

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 11, 2017 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom. Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mrs Doeser presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Present: Mr Blencowe, Mr Johnson, Mr Molcher, Mrs Praed and Mrs Whitehead.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr Keeling.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Mr Blencowe proposed, Mrs Praed seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 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 2, 2016.

3 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Doeser said:

“Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to Germoe's Annual Parish Meeting. This is my opportunity to review the past year's activities, as Chairman of the Council.

“We started the year with only six Councillors but by July, were up to full complement with the co-option of Diane Whitehead.

“Firstly I'd like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their continued commitment and hard work for the past year. My thanks also go to John Keeling our Cornwall Councillor for his support and assistance to the Parish. I congratulate him on being re-elected to Cornwall Council and even as leader of the Council. I must also thank Colin Chapman our clerk, without whose sound advice and expertise the Parish Council would not be able to function. He also has an amazing way of finding sources of funding that have enabled us to complete our projects this year.

“During the year we have completed the work of the west wall of the Adit on Tresowes Hill. The work of Roger McLean and his team is of excellent quality that will protect this historic asset for many years to come. I should also thank Mr and Mrs Liddicoat who donated the additional stone that was needed to give the wall adequate foundation.

“We replaced the Parish noticeboard at Newtown and refurbished the others, which were looking a little tired. As these are one way of keeping our community informed of our activities it is important they look good. Another way we are able to publicise our activities, is through the Messenger and local newspapers. This work is done by Councillor David Blencowe and I thank him for managing to produce a concise summary of our meetings or an interesting report of our more mundane meetings.

“The public access defibrillator has eventually been installed on the wall of Germoe Church Hall and a number of local residents have been trained in CPR and using the defibrillator. We hope we never need to use it but it is reassuring that we have people in the village trained to use it. We hope to arrange more training and refresher courses in the near future.

“The Parish Council has been represented at the Remembrance Day Service on Tregonning Hill and I attended the Helston Mayor's Civic Service in July. Our previous Chairman, Sid Geake and I had the pleasure of presenting the children of Germoe School with medals to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday. We continue our links with the school by our weekly session to listen to the children reading.

“Following the completion of the work on Germoe Church Hall, we resumed our meetings in Germoe Churchtown in November. I'm sure you'll agree that the new hall is a fantastic facility for the village. We also made a contribution to the cost of new chairs which will make us more comfortable at our meetings.

“We have continued to support both St Germoe Church and Balwest Chapel with the cost of maintaining the graveyards and with a contribution to their Christmas celebrations. We have also made donations to the Footh Charity, Cornwall Air Ambulance and the Royal British Legion. Following much discussion regarding the history and future of St Germoe's Well, we have promised Germoe Village Association a contribution towards the cost of a new cover which is to be made by a local craftsman. I commend the work they have already done in improving the area around the well and stream.

“Much of our regular work involves discussing planning applications as a formal consultee of Cornwall Council. Over the past year we have commented on more than twenty applications, with a view to supporting those developments which protect the special nature of the Parish, the conservation areas and World Heritage Site. Cornwall Council have now adopted their Local Plan 2010 – 2030 and this should give us some guidance on what development they are likely to find acceptable.

“One of our other responsibilities is to maintain the Public spaces and Public Rights of Way on behalf of Cornwall Council.

“We have responded to community concerns about the condition of the roads and speeding within the Parish and our Cornwall Councillor has discussed with the Police, setting up a Speedwatch group.

“We no longer have any representation at our meetings from Devon and Cornwall Police so crimes within the parish are not notified but are published on the Police UK website. Following an incident last year, we agreed to support a Neighbourhood Watch scheme should one be set up in the Parish.

“The end of the year saw all Councillors coming to the end of their term of office. Three of the previous Councillors decided not to seek re-election, Bill Dear who had served the Council for two and a half years, and two of our longest serving members, Sid Geake who was on the Council for fourteen years recently serving as Chairman and our planning expert and Jim Taylor after ten years, who has vast local knowledge and building experience. Their expertise and knowledge of the Parish will be sorely missed along with their willingness do the practical jobs around the Parish.

“Looking forward to the coming year, I would like to congratulate the new Councillors on being elected unopposed and encourage any member of the Parish to consider putting themselves forward for co-option so that the Council can continue to represent the Parish as widely as possible.

“I will conclude by reiterating my thanks to my fellow Councillors and our clerk and hand over to Colin to give the financial report for the year to March 31st 2017.”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2016 – 2017. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £6,726.92 and ended it with a reserve of £3,694.18.

OPEN FORUM

Mr Johnson drew the attention of those present to a stand of Japanese knotweed on PROW 28 which he had reported both to the Parish Council and to Cornwall Council some four years ago and about which, he reported, nothing had been done by the Authority (albeit that a small patch had recently been sprayed with a herbicide). The Clerk undertook to report the matter again.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 1, 2017

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 3, 2018

Chairman