

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Germoe Parish Council held on Thursday April 3, 2008 at 7:00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom.

**Present:** Cllr G.Ross (Chairman) Cllr A.Martin  
Cllr Mrs E.Clarke (Vice-Chairman) Cllr J.Taylor  
Cllr A.Felstead  
Cllr S.Geake Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** KDCllr Mrs Greenstreet, KDCllr Mrs Jenkin, KDCllr Keeling, PCSO Mitchell, Mrs Punkett and Mr Sanderson.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCCLlr Robertson.

## 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 MEETING

Cllr Felstead proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on Thursday March 6, 2008 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

## 4 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA

Cllr Geake reported that, on behalf of Germoe Parish Council, he had completed the planning questionnaire and returned it to Peter Wills.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Once again, Mr Sanderson referred to the tipping of unwanted asphalt near the Tresowes Green junction on the A394. It was suggested to Mr Sanderson that he should report it to Kerrier District Council personally.

## 6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

Through the Clerk, CCCLlr Robertson reported that at County level he has been pursuing matters relating to schools and the Fire Brigade

KDCllr Mrs Greenstreet reported that she has attended a number of training events and meetings during the course of the last month: notable amongst these had been the Older People's Forum, the Homeless Review Board, a presentation of the master-plan outlining the future for the Tremough Campus and a planning training event dealing with telecommunications masts

KDCllr Keeling reported that, as chairman of the Scrutiny Committee whose remit is to challenge the recommendations and decisions both of OneCornwall Officers and the new Implementation Executive, he seems to have spent more time working for County than for District.

Speaking of preparations for the new Unitary Authority, KDCllr Keeling reported that

- his Committee had recommended that Cornwall retains the present badge and further that, rather than talking about appearances, concerted efforts are made to complete the work which is required to be done before April 2009

- there will be three sub-service areas within the new unitary authority: East Cornwall, Central Cornwall and West Cornwall (into which the Parish of Germoe will fall)

and, speaking as the local member, KDCllr Keeling reported that, together with the Clerk (who had acted on behalf of concerned residents), he had recommended that Planning Enforcement Officers should visit Bargess Croft where there are concerns that engineering work is taking place outside the curtilage of the property. The Clerk reported that, in response to concerns about a badgers' sett, Police had visited the site and had concluded that, although there are two badgers' setts nearby, a third which is in the immediate vicinity of the engineering works is not currently in use.

KDCllr Mrs Jenkin reported that, as Kerrier's Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Arts and Culture, she is concerned over a certain lack of clarity as to how the new unitary authority intends to manage play areas, cemeteries and heritage sites particularly in the rural areas. She also has concerns about the future management of Penmount Crematorium where, because the service is presently delivered by four District Councils, the prices are significantly lower than elsewhere. She drew members' attention to Kerrier's Community Grants and particularly to moves designed to enable community groups to access money held in the Reserve Fund for local feasts and festivals

## **7 POLICE REPORT**

Apologising for WPC Butcher's absence, PCSO Mitchell reported that since February 1 there has been one crime in the parish, that of the theft of copper from a private garden. In answer to a question concerning the Police Surgery held recently in the Church Hall, PCSO Mitchell agreed that not only had it been poorly advertised but that, bearing in mind the event at the school, the choice of date and time had been unfortunate. However, those who had attended had not reported any problems. He assured members that there will be surgeries in the future and that more thought will go into both their timing and advertising. Speaking of the 40mph limit along Tresowes Hill, PCSO Mitchell said that the inappropriate use of speed is perceived to be a problem throughout the area, but that now that the limit is in force he will be able to police it.

## **8 THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

Councillors considered their response to the Boundary Committee following a request for comments before it undertakes a review of electoral boundaries in anticipation of the new Cornwall Unitary Authority. It was agreed to make the following representation

*Germoe Parish Council has actively followed the discussions concerning the creation of the new unitary authority for Cornwall and the ramifications arising from this. From the start one of the fundamental concerns was the potential lack of representation and approachability that might occur if the number of elected councillors was reduced. At present, those who live in the more rural areas of Cornwall have the ability to contact their local elected representative, who will usually understand the unique problems of the area they represent. With a reduced number of elected representatives, and each one representing a far wider physical area and greater number of electors, we feel this essential local accountability and representation will be eroded. The Council realises that it is highly likely that there will be fewer elected councillors under the new system and strongly urges that both when setting the number of councillors and the areas they will represent, the very important local needs of the rural areas of the County are not prejudiced by a more urban electorate.*

*Germoe Parish Councillors would therefore recommend that the Boundary Committee should look towards the appointment of a greater number of elected members than that which pertains at present.*

## **9 FOOTPATHS, SIGNPOSTS, MAINTENANCE**

Councillors considered anomalies at the eastern end of footpaths 5 and 9 and at the western end of footpath 11 all in Germoe Churchtown. It was agreed that the Clerk should make attempts to resolve these.

The Clerk reported that he had passed on Councillors' requests for work to be done in the Parish using the money available from the Heritage Assets Single Issue Panel pilot project

### **Correspondence**

CCC Confirmation of Modification Order for the addition of a footpath from Footpath 15 to County Road at Balwest – *noted*

## **10 ST GERMEO'S WELL**

Councillors considered the improvement and future maintenance of the interpretation stone and the area surrounding St Germoe's Well. The Clerk reported that Frederick Wearne and Sons had quoted the sum of £65.00 plus VAT for repainting the words on the interpretation stone. Cllr Mrs Clarke proposed, Cllr Martin seconded all in favour that Germoe Parish Council should accept this quotation.

The Clerk further reported that he had met Paul Wilkinson from CCC Highways who had stated that the well is sited within the highway boundary and that should the Parish wish to take on the maintenance of this stretch of the verge he could not foresee any problems. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate matters further and report back to Councillors at the next meeting.

## **11 PLANNING**

### **Applications**

PA08/00346/F Ms G.White – Erection of local needs dwelling and installation of septic tank – land adjoining Hope Cottage, Germoe. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors note that the site of the proposed development falls outside the settlement development boundary and that no reasons stating why this should be an exception to policy have been submitted. They also observe that access to and from the site is onto a very narrow road and that the design of the proposed dwelling is poor and out-of-keeping with the neighbouring dwellings in the Conservation Area. For these reasons they urge members of the Planning Committee to refuse permission for development.

PA08/00469/F Mr & Mrs D T Blencowe – Erection of a shed – Chycarne Cottage, Balwest. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that Germoe Parish Councillors support this application.

PA08/00528/F Mr & Mrs J.Colliver – Erection of extension to dwelling – Trade Winds, Germoe Cross Roads

### **Decisions**

PA07/02017/LBC Mrs M Ostler – Conditional Permission for Development (Listed Building Consent for the replacement of roof slates to dwelling) – Rose Cottage, Germoe Lane, Germoe – *noted*

PA08/000108/TCA Mr C.McLeod – Notice of Intention to make a Tree Preservation Order in respect of one sycamore tree – Rooks Wood, Germoe – *noted*

## **12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

In principle Members welcomed the imposition of a 40mph speed limit along Tresowes Hill but nevertheless they expressed concerns about the impact of the repeater signs and particularly the poles on which they have been placed. It was agreed to contact CCllr Robertson about the matter.

## **13 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman made no comments at this stage.

## **14 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Correspondence**

**Scope** request for help with house-to-house collection in April – *noted*

**Matthew Taylor MP Affordable Housing** survey report and request for information – *noted*

**The Standards Board for England** Town and Parish Standard Newsletter – *noted*

**SLCC** Regional one-day conference Plymouth May 14 – *noted*

**ReZolve Kernow** The Sustainable Action in your Community Conference Bodmin April 10 – *noted*

**Interlink** an opportunity for the voluntary and community organisations to help develop the LAA – *noted*

**Complete Weed Control** advertisement – *noted*

**Audit Commission** confirmation of appointment of external auditor – *noted*

**Information Commissioner's Office** renewal of Register entry – *noted*

**Land Registry** voluntary First Registration of Title – *noted*

**CCC** Cornwall Countryside Access Forum Annual Recruitment 2008 – *noted*

**OneCornwall** Newsletter Issue 7, Parish and Town Council Liaison Team (Helen Couch), Unitary Council for Cornwall update and Cornwall Electoral Review – *noted*

**CCC** Community Spaces grant scheme – *noted*

**Mrs Whitehead** concerns about speed limits and road safety throughout the parish – *the Clerk to reply, stating that members are, in general, sympathetic to the views expressed by Mrs Whitehead and to forward Mrs Whitehead's letter to CCllr Robertson for an authoritative reply*

## **15 FINANCE**

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008. Cllr Ross reported that he had checked through the accounts for the year and had found nothing to give him cause for concern. Cllr Martin proposed, Cllr Geake seconded all others in favour that, subject to audit by the Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Richards (Kerrier District Council's Senior Auditor) Germoe Parish Council accepts the accounts for the year April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

Parish Councillors considered the Statement of Assurance required for the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2008. Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Felstead seconded, all others in favour that, with the exception of paragraph 7 (which is not applicable), Germoe Parish Council should answer "Yes" to each of the questions posed by the Statement of Assurance which forms part of the Annual Return for the year ended March 31, 2008.

The Clerk reported a request from Cruse Bereavement Care in Cornwall for help with funding. It was agreed that Germoe Parish Council should not contribute towards this organisation.

The following accounts were presented for consideration:

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>VAT</b>
HM Customs and Revenue	£ 133.98	
Colin Chapman		
Salary (March)	£ 158.77	
telephone	£ 35.23	
office expenses	£ 30.68	
travelling	£ 20.00	
use of home	£ 20.00	
	total	£ 264.68

Cllr Geake proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded, all in favour that the above two accounts be paid.

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

No matters for inclusion at future meetings were tabled

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

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday May 1, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Church Hall, Germoe.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday May 1, 2008 following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Church Hall, Germoe.

Signed.....

Dated.....