

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday December 3, 2020 at 7:00pm using the Zoom facility

**Present:**

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

**Visitor:** CCllr J.Keeling.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the December meeting.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Johnson (personal) and Cllr Molcher (personal) sent their apologies for absence. The Chairman 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 Blencowe proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 5, 2020 are a true record.

## 4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Members noted that the Christmas lights on Germoe Green will be switched on on Monday December 21.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

## 6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Cllr Keeling reported that

- following the repositioning elsewhere in the division of the Vehicle Activated Sign from Ashton, funding for a new VAS has been made available and this will be sited at Ashton on the A394
- further minor works will be added to the A394 safety review document: funding will come from the One Highway Network Budget
- he is conscious that the Tregonning Hill gateway signage has yet to be put in place and will continue to push for a successful conclusion
- there has been a 30% increase in alleged breaches of planning since lockdown began. Elected members at County Hall are calling for stronger measures and more resources to strengthen the department
- the planning application for housing at Tresowes Green has attracted some adverse comment with concerns being expressed about the proposed housing density and the belief that the development is out of context
- he has been able to secure some funding from Coastline to improve the facilities at Balwest Methodist School-Room
- he has recently had a virtual meeting with a number of County Councils concerning Quiet Lanes. The updated version of the Highway Code appears to encourage their establishment and he is trying to encourage Cornwall Council to give the matter serious attention. Members noted that Germoe Parish Council had sought Quiet Lane status for the road along the hill
- there is considerable unrest amongst elected members concerning second home owners who pay business rates and who have claimed the £10k Covid-related business grant available during lockdown.

*Chairman's initials.....*

## 7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

### Publicity

Cllr Bell reported that in the past month he has added sixteen posts to the Parish Council Facebook page and that the site has been accessed fifty-seven times: forty-seven readers had “liked”, “shared” or “commented” on a post. Members noted that the following question had been posed on the FaceBook page ‘*How do we find information about speeds in the village and whether we can see about speed bumps being put in as there is young children, pets and elderly people walking around the village and speeding traffic flying through?*’

### Dates of Parish Council meetings 2021/2022

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

January 7, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
February 4, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
March 4, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
April 8, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
May 6, 2021	Annual Parish Meeting
May 6, 2021	Annual Meeting
June 3, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
July 1, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
September 2, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
October 7, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
November 4, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
December 2, 2021	Ordinary Meeting
January 6, 2022	Ordinary Meeting
February 3, 2022	Ordinary Meeting

All meetings are due to begin at 7:00pm

The venue for each meeting will be dependent on Government advice at the time

Cllr Pickles asked that consideration be given to meetings being started at different times during the day.

## 8 PARISH MATTERS

### Footbridge to the Church

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

### Gateway Scheme

CCllr Keeling had reported on the absence of any progress with the gateway scheme in his report.

### Climate Change

The Chairman drew members’ attention to a proposal that Germoe Parish Council should adopt an Environmental Policy. A draft copy of a possible document based on the template recently circulated by Cornwall Council has been circulated and will be discussed at the meeting in January.

## 9 PLANNING

### To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA20/09859 Mr W.Tate – Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved. Construction of Residential Housing Development – land adj to Myrtle Cottage, Tresowes, Ashton. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council does not support this application.*

*Tresowes Green is an isolated wooded settlement that is loosely formed within a small network of tracks and roads that were developed for use by the earlier mining industry. The settlement now comprises a number of stone houses that have evolved from their original miner’s cottage style, interspersed with a scattering of post war houses and bungalows.*

*There are no shops, services or facilities available within the settlement, consequently the residents are entirely dependent upon private vehicular transport to access all necessary requirements. With no practical alternative modes of transport available, any new development within the settlement will give rise to increased journeys by private cars and delivery vehicles which would be harmful to the environment and to public health.*

*The proposed development does not conform to the requirements of CLP Policy 21 which states “To ensure the best use of land, encouragement will be given to sustainably located proposals that increase building density where appropriate, taking into account the character of the surrounding area and access to services and facilities.”*

Chairman’s initials.....

*Properties in Tresowes Green are generally set within good sized gardens and are reasonably well spaced out. The proposed compact development of houses with minimal sized gardens does not maintain or enhance the character and setting of the surrounding area.*

*Bearing in mind these issues it would appear the proposal is contrary to CLP Policy 21 and would therefore not ensure the best use of land.*

*Germoe Parish Council therefore requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.*

## **Decisions**

PA20/07936 APPROVED – Proposed new dwelling and detached double garage/office (Redesign of Approval PA19/09432) – land South of Pengwins, Tresowes – *noted*

## **10 FINANCE**

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at December 3, 2020 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

Members noted that the Clerk had earlier forwarded copies of anticipated income and expenditure 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 2021/2022 should be set at £9,700.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>
R.Sanders (October: greens and Churchtown notice-board)	£ 138.00	£ 115.00	£ 23.00
R.Sanders (November: greens, signpost and footpaths)	£ 172.80	£ 144.00	£ 28.80
HMRC	£ 195.00		
Colin Chapman			
Salary (November)	£ 248.41		
telephone	£ 30.63		
office expenses	£ 23.26		
use of home as office	£ 20.00		
	total	£ 322.30	

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

## **11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Correspondence**

**Royal British Legion** acknowledgment of and thanks for donations – *noted*

## **12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Councillor Bell reported quite how much he had enjoyed the series of Local Council Planning Conferences organised by Cornwall Council. The last one on 26<sup>th</sup> November had included a presentation entitled 'An Introduction to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site by Ben Dancer (World Heritage Site Planning Officer). In response to this question: "Our rural parish council is entirely within one of the World Heritage Site areas. Is it a valid argument that the World Heritage Site Management Plan and its implementation offer sufficient protection to make a Neighbourhood Plan unnecessary?" In his response Mr Dancer pointed out that the WHS can help inform, but that its contribution offers 'material consideration' whereas a Neighbourhood Plan, if adopted, becomes part of the statutory development plan (where it sits alongside the Cornwall Local Plan). Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Cllr Blencowe suggested that the bin at Great Work might be moved: at present it is a little too close to the bench where people like to sit.

## **13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bell for laying the Parish Council's wreath on the War Memorial on Armistice Day. Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas, the Chairman closed the meeting.

## **14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

The times of future meetings.

Adoption of an Environmental Policy.

## **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday January 7, 2021 at 7.00pm. This meeting will be held using the Zoom facility.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman's initials.....*