

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 9, 2013 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Hall. Chairman of the Council, Cllr S.Geake presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Visitors: Cllr D.Blencowe, Cllr Mrs E.Clarke, Cllr Mrs Doeser, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr R.Royds and Mr Thomas.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr Keeling and PCSO Whitford.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such. It was noted that they were signed as being accurate by the Chairman at the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on June 7, 2012.

3 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Sid Geake said:

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome and thank you for attending Germoe’s Annual Parish Meeting.

“This is my second Annual Report as Chairman of Germoe Parish Council. It seems a long time ago, 3rd May 2007, when the last Germoe Council was elected. In the intervening six years half of the original elected Councillors have, for various reasons, resigned and their places taken by new, co-opted Councillors.

“With one exception, those Councillors were elected last Thursday, 2nd May 2013, and I offer my congratulations to them, and I suppose also to myself and hope that the next few years on the council are as interesting and enjoyable as those recently.

“The one exception I alluded to was Graham Ross, who decided not to stand again for election to the Council. Graham has been a Germoe Councillor for many years, and, as I mentioned in my first annual report last year, I hoped that I would be able to echo the standards he had set as Chairman: clearly the jury is still out on this, but I am certain that we will miss Graham’s experience, wisdom, and help. He will be sorely missed and I think I can say on behalf of Germoe Councillors that we wish him well in the coming years.

“Graham had been a Councillor for many years, however he wasn’t the longest serving member, that honour goes to Councillor Eileen Clarke and I would like to record my personal thanks that she decided to stand again. I’m certain that her detailed knowledge of what has occurred both where and when will continue to be most valuable to the Council. I think that both history and continuity are extremely important to a small local council like Germoe.

“Still thinking about last week’s elections, I would like to offer my congratulations to Cornwall Councillor John Keeling who was successful in his bid for re-election. John has in the past been most supportive of Germoe Council, both in his Kerrier District Councillor guise and his subsequent Cornwall Council one. I hope that we can rely on his continuing support over the coming period of the Council.

“Continuing with a congratulatory theme, the Council, together with the rest of the United Kingdom celebrated the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee last summer. Germoe contributed to this momentous occasion primarily in two different ways. All the children of school age either living in, or attending school within the Parish were given a commemorative mug. I was privileged, together with some of my colleagues, to go to

Germoe School on a lovely sunny afternoon to present mugs to all of the pupils present at that time. There were other smaller presentations here at Balwest and, as a last resort, mugs were posted to the children. I hope the children enjoyed receiving the mugs: it should be a more memorable occasion when something is presented, rather than something arriving in the post, no matter how entertaining the packaging.

“The second part of our Jubilee celebrations was the lighting of a beacon on Tregonning Hill on Monday 4th June. This beacon was one of the 2012 lit across the country as darkness fell, starting at Land’s End and heading up country. Unlike the school presentation, it cannot be said that the weather was kind that evening: it was both cold and wet. Nevertheless the beacon was lit and visible within the countryside, the occasion being enjoyed by a much larger crowd than anticipated. My thanks go to Councillor Jim Taylor for his help and support in this endeavour.

“Just prior to the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic torch was carried past, but not through, the Parish on Saturday 19th May, the first day of the torch relay.

“The annual Remembrance Service on Armistice Day, which last year fell on a Sunday, was held in conjunction with Balwest Methodist Chapel at the War Memorial on Tregonning Hill.

“I would now like to look at the more routine matters Germoe Parish Council has been involved with over the last 12 months.

“Starting with the subject that seems to grab the attention of both parishioners and other interested parties, planning. Over the last year we have considered and commented on a total of 14 planning applications, and where necessary we have responded to and reported potential enforcement issues. Our comments, sometimes supportive sometimes not, have not always been to the liking of other interested parties, or indeed the professional planning staff at Cornwall Council, but on the whole I believe that these applications have been considered properly and in a transparent manner, and that we will continue to do.

“Planning applications are always included on the Council’s agendas which are routinely posted throughout the Parish on our notice boards. Notice boards, by their nature, are exposed to the weather at all times and will ultimately wear out. This year the notice board at Nevada House has been replaced and the notice board that was positioned on the wall at Greatwork Farm relocated to the adjacent triangle. The costs of this last operation were met by a grant from the company *TalkTalk*, most apt I feel. This grant is recognised by a small plaque on the board. The Council purchased the redundant red telephone kiosk at Trewithen Terrace, and this was converted by Graham Ross into another notice board and, I’m told, a small swapping library for unwanted books.

“Germoe Parish Council acts in conjunction with Cornwall Council, which is the highway authority, in maintaining the network of footpaths, bridleways and BOATs, (Byways Open to All Traffic) in the Parish. This allows us to act and react locally to problems if and when they arise. Apart from the paths, Germoe also maintains several small open green spaces, the Great Work triangle, the Balwest triangle, the Preacher’s Pit on Tregonning Hill, St Germoe’s Well and immediate surrounds and, around the parish, welcoming stones at Nevada House, Germoe Cross Roads, Tresowes Road/A394, and Greenbury Down. We also maintain the bus shelter at Germoe Cross Roads. Closely related to physical maintenance is the continual process of trying to infill gaps in the definitive map network. In the past applications have been made for modification orders and, where necessary, and the information can be obtained, we will not hesitate in making applications for further orders. Potholes are reported to the highway authority for remedial action and, as a result of a request from Germoe, warning chevron signs were installed at the potentially dangerous right-angled bend by the Boscrege junction.

“Moving away from the statutory side of Council work and to, it must be said, a more enjoyable side we continue to be as supportive as possible of our local school, church and chapel. We have made donations to local Christmas celebrations, and to the upkeep of the two local churchyards, at Germoe and Balwest. There is continuing liaison with Germoe School (thanks to Councillor Bob Royds for this) and several Councillors visit Germoe School on a Friday morning to help with the children’s reading.

“Councillor Kathy Doeser is our representative on the Helston and the Lizard Community Network Panel and, again, my thanks to her for this extremely useful link with the wider local community.

“During the course of the year, the Council considered and adopted a new Code of Conduct, which I believe is more in keeping with today’s Society.

“All of these various aspects of the Council’s ongoing work continue to be reported in *The Messenger*, our local Parish magazine and my thanks go to Councillor David Blencowe for his drafting and reporting.

“I now would like to look at the Adit, beneath Adit House. Towards the end of last year, one of the flank walls of the Adit tumbled onto the approach steps, this was probably due to the exceptional rainfall we enjoyed last year as well as root damage from plants in the Cornish hedge above. My thanks to Councillors David Blencowe and John Keeling for the speedy response where they were able to organise fencing to block access to the adit, and to ensure that this restriction remains in place. Germoe Council has in recent years attempted to maintain a clear access to the adit, however we are not the owners of the site. We have made strenuous efforts to identify the owners, as clearly it would be their responsibility to make good the damage to this listed structure. We will continue with our efforts and at the same time explore the possibility of securing funding for this repair.

“Whilst considering the future of Germoe Parish Council, I believe that with a newly elected council it is possibly time to explore whether the Council should seek to obtain Quality Council Status and to adopt the Power of Competence (a procedure where the Council does not have to rely solely on existing legal powers when considering actions we might wish to take). As we are such a small area I am not that certain that there is real scope for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, but this is again something that can be explored.

“Realising that the terms under which our Parish Clerk had been working hadn’t been reviewed and revised for a couple of years this was corrected in our most recent meetings and, as I said last year, my thanks must go to Colin Chapman for his continued hard work, wise advice and, again, his sense of humour perhaps best illustrated by him taking the plunge and become a Councillor for his own local parish. I hope that there he has as enjoyable meetings as we often do.”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2012 – 2013 which had been accepted at the Ordinary Parish Meeting on Thursday April 4, 2013. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £6,019.90 and ended it with a reserve of £6,641.53. The Clerk confirmed that he has added the Financial Statements to the website.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 6, 2013

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 1, 2014

Chairman