

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 7, 2015 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 K.Dooser, Cllr R.Royds and Cllr J Taylor.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr Keeling and Cllr Dear.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 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 5, 2014.

3 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Sid Geake said:

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to and thank you for attending Germoe’s Annual Parish meeting. I realise that I said last year that I intended not being as verbose as in previous years, but when posting my report I realised that maybe I had failed. This year I do intend to shorten my report.

“This is my fourth Annual Report and I will try to follow the format of my previous ones. It does seem a tad strange to be reporting when people are still voting across the country in the general election. This election might eventually change British politics and the way the country is governed, not that that is likely to impinge on Germoe Parish Council which, in the time I have been a Councillor, has been resolutely non-political.

"In the past twelve months there have been a couple of changes in the makeup the Council. Firstly, as I said at the end of last year’s report, after many years of being a Councillor, Eileen Clarke intended to resign. To fill the vacant Councillor post Bill Dear was co-opted onto the Council in September, welcome Bill. Recently, due to the pressures of work, Anthony Thomas has felt it necessary to resign, whilst he hadn’t been a Councillor for long, I valued Anthony’s contributions to Germoe. I anticipate that we will be seeking a new volunteer to be co-opted in Anthony’s place in the near future.

“Last year I reported that, when setting the precept, the decision had been taken not to increase the amount. This year, conscious of the increased cost of almost everything that anybody wishes to do, the precept, was reluctantly raised by just over 1%.

“The weather for the annual Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Tregonning Hill, was not of the kindest. Initially there was fairly heavy rain, but, by the time of the service, this had eased and we were surrounded by a light mist; very atmospheric during the two minutes silence.

“Onto more routine matters for the Council over the last 12 months: –

“I started last year with a report concerning the partial collapse of the wall on one side of the adit on Tregonning Hill. Since then funding was obtained, from Cornwall Councillor John Keeling and the Cory Environmental Trust. This enabled the Council to employ Roger McLean, an acknowledged expert in repairs to historic structures and, over a sunny week in September, the wall was dismantled, the rab

behind moved back, new foundations installed and the wall rebuilt on its original line. With the new wall in place, the state of the wall on the other side has been brought into prominence. Roger has agreed that he will tackle repairs to this wall as soon as he can slip this into his busy schedule. My thanks go to John Keeling, Cory Environmental Trust for the finance and Roger and his 'mate' Darren Payus for their superb workmanship.

“Planning applications: over the last year Germoe has commented on some 20 planning applications, an increase over the previous year. I will repeat my comments of last year ‘our comments, sometime 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’ I believe that this still applies.

“The other area that seems to attract most attention in the Parish is the state of the public highway, both vehicular and pedestrian, i.e. the roads and footpaths. The Parish Council is not the highway authority and complaints and comments on roads are passed to Cornwall Council, who is the relevant authority. Whilst they cannot action every item, I think that on balance, where the comment has been warranted, that suitable action has been taken. This still doesn't apply to the perennial problem of uncut and unmaintained hedges adjoining the highway. I am not sure there is a great deal more, apart from continuing to apply as much pressure as we can on the owners concerned.

“Whilst public footpaths are also the legal responsibility of the highway authority, Germoe has for many years entered into a maintenance agreement with Cornwall Council, which means that we do have some control over these. The usual trimming and maintenance has continued, and is likely to do so. As a result of the approval of a modification order, footpath 17 has finally been extended to connect with the public highway.

“Last year I reported that the Council was investigating the creation of a Community Emergency Plan: this project is still continuing, and again my thanks go to the Councillors involved, namely Kathy Doeser, David Blencowe and Jim Taylor.

“There are other aspects that are not statutory ones, and in some ways these are the more enjoyable part of our operations.

“We still continue to be as supportive as possible to our local school, church and chapel. Donations have been made towards the maintenance of grave yards, Christmas celebrations and £500 has been promised towards the repair of Germoe Village Hall. Until this became an unsafe building we would meet there for half the year, and the other half here at Balwest. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be able to return to this arrangement. There continues to be liaison with Germoe School (my thanks to Councillor Bob Royds) and a couple of us continue to help with the children's reading practice on a Monday morning. In February, Mrs Paula Quinney informally outlined the School's Governing Body's proposed Federation with Boskenwyn School. At our meeting in April, as part of the Federation consultation process, we formally considered this and voted to support this proposal.

“Donations have been given to Cornwall's Air Ambulance and to the Royal British Legion.

“Other projects that have been considered, acted upon or are still outstanding include, the provision of a bus shelter for school children on the Greatwork triangle. After consultation with those local residents immediately concerned, it was decided that unfortunately there weren't the number of children to justify what could have been an expensive project. As the green is not on a bus route, apart from the school bus, grants were not guaranteed to be available for this installation. The telephone kiosk at Trewithen Terrace has been given a bit of TLC, and we have received the offer from a local resident of keeping a regular eye on this. There is agreement to the positioning of a defibrillator at Balwest, final arrangements for the financing of this are in hand. The question of improvements to two important paths on Tregonning Hill are being considered: there is a need to improve the path to the War Memorial (which is in hand) and for maintenance to the path along the crest of the Hill.

“Perhaps the ‘one that got away’: 70 acres of Tregonning Hill were recently put up for sale, a great opportunity we thought for us to purchase, until we discovered the price. The sale has been bought to the attention of the National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, both of whom have far more financial muscle than we do. As far as I know, the Hill is still for sale.

“There are regular and informative reports of the Council’s meetings in the local press, thanks to Councillor David Blencowe for these.

“I would like to thank Cornwall Councillor John Keeling for his continued support of Germoe. Of the Councils within John’s ambit, we are certainly not the largest, and I suspect probably not the most worrisome for him. I’ve already mentioned the financial support with the rebuilding work to the adit, I’d like to add to that his support for our comments on both planning and highways, and the actions he has been able to achieve from Cornwall Council, when appropriate.

“Lastly, again, I would like to thank Colin Chapman, our Clerk. I said last year ‘his continued hard work, sound advice and necessary sense of humour are most appreciated by myself and I firmly believe the other Germoe Councillors’. I have no reason to depart from this view this year.”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented the unadopted Financial Report for the year 2014 – 2015. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £7,294.37 and ended it with a reserve of £7,905.13.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 4, 2015

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 5, 2016

Chairman