

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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C.F.P.Chapman  
Clerk to the Council  
Chy Lean  
St Keverne Road  
Mawgan  
Helston TR12 6AY  
telephone 01326 221648  
[germoeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:germoeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 1, 2014 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Hall. Chairman of the Council, Cllr S.Geake presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

**Visitors:** CCllr J.Keeling, Cllr D.Blencowe, Cllr Mrs E.Clarke, Cllr Mrs Doeser and Cllr J Taylor.

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Royds.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Cllr Mrs Doeser proposed, Cllr Mrs Clarke seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 9, 2013 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 6, 2013.

## **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 third Annual Report and to a certain extent I would like to follow the format I adopted in my earlier Reports.

“Last year’s report was close on the heels of the Parish Council election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. I then congratulated those Councillors who had been so recently elected. There was one vacancy after this election and, at our meeting in June, Councillor Anthony Thomas was co-opted onto the Council. As this is his first Annual Meeting – welcome Anthony

“I also congratulated Cornwall Councillor John Keeling on his re-election to Cornwall Council. John has continued with his strong support for Germoe Parish Council and again I thank him for this.

“Due to the celebratory nature of 2013, I was conscious that my Report last year was a tad lengthy, so this year I aim to be less verbose

“With a new Council elected the decision was taken to adopt the Power of Competence, which allows the Council a bit more freedom in what it can do.

“When setting the precept for the coming year the Council determined not to make an increase but to retain the existing precept.

“The annual Remembrance Day Service this time fell on a weekday and was celebrated at the War Memorial on Tregonning Hill. There was also a Service of Remembrance at Praa Sands on 2<sup>nd</sup> June when a memorial to the crew of Sunderland Flying Boat EJ134-N/461, which crashed in 1943 was unveiled. Representatives of Germoe Council were in attendance.

“Onto more routine matters over the last 12 months:

“I suppose I should start with the Adit on Tregonning Hill, I reported last year that the wall on one side of this historic structure (it is a listed building) had partially collapsed. Despite strenuous efforts we have

been unable to ascertain who owns this site and thus who is responsible for its upkeep. Having adopted the Power of Competence, the Council is able to take positive action and has determined to do so. Funding has been sought, and some has already been obtained, thanks to the support of Councillor Keeling. It is anticipated that further funds will be forthcoming, and a preferred contractor has been appointed.

“There was perceived potential problem of damage to the small triangular green at Balwest due to inconsiderate parking. At the meeting in June several local residents attended to express their views on this. A Balwest Triangle Preservation Society was formed by local residents with the aim of undertaking remedial action as and when required. The Society subsequently undertook remedial works to improve drainage within the area. Germoe Council has been supportive of this Society.

“I will turn next to the two subjects that seem to raise most concern and comment within the Parish; planning applications and highways. This year we have returned observations to Cornwall Council, which is the planning authority, on fifteen applications, and where necessary, we have responded to and reported potential enforcement issues. I said last year that 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 so.

“The Council continues to act in conjunction with Cornwall Council, which is the local highway authority, in maintaining the network of footpaths, bridleways and BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic). The Council 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 network, this is achieved by modification orders. There are still several of these outstanding with the highway authority, and no further applications have been submitted this year. Potholes are reported to the highway authority for remedial action, and usually result in a speedy repair. However, it is unfortunate that the equally dangerous occurrences of uncut and unmaintained hedges adjoining the highway (the responsibility of the adjoining land owner and only as a last result, the highway authority) does not seem to enjoy the same level of priority.

“This last winter has bought home the need for local councils to be prepared for adverse weather conditions and other emergencies. It is clear that Germoe did not suffer as greatly as did some of our neighbouring communities, but this is no reason why as a Council we should not try and be as prepared as possible. To this end, work has already commenced in the preparation of a Community Emergency Plan for both our own area and, in conjunction with neighbouring councils, the surrounding one as well. My thanks go to Councillors Kathy Doeser, David Blencowe and Jim Taylor for their work on this.

“Those of you who parked in the car park adjoining the Sunday School will have noticed the installation of a replacement notice board. Not everybody is a slave to computers, tablets and the other means of, and I hesitate in using the word ‘modern’ methods of communication. The Council’s website is only one means of maintaining communication between the parishioners and the Council, and the maintenance and repair of the good old local Parish notice board is an ongoing project for the Council.

“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 local church-yards. There is continual liaison with Germoe School, (thanks to Councillor Bob Royds for this) and several Councillors visit Germoe School on a Monday morning to help with the children’s reading.

“At its meeting in November the Council was given a presentation by Maxine Hardy of the community network manager for the Helston and Lizard Community Area, Councillor Kathy Doeser is our representative on the Network Panel and thanks go to her for this extremely useful link with the wider local community.

“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.

“Lastly, I would like to repeat my thanks for the sterling work of our clerk, Colin Chapman, his continued hard work, sound advice and necessary sense of humour are most appreciated by myself and I firmly believe the other Germoe Councillors.

“This Report was drafted a few days before this evening’s meeting and today Councillor Eileen Clarke told me that she intends to resign from Germoe Parish Council. I believe that Eileen was first elected to the Council in 1999, and has been a steadfast Councillor ever since. She has unrivalled knowledge of the Parish and this will be sorely missed. She has been of great help to me as a Councillor and as Chairman and on a personal note I must say that I will miss her informed contributions to the Council’s discussions and decisions. I understand why she has taken the decision to resign at this time and I can only wish her the best of good fortune in the future and express my heartfelt thanks to her for her membership of Germoe Parish Council.”

#### **4 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2013 – 2014. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £6,641.53 and ended it with a reserve of £7,294.37.

To general agreement, Cllr Jim Taylor said how very sorry he was that Cllr Mrs Clarke had decided to retire from the Parish Council. He echoed the Chairman’s words stating that her knowledge of and concern for the Parish are unmatched and that she will be much missed.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 5, 2014

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 7, 2015

Chairman