

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday September 7, 2023 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Present:	Cllr Mrs G.Praed	Cllr Mrs J.Goddard
	Cllr Mrs K.Doeser	Cllr M.Peters
	Cllr G.Bell	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitor: Mr D.Rutherford.

The Chairman welcomed those attending, and said that she hoped everyone had enjoyed the summer break.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CCllr J.Keeling and Cllr Mrs Marshall sent their apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of gifts relating to membership of the Council of a value greater than £50.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday July 6, 2023 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA

Following a question, the Clerk reported that to the best of his knowledge Frederick Wearne and Sons have yet to repaint the names both on the War Memorial and on the stone tablet at St Germoe's Well. He undertook to jog memories. Members noted that in recent months a large solar-powered, illuminated cross has been affixed to the War Memorial. Considerable discussion resulted, during the course of which the Clerk advised that permission to add the cross to the Memorial had not been sought from the Parish Council (which owns both the Memorial and the surrounding area). Members agreed that the cross should be removed and kept safely should the owner wish to reclaim it.

Speaking of the A394 Consultation Exercise, Cllr Bell stated that several Cornwall Council Officer recommendations have since been removed from the plan when, arguably, they should not have included in the first place. This had possibly raised expectations unnecessarily. It was further noted that large, highly visible signs have been erected in Rosudgeon warning drivers of HGVs that the side roads are unsuitable for them to use. Regardless of what Cornwall Highways have stated in the recent past, Councillors felt that the warning signs at Germoe cross-roads are too small and, consequently, go unnoticed resulting in damage by HGVs both to property and to Cornish hedges within the parish. It was further noted that pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists are at particular risk of injury from HGVs on the lanes heading north out of Germoe Churchtown.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Rutherford stated that, having spoken to both the Chairman and the Clerk about the work involved in being a Parish Clerk, he was very interested and would like to apply for the post. He added that he had lived in the Parish for a number of years and had experience of working with and for Local Government. It was agreed to consider Mr Rutherford's application in closed session following the end of the meeting

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

In the absence of CCllr Keeling there was no report.

Chairman's initials.....

7 PARISH MATTERS

Vacancy in the Office of Councillor

Members noted that there have been no formal expressions of interest in co-option and it was agreed to advertise the vacancy on the notice-boards once again.

Germoe Churchtown defibrillator

Members considered the purchase of a replacement cabinet to house the defibrillator in Germoe Churchtown. Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Bell seconded all in favour that a new cabinet should be purchased through the Ronnie Richards Memorial Trust and that Davey and Gilbert should be instructed to fit it.

8 PLANNING

Members noted that the following planning applications received during the recess were returned with the attached observations using delegated powers

PA23/05612 Mr W.Menhennet – Construction of storage barn for agricultural, market garden storage and domestic storage for principle dwelling house – Chywoon, Chywoon Lane, Rosudgeon. This application was returned marked *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

PA23/06123 Mrs Rowett – Proposed Garage – Boscrege Villa, Boscrege, Ashton. This application was returned marked *Germoe Parish Council supports this application provided that a condition is imposed to ensure that the garage is used purely for the temporary accommodation of vehicles and not used for general storage or as a workshop for avoidance of nuisance to the neighbouring property.*

To make observations on planning applications including the following

PA23/07094 Mr D.Musgrave – Works to trees within a conservation area: Two dead Elm trees to be removed (T1 & T2) – Hillside, Tresowes Hill. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Bell seconded and it was agreed to return the following observation *Germoe Parish Council supports this application.*

Decisions

PA23/06123 APPROVED – Proposed Garage – Boscrege Villa, Boscrege – *noted*

9 FINANCE

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Germoe Parish Council's financial position as at September 7, 2023. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Balwest Methodist Church for financial help both with the annual cost of the maintenance of the open churchyard and with expenses incurred celebrating Christmas. Following discussion, Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed Cllr Mrs Goddard seconded and it was agreed that the sum of £400.00 (£300 for the cemetery and £100 for Christmas) be forwarded to Balwest Methodist Church partly under the terms of Section 214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 and partly under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members noted that, using delegated powers, the following accounts were paid during August

	GROSS	NET	VAT
R.Sanders (Gold paths 2 nd cut)	£ 471.74	£ 393.12	£ 78.62
R.Sanders (open spaces)	£ 120.00	£ 100.00	£ 20.00

The following accounts were presented for consideration

	GROSS	NET	VAT
HMRC	£ 208.00		
R.Sanders (open spaces)	£ 240.00	£ 200.00	£ 40.00
Colin Chapman			
Salary (July)	£ 277.41		
Salary (August)	£ 277.21		
telephone	£ 41.56		
office expenses	£ 30.01		
travelling	£ 10.00		
use of home as office (2 months)	£ 40.00		
total	£ 676.19		

It was proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Mrs Doeser and agreed that the above three accounts should be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Precept (2 nd instalment)	£ 6,250.00		

10 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

Chairman's initials.....

11 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Mrs Doeser reported that Parish Council representatives on the Community Area Partnerships will, with immediate effect, be invited to comment on Expressions of Interest from local organisations in accessing Community Levelling-Up funding. (This funding is designed to help finance local infrastructure.) Following this process, once an Expression of Interest has been approved by specialist officers, a sub-committee (which will include Officers and Cornwall Councillors) will make the final decision about each application.

Cllr Bell reported that he had attended an Introduction to Planning training course during the course of which he had learned of a new planning initiative to be known as a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement due to be introduced later in the year. It will offer an easier option for smaller parishes than that of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and will allow a community to set out its local priorities. Once adopted, the Local Planning Authority will be required to take its contents into account.

There has been no news about the sale of Tregonning Hill.

Speaking on behalf of the Council and the community, Cllr Bell offered Andrew Taylor his thanks for refurbishing the notice-board in Germoe Churchtown. A good job and well done!

Cllr Bell offered to explain his planning spread-sheet which details plans and decisions referring to applications over the past few years at the next available opportunity.

The Clerk was asked to ask Bob Sanders to cut the grass in front of the notice-board at Tresowes

12 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no further comments.

13 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- To consider ways of determining residents' views about the locality and the priorities they would like to see addressed.
- To consider ways of discouraging drivers of HGVs from driving through the village and on up to the Ashton-Great Work road.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday October 4, 2023 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

Following the Open Meeting, Members considered the appointment of a replacement Clerk. Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Bell seconded all in favour to invite Mr David Rutherford to take on the position.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....