

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
parish.clerk3@btinternet.com

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday November 5, 2020 at 7:00pm using the Zoom facility

Present: Cllr K.Doesser Cllr J.Pickles
Cllr G.Bell Cllr G.Praed
Cllr D.Blencowe Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitor: Mrs Thornton.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the November meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Johnson (work) and Cllr Molcher (work) sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Praed proposed and it was agreed to accept these 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 Bell proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded, Cllr Pickles and Cllr Praed who were absent from the last meeting abstained and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday October 1, 2020 are a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Praed asked if there have been any further developments concerning the hard-standing and park-home on the long field between Churchtown and Balwest near Trethewey. Members noted that CCllr Keeling had undertaken at the meeting on October 1 to report the matter to Planning Enforcement and the Clerk was asked to contact him for up-to-date information.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Thornton stated that she was present to seek the Parish Council's support for her application for an annex to her home. She stated that the annex is intended to create supported living accommodation for her elderly parents and explained that the associated change of position for parking at Highfield House would assist in their care. It was suggested that much of the information she had supplied to the Parish Council was not available to the Planning Department and that she might be well advised to re-submit her application possibly including that information and having considered the proposed design.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to consider agenda Item 9 Planning at this point

9 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA20/07867 Mrs B.Thornton – Extension to a Dwelling to Create a Self-Contained Annexe for Dependent Relatives – Highfield House, Germoe. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council objects to this application for the specific reasons detailed below. Whilst objecting to the current application the Parish Council would like to make it clear that it supports the intention of the applicant, which is to provide suitable accommodation at Highfield House where the necessary care and support for her dependent relatives can be provided.*

Chairman's initials.....

The proposed dwelling for elderly supported relatives is an independent structure in an isolated, and therefore unsustainable, location in the countryside contrary to the requirements of the Cornwall Local Plan Policies and National Planning Policies Framework regarding rural housing.

Contrary to requirements within “Cornwall Council Annexe Guidance Note”, regarding annexes in the countryside, the proposed building stands virtually independent of the host building and would therefore be at risk of being changed to a separate dwelling after it has served its purpose as a home for a supported relative. Effectively this could lead to the development of a new home in the countryside contrary to existing Planning Policy.

The east gable end and glass porch create an adverse visual impact which, together with the increased predominance of visible parked vehicles, would be detrimental to the public view of the countryside within this Area of Great Landscape Value. Consequently, the proposed building neither preserves nor enhances the general area nor the local setting contrary to the requirements of CLP Policy 23.

The glass and timber materials selected for external finishes neither blend with nor compliment the materials of the existing traditional stone building contrary to the requirements of the “Cornwall Council Domestic alterations and extensions guide.”

For reasons relating to the complexities of the internet, Chairman left the meeting at this point and Cllr Praed assumed the Chair

PA20/07936 Mr and Mrs D.Morley – Proposed new dwelling and detached double garage/office (Redesign of Approval PA19/09432) – land South of Pengwins, Tresowes, Ashton. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

PA20/08270 K.Coggins – Demolition of existing dwelling which is suffering from subsidence due to mining feature. Reconstruction of new dwelling house of the same scale with minor alterations to external fenestration – Castle View. Newtown. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

PA20/08819 Mr and Mrs Bucket – Conversion of existing agricultural timber barn to form dwelling and associated works – redundant barn adj to Greenbank Farm, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council objects to this application because the proposed site access provides insufficient visibility for safe egress of emerging vehicles and would consequently create a hazard to the travelling public using the road between Ashton and Godolphin Cross.*

The Secondary Distributor road from Ashton to Godolphin Cross carries local commuter traffic, agricultural traffic, delivery traffic, horse riders, walkers and cyclists throughout the year. There is a large increase in traffic during holiday periods caused by tourists using the local camping and caravan sites plus traffic taking a short cut between the North and South Coasts when the Primary Roads are congested.

For traffic approaching from the southwest the road changes width and direction just before the access, additionally forward visibility can be adversely affected by variable shade on the approach to a deep cutting that is sheltered by overarching trees.”

Other planning matters have been previously high-lighted in the refusal note for PA20/01971 by Cornwall Council Planning Officers.

Decisions

PA20/05686 APPROVED – Conversion of three former agricultural barns to residential dwellings – Rejarden, Germoe – *noted*

PA20/06600 APPROVED – Listed building consent for replacement of window in south facing modern extension with heritage glaze unit – Foxfield Tresowes – *noted*

PA20/07382 APPROVED – Replacement of window in south facing modern extension with heritage glaze unit – Foxfield Tresowes Ashton – *noted*

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR’S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, Cllr Keeling reported that

- there have been some 21 virtual meetings at Cornwall during the course of October
- the 2021/22 budget setting process is underway: the scrutiny committee will make its recommendations in time for discussion at the February 2021 Council meeting (at which the budget will be decided)
- it is becoming clear that Cornwall Council will incur a possible deficit of £58M over the medium-term financial period (to 2024)

Chairman’s initials.....

- nevertheless, it is important that the Council ensures that services to its residents are maintained and not subject to gradual erosion in the future. As matters stand, it is anticipated that a 1.99% increase in council tax will form part of the budget recommendation
- presently, there is no requirement to set a levy of 2% for Adult Social Care, though this may change with the emerging challenges of Covid-19
- the new waste contract begins next year and will bring three existing contracts into one. It is an 8-year contract with a 2-year extension option
- there will be a phased introduction of fortnightly household-waste collections: every household will be given a 180L wheelie bin (or seagull-proof sack if space is an issue)
- he has concerns about a number of issues relating to highway matters: in particular to the Community Network Highway Scheme. Delivery against expectations is his main concern and he is currently in discussions with the Highway Manager to see if there may be better methods of providing the highway improvements that are needed
- he believes it appropriate to state that he will be standing for election as a Cornwall Councillor at the next election in May 2021, although the geographical boundaries of the division will be changing and that will bring new challenges.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Publicity

Cllr Bell reported that the Parish Council Facebook page has sixty-seven followers: in the past month he has added nineteen posts and the site has been accessed fifty-eight times.

It was agreed to insert the link to the Facebook page on the footers of future minutes and agendas.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Christmas in Germoe

It was proposed by Cllr Blencowe and agreed that the informal group set up to oversee the Christmas Celebrations on Germoe Green should act as an advisory committee of Germoe Parish Council and that therefore Germoe Parish Council will be responsible for the proper running of that event. Cllr Bell will represent the Parish Council on that Committee.

Following discussion of a request from the newly-formed advisory committee for financial help towards the village Christmas celebrations, Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that, under the terms of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the sum of £100 should be made available for underwriting activities in Germoe over Christmas 2020.

Footbridge to the Church

The Clerk reported that the bridge is still awaiting underpinning with a galvanised steel brace.

Gateway Scheme

The Clerk was asked to contact CCllr Keeling for an update on this matter.

Climate Change

Cllr Blencowe drew members' attention to a special document about Climate Change which is presently being written and which will eventually become part of planning policy. Public consultation on the final draft of this document will commence in February 2021.

Footpath information boards

Members agreed both that this matter would be better considered if the actual wording of each board was available to members and preferably at a face-to-face meeting which, realistically speaking, suggests implies a date in the New Year. Nevertheless, Cllr Blencowe agreed to look at ways of sharing documents using the Zoom facility and, if this proves possible, to copy the wording of the Great Work board to facilitate the project.

10 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at November 5, 2020 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

Members noted that a wreath for the Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday Service has been ordered and considered the question of a donation towards the work of the Royal British Legion. Cllr Blencowe proposed Cllr Pickles 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. It was noted that this year the Chairman will not be able to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council: Cllr Bell offered to take her place.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	NET	VAT
R.Sanders (Greens)	£ 216.00	£ 180.00	£ 36.00

Chairman's initials.....

Colin Chapman		
Salary (October)	£ 248.81	
telephone	£ 25.40	
office expenses	£ 27.91	
travelling	£ 7.15	
use of home as office	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 328.87

Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that the above two accounts should be paid.

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Balwest Methodist Church acknowledgment of and thanks for donations – *noted*

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Pickles questioned the number of Councillors required to comprise a quorum for a meeting: the Clerk stated that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, the quorum is three or one third of the total membership whichever is the greater.

Cllr Pickles further questioned the approved absence of both Cllr Johnson and Cllr Molcher from so many meetings suggesting that, possibly, both might benefit from a little help with the technology required to join a virtual meeting.

Cllr Praed asked if the vegetation obscuring the highways' finger post on the eastern side of the road at Balwest might be cleared back. She has further concerns about footpath signs but will liaise directly with the Clerk.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, the Chairman reported that at the recent meeting of the Community Network Panel, Ruth Goldstein (Cornwall Council's Covid Consultant) had drawn attendees' attention to Cornwall's Outbreak Management Plan. The Chairman stated that in her opinion it is an excellent document and she encouraged members to read it.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for consideration at future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday December 3, 2020 at 7.00pm. This meeting will be held using the Zoom facility.

Signed.....

Dated.....