

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 March 3, 2022 at 7:00pm in Germoe Church Hall.

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

Visitor: Mrs Marshall.

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr J.Keeling.

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 £50 either in the form of a single gift or as a cumulative total

Cllr Bell declared a non-disclosable interest in Agenda Item 9 (PA22/01460).

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, February 3, 2022 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA

There were no matters arising that were not covered on this agenda.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from members of the public.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, CCllr Keeling reported that

- the coming year's Budget was probably the most difficult he has been involved with since the Unitary Authority was formed in 2009. Nevertheless, he is confident that the main demand services of Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Homelessness and Waste will be protected.
- a protracted, full council meeting at County Hall resulted in a balanced budget being set, but not before four alternative budgets had been voted out.
- the result means a Cornwall Council tax increase of 2.99% (which includes an additional 1% for Adult Social Care) for 2022/23. This equates to a Band D charge of £1,717.11
- Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner has increased its precept demand by 4.23% which equates to a Band D charge of £245.56
- Town and Parish Councils precepts average out to a Band D tax figure of £145.22
- Germoe Parish Council set a precept of £43.40 on a Band D dwelling (a decrease on the current year of 0.34%)
- all of which means that the precept demand on a Band D dwelling in Germoe for the coming financial year will be £2,006.07
- concerns were raised at the meeting concerning the proposed increase of toll charges by 30% for users of the Tamar Bridge.

Chairman's initials.....

- the public consultation event concerning the budget, raised concerns over increasing council tax at a time when the overall cost of living is already rising fast, with some respondents indicating they would struggle to pay the increase. Other respondents indicated they are willing to pay (more) if it benefits frontline services, with some asking Cornwall Council to put more effort in ensuring money is well spent and demonstrating value for money. There were many calls to introduce measures to discourage houses being turned into second homes or holiday lets and to make sure second homes and holiday lets are taxed appropriately.
- locally, he has been kept busy with social care matters, homelessness, planning and enforcement issues and has found both the traditional face-to-face and Teams meetings and the councillor-assist facility very useful
- the upcoming Highways Scheme has attracted a number of expressions of interest and will be the subject of the March Community Network Meeting. He will report back to all his parishes when he knows how these EOIs will be taken forward.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that interest in standing for co-option as a Parish Councillor has been expressed by Mrs Marshall.

Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Foster seconded and it was agreed that Mrs Marshall should be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Mrs Marshall signed and read aloud her declaration of acceptance of office before Mr Chapman, Clerk to Germoe Parish Council.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Marshall to the Council.

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, 2023 is £1,355.71 (or 100% of eligible costs, whichever is the lower). Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Bell seconded, Cllr Johnson abstained 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, 2023.

Tresowes notice-board

Members considered a quotation in the sum of £865.00 + VAT for the construction and installation of a replacement notice-board in oak at Tresowes. Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed to accept the quotation as detailed above.

Siting of a third defibrillator within the Parish

Cllr Foster reported that space can be made to accommodate a new defibrillator in the parish council-owned telephone box opposite Trewithen Terrace. Cllr Foster proposed, Cllr Johnson seconded and it was agreed to purchase a defibrillator to be sited in the telephone box at Trewithen Terrace.

It was further agreed that, once this defibrillator is in place, the Council will commission further training (possibly in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom).

8 PARISH MATTERS

Climate Change

There was nothing further to report.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Thursday June 2, 2022 to Sunday June 5, 2022)

The Chairman reported that the advisory committee had met on February 16, 2022 in Germoe Church Hall. The School is keen to be involved (despite the fact both pupils and staff will be enjoying their half-term holiday). It has expressed interest in the creation of a red, white and blue display of flowers in planters; in mapping the distribution of seventy commemorative trees throughout the Parish and in painting pebbles. The Clerk was asked to look into the cost of siting an engraved stone commemorating the Platinum Jubilee at Balwest. Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Blencowe that the Parish Council should present a commemorative china mug to each of the children attending the school. A cream tea or a picnic on the green is planned for the Friday and on the Sunday, the ladies of St Germoe's Church will host a "Big Lunch" in the Church Hall. The next meeting of the advisory committee will be on Tuesday March 15 in the Church Hall.

9 PLANNING

To make observations on planning applications including the following

Having declared a non-disclosable interest in the following application, Cllr Bell remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or the voting.

PA22/01460 Miss G.White – Non-material amendment with respect to decision PA08/00346/F dated 29.04.2009 to omit construction of the chimney stack – Nettle Cottage, Germoe. Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Doeser seconded

Chairman's initials.....

cllr Bell abstained and it was agreed to return this application marked *Germoe Parish Council considers this proposal should be made as a full Planning Application, not as a non-material amendment.*

We note guidance from Cornwall Council Planning Department which states “The proposed change may be a non-material amendment if, amongst other matters, there would be no conflict with any conditions on the planning permission.”

The Conditions of Planning Permission PA08/00346F detail alterations that “shall not be carried out without an express grant of planning permission”. Specifically included within these conditions are “any other alteration to the roof of the dwelling house”.

The reason for including this condition is “In the interests of visual amenity and to safeguard the character of the Germoe Conservation Area”.

The removal of the chimney-stack would inevitably alter the roof, which would be contrary to a condition of the Planning Permission, consequently the matter is inappropriate for consideration as a non material amendment and the Parish Council requests the application be refused.

Both the Parish Council and residents of the value the quality and integrity of the Conservation Area highly. The proposed change to the property design will remove a significant element of the traditional cottage form that was intended to be “compatible with the surrounding built form and would preserve the character of the Germoe Conservation Area”. It is the view of the Parish Council that this matter should be treated as a full Planning Application in order that the Council, community and all relevant Consultees have the opportunity to assess the proposal and make their views clear.

Decisions

PA21/06686 APPROVED – Construction of stables and associated storage – Agricultural Field, Lane between Balwest and Germoe – *noted*

PA21/10623 APPROVED – Refurbishment of existing dwelling house including extension and alterations and siting of garden studio and associated works – Chywoon Farm, Chywoon Lane, Rosudgeon – *noted*

PA21/11343 APPROVED – Construction of dwelling – land adj to Kirkwood, Germoe Lane – *noted*

PA21/11936 APPROVED – Non-material amendment (no 1) in relation to decision notice PA19/10252 dated 24.03.21 (Appeal Decision APP/D0840/W/20/3262091) to change the size of the approved OmniPods from 8m x 4m to 8.5m x 4.2m – Morvargh, Balwest – *noted*

PA22/01276 DECIDED NOT TO MAKE A TPO – Works to trees in a Conservation Area (CA), works include crown lift T1 Sycamore, G2 2 x Monterey Pines and T4 Sycamore. Cut back T3 spruce – Tredrea Balwest – *noted*

Planning Training

Cllr Bell explained the finer details of the applications’ spreadsheet, which he has compiled over the past few years and which details planning applications received by Germoe Parish Council together with the comments returned by the Council, the decisions made by the Planning Authority and the relevant policies which have led to those decisions.

10 FINANCE

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Germoe Parish Council’s financial position as at March 3, 2022. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request for financial help towards the work done by the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed Cllr Blencowe 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 Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	GROSS	NET	VAT
HMRC	£ 186.60		
R.Sanders	£ 108.00	£ 90.00	£ 18.00
Colin Chapman			
Salary (February)	£ 248.47		
telephone	£ 13.55		
office expenses	£ 29.42		
travelling	£ 10.00		
use of home as office	£ 20.00		
	total	£ 321.44	

Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed that the above three accounts should be paid.

Chairman’s initials.....

Members noted the following receipt

Germoe Village Association £ 50.00

11 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated that he had nothing further to report.

12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members noted that

- Mr Alok Sharma will attend the Climate Focus group meeting (which will be hosted by Mr Derek Thomas MP) on March 9 using the zoom facility
- a large hole has developed in the road-edge near Riverside and the road-surface at Trethewey has worn through to the underlying stone-based layer
- a planning enforcement allegation concerning the work done by Cornwall Council to trees in the Churchyard has been lodged with the Authority.

To everyone's agreement, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed that the following statement should be added to the minutes of this meeting: Following the recent invasion of the sovereign country of Ukraine by Russian forces, Germoe Parish Council supports the defence of democracy as exhibited by its citizens.

Members noted that collection points for material and financial aid for Ukrainian citizens will or have been established at Porthleven Ship Yard, the Bell Inn (Helston), Penlee Park (Penzance) and at the Helston Farmers' Market

13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that she has received a report of earth-works being undertaken at Mount Whistle. However, members were unsure whether or not the site is in the Parish of Germoe.

14 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Review of Germoe Parish Council's Environmental Policy.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday April 7, 2022 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....