problems of social distancing. There are five Primary Schools in his division. As matters stand, he is unsure of their intentions
- since the relaxation of the 'drive to exercise rule', it has been noticeable that visitors are coming into Cornwall. An Outbreak Plan is being developed to put into operation a shutdown procedure when and if spikes of Covid-19 occur, either locally or county-wide
- Cornwall Councillors have been assured by the Chief Executive Officer that Cornwall Council is not insolvent. The cost of the pandemic to the county to date has been about £68.2m. Cornwall has received government grants of £328.5m. The biggest loss to the Council has been car parking charges

Chairman's initials.....

- Cornwall Council, through its service provider Cormac, is carrying out a program of works to help maintain essential community infrastructures – parks, amenity areas, rights of way, and the coastal path. These will all benefit people's daily exercise regime and help social well-being
- he has reported a number of alleged breaches of planning: one of which involved people from outside Cornwall arriving at a site in Boscreage against all the social distancing and travelling restrictions.
- because of the lockdown restrictions, there are many more people cycling and walking with their families along our lanes. It is imperative that drivers, cyclists, and walkers observe the Highway Code to avoid nasty accidents. People are still driving too fast and walkers are strolling along lanes as though they are public rights of way. Twenty's plenty – and he is making every effort to drive that upper limit forward!
- he reminded members that it is not permitted to travel to a second home or to remain overnight in a holiday destination, adding that the Police will enforce this rule.

7 PARISH MATTERS

Footbridge to the Church

Now that the lock-down has eased, Cllr Blencowe reported that he expects Roger McLean to contact him and to quote for the repair of the bridge over the stream on Germoe Green.

Gateway Scheme

The Clerk had earlier forwarded Cornwall Highway's proposals for the 'gateway' scheme to improve safety on the Tregonning Hill road. The plans include gates and signage which will be sited both at Great Work and at the 40mph signs as traffic leaves Ashton. The design is based upon 'quiet lanes' signage and will warn drivers that cyclists, horse-riders and walkers are likely to be using the road. They will also draw attention to the fact that it was on Tregonning Hill that William Cookworthy discovered large deposits of china clay. It was suggested that the wording might be duplicated in Cornish, but Cllr Blencowe reminded members that roadside signage is designed to be informative and should not pose a distraction.

8 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA20/03234 Mr A.Hampson – Listed Building Consent for Replacement of the six sash windows on the front/south elevation – Foxfield, Tresowes. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Praed seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application*

PA20/03505 Ms V.Curtis and Mr R.Stanek – Certificate of lawfulness for the use of the C3 dwellinghouse in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition on decision W2/70/32383/O - approved 27/1/1971 – Higher Chygwins Farm, Tresowes. Cllr Doeser proposed, Cllr Praed seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council makes no observations.*

PA20/03710 Mr and Mrs Bishop – Construction of a second storey rear extension – 7 Trewithen Terrace. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

Decisions

PA19/10252 REFUSED – 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 – *noted*

PA20/01557 APPROVED – Conversion and extension of stables to a dwelling and construction of a detached garage – The Stables, Tresowes – *noted*

PA20/02119 APPROVED – Demolition and replacement of summerhouse and repairs to granite wall – Larkspur Cottage, Germoe Lane – *noted*

PA20/02199 APPROVED – Detached domestic garage – Higher Westpoint, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

PA20/03262 Prior approval not required – Prior notification for an agricultural shed to store hay, machinery – land at Croft An Onions, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

PA20/03342 APPROVED – Widening of existing access and creation of additional parking and turning area – Greenbank Farm, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

9 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at June 4, 2020 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk reported that Mr Peter Richards, Germoe Parish Council's Internal Auditor, has signed off the Annual Return for the year to March 31, 2020 making no comments, observations or suggestions.

Chairman's initials.....

Parish Councillors considered the Statement of Assurance required for the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2020. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council should answer “Yes” to each of the questions posed by the Statement of Assurance which forms part of the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2020.

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Praed seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Council accepts the accounts for the year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020.

Members considered a resolution that Germoe Parish Council, having a turnover for the year 2019 – 2020 of less than £25,000 should declare that it is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. Members noted that this means that the Internal Auditor’s report alone is sufficient for the Year’s accounts to be signed off and that there is no requirement for a Limited Assurance Review to be undertaken by an External Auditor. Following discussion, Cllr Blencowe proposed Cllr Praed seconded and it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council will declare itself an exempt authority for the financial year 2019 – 2020 within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	NET	VAT
HMRC	£ 181.20		
R.Sanders (Greens)	£ 108.00	£ 90.00	£ 18.00
Colin Chapman			
Salary (May)	£ 241.72		
travelling	£ 22.10		
telephone	£ 24.83		
office expenses	£ 18.51		
use of home as office	£ 20.00		
	total	£ 327.16	

Cllr Bell proposed and it was agreed that the above three accounts should be paid.

10 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

Cllr Praed asked about the current status of PROW 25 over Tregonning Hill. This footpath is the subject of a Definitive Map Modification Order (WCA541) which seeks to upgrade its status to that of a bridleway. The Countryside Access Records Officer recommended approval of the upgrade some while ago, but before the Order becomes binding there are a number of stages which must all be approved and at this stage there can be no guarantee that the order will be confirmed and subsequently come into force. The status of PROW 25 therefore remains that of a footpath.

Cllr Praed further reported that PROWs 13 and 19 are very overgrown and Cllr Pickles stated that PROW 17 also needs work: the Clerk agreed to ask Bob to cut all Germoe’s silver paths as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Pickles stated that he was disappointed to see that Climate Change had been omitted from the agenda, not least because he felt that the grassed amenity spaces which the Council cuts at present should not be cut, but should be allowed to grow (pathways might be cut through to allow access to litter-bins and public seating. The Chairman stated that time constraints had suggested that a number of items should be dropped from this month’s agenda, but that Climate Change would form part of the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Keeling reported that the bench on Rocky Lane needed a small repair and would benefit from a coat of preservative: the Clerk undertook to ask Bob to do this.

Cllr Keeling reminded members of the virtual Community Network Meeting at the end of the month

11 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no further comments.

12 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Climate change

Grant for Germoe Community Primary School replacement of a storage shed

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday July 2, 2020 at 7.00pm This meeting will be held using the Zoom facility.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman’s initials.....