

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday January 7, 2021 at 7:00pm using the Zoom facility

Present:	Cllr K.Doeser	Cllr R.Johnson
	Cllr G.Bell	Cllr G.Praed
	Cllr D.Blencowe	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitor: CCllr J.Keeling, Mr Dear and Mrs Thornton.

Wishing everyone present a Happy New Year, the Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Molcher (personal) and Cllr Pickles (personal) sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Praed seconded and it was agreed to accept these apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Bell declared an interest in Agenda item 9 (PA20/09762).

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 and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 are a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Thornton reminded members that she had attended the meeting in November to seek support for her planning application (PA20/07867). She has since considered the Parish Council's criticisms of her original application (which led to the Council's request for the proposed development to be refused permission) and has now altered her plans to reflect those criticisms. She stated that the Planning Officer is content to recommend acceptance and is awaiting the Parish Council's comments.

Mr Dear told members that he was present to seek the Parish Council's support for his planning application at Wheal Grey. He stated that something clearly needs to be done to prevent this historic site from deteriorating further; that his is a conservation-led project and that he considers himself as a custodian of Wheal Gray's future rather than the land-owner. Cllr Blencowe asked whether or not he intends to turn the site into a visitor attraction. Mr Dear stated firmly that he does not wish to create a theme park.

Speaking about his wife's application (PA20/09762), Cllr Bell stated that planning permission is sought for solar panels on the east-facing roof (the siting of panels on the southern roof does not require permission). Bearing in mind that his home is within a Conservation Area, he cited a number of examples of solar panels on similarly facing roofs in other Conservation Areas, adding that planning permission for other works has been sought and granted in the Germoe Conservation Area no less than thirty-one times since 2008. He concluded by stating that it is recognised that Conservation Areas are not heritage sites and that sympathetic development should be permitted.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to consider Agenda Item 9 at this point.

9 PLANNING

Members considered the Planning Officer's recommendation re PA20/07867 Mrs B.Thornton – Highfield House, Germoe – Extension to a Dwelling to Create a Self-Contained Annexe for Dependent Relatives which is contrary to the observation returned by Germoe Parish Council. Noting that the applicants have altered the size, design and

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position of the proposed annexe Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Johnson seconded and it was agreed that Germoe Parish Council will support the application as amended.

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA20/11060 Mr Dear and Family – Permission in principle for a single dwelling – Wheal Grey Works, Tresowes. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council considers the proposal to be consistent with the requirements of Cornwall Local Plan Policy 21 “Best Use of Land and Existing Buildings” and Policy 24 “Historic Buildings - to secure a sustainable future for Cornwall's heritage assets”.*

Based upon the proposal for the building of one family home and parking area, both out of public view and subject to Cornwall Council determination that the site next to Tresowes is suitable for development and subject to a planning condition tying the development to the conservation of historic buildings, landscape and features, Germoe Parish Council supports the application.

As the husband of the applicant, Cllr Bell declared a pecuniary interest in the following application and withdrew to the “waiting room”.

PA20/09762 Mrs S.Bell – Installation of 12 solar panels on the east facing roof – Germoe Veor, Germoe. Cllr Blencowe proposed and it was agreed that this application should be returned with the following observation *Germoe Parish Council considers the limited adverse visual impact of the solar panels is more than outweighed by environmental benefits gained by replacing the LPG heating system with a heating system using energy from a sustainable source. The proposal is consistent with the requirements of Cornwall Renewable Energy Planning Advice (March 2016) Section 6 “Solar Roof Mounted”, consequently Germoe Parish Council supports the application.*

Decisions

PA20/08819 REFUSED – Conversion of existing agricultural timber barn to form dwelling and associated works – redundant barn adj to Greenbank Farm, Tresowes Hill – *noted*

Correspondence

Cornwall Council Notification of Appeal against the refusal of planning permission re PA19/10252 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*

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Cllr Keeling reported that

- local government finance is foremost on Cornwall Councillors' minds as they begin to set a balanced budget which, as matters stand, presents greater challenges than ever
- Cornwall Council is focusing on priorities and will be setting an outcome-based budget
- Adult Social Care (ASC) is Cornwall's greatest expenditure
- the council tax for 2021/22, (including the ASC precept) is predicted to increase by 4.99% (a 1.99% council tax increase and a 3% ASC precept increase)
- a small number of cross-party councillors is seeking ways in which the local authority can drive down the cost of contract management and procurement
- Cornwall Council spends close to £800m per year (72% of the gross budget) and has a relationship with over 5,700 different suppliers. It is recognised that involving greater numbers of local Cornish suppliers will help both drive down the cost and benefit the local economy
- the gateway project for Germoe (Tresowes Hill) is still outstanding. He will continue to push the Highways Authority to ensure that projects such as this are completed as promptly as possible
- the number of residents in the County diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus has increased dramatically in the past fortnight
- Central Government is being pressed to make a decision about whether or not to hold elections in May
- it has been a year like no other and we all face the New Year with great hope – and an expectation of some normality returning to our lives.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Publicity

Cllr Bell reported that in the past month he has added eleven posts to the Parish Council Facebook page and that there have been 35 ‘reaches’, 22 engagements and 15 pages viewed

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Times of Parish Council meetings

Members considered varying the time of Parish Council meetings. Members noted that whilst it may be problematic for some, consistency in times (and dates) of Parish Council meetings is welcomed by many. It was agreed to leave matters as they are.

Environmental Policy

The Chairman apologised to members for the delay in circulating the draft document. It will be available and will be discussed at the next meeting.

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 Tresowes Hill gateway scheme in his report.

Climate Change

Members noted that there was nothing further to report.

10 FINANCE

A copy of a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at January 7, 2021 was placed before members and is attached to these minutes.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

		GROSS	NET	VAT
Colin Chapman				
Salary (December)	£ 248.41			
telephone	£ 21.68			
office expenses	£ 29.01			
Zoom Video Communications	£ 14.39			
use of home as office	£ 20.00			
	total	£ 333.49		

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

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

There was no report from the Clerk.

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor Johnson reported that the bridleway sign-post at Mount Whistle has rotted through and needs replacement. The Clerk undertook to ask Bob Sanders to attend to its repair.

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made no further comments.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No matters for inclusion in future meetings were tabled.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday February 4, 2021 at 7.00pm. This meeting will be held using the Zoom facility.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....