

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 3, 2018 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom. Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mrs Doeser presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Present: Cllr Bell, Cllr Blencowe, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Molcher, Cllr Mrs Praed and Cllr Mrs Whitehead.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CCllr Keeling.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Blencowe proposed, Cllr Praed seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 5, 2017 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 1, 2017.

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 my second year as Chairman of the Council.

I'd like to start by thanking my fellow Councillors for their commitment to the Parish and the Council. I must also thank Colin Chapman our clerk, whose knowledge and experience enable the Council to function so smoothly. My thanks also go to John Keeling our Cornwall Councillor for his support and assistance to the Parish, particularly with planning and enforcement matters.

“Following the difficulties in submitting the nomination papers last May, we started the year with only 4 Councillors, appointed without the need for an election. This left the Council at risk of being inquorate, and so we co-opted Dianne Whitehead and Richard Johnson in June and Graham Bell joined us in September. We have maintained a full complement for the rest of the year. We are fortunate now to have representation from across the Parish and direct involvement in both Germoe and Ashton Village Associations, Germoe Church and School and Breage & Germoe Bridleways Association.

“We do our best to keep the residents of Germoe informed of our activities, with each Councillor keeping our noticeboards up to date. Councillor David Blencowe has continued to produce his monthly reports for the Parish Messenger and local newspapers and I thank him for producing interesting reports from our sometimes mundane meetings.

“One of our main responsibilities is the maintenance of the public spaces and Public Rights of Way on behalf of Cornwall Council. We have had particular difficulties with standing water on Moors Lane Tresowes and a long standing problem of Japanese knotweed in the Rocky Lane area. Cormac have treated the knotweed and their Countryside Officer, Hamish has come up with a scheme which will hopefully resolve the drainage problems on Moors Lane.

“We took the decision, this year, to repair and refurbish all 9 public seats around the Parish and thanks to a generous anonymous donation we have been able to site a new bench on Tregonning Hill near the Preacher's Pit. All are now ready for residents and visitors use to enjoy the fantastic views here, this summer.

“As a formal consultee on planning applications we have discussed and commented on almost 20 applications. We have generally supported applications which seek to bring older properties up to date while still protecting the special nature of the Parish, the conservation areas and World Heritage Site. Councillor David Blencowe has made sure that

we generally comment in line with the Cornwall Local Plan. Our neighbouring parish Breage has started to develop their neighbourhood development plan. We decided that as such a small parish, Germoe would not embark on this activity ourselves but we will need to monitor where Breage's plan may have an impact on Germoe Parish.

“The problem of ‘Pop Up’ camping that appeared on fields in the Parish over the summer, was brought to our attention. We discovered that these were operating under a licence from Freedom Camping and despite the impact they may have on local camping businesses, Cornwall Council is unable to take any enforcement action as they do not require any planning permission.

“A continuing issue for the Council is the condition of the roads and speeding within the Parish. I would urge residents to report any potholes they are aware of, so that they can be repaired as soon as possible. Our Cornwall Councillor is leading on a Speedwatch group within his division which will hopefully have an impact on traffic using the narrow roads within the Parish. We are also planning a speeding awareness campaign with the School.

“The Parish Council was again represented at the Remembrance Day Service at the war memorial on Tregonning Hill. This year saw a good turn out, despite the typically windy November weather.

“In setting the Council Tax precept for this year the Council decided on a small increase in line with inflation. We have continued to support both St Germoe Church and Balwest Chapel with the cost of maintaining the graveyards and have made contributions to their Christmas celebrations. We have also made donations to Cornwall Air Ambulance and the Royal British Legion. This will be presented in more detail in our financial report for the year to March 31st 2018.

“In conclusion I would again like to thank our clerk and fellow Councillors and look forward to another successful year.”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2017 – 2018. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £3,694.18 and ended it with a reserve of £3,600.07.

OPEN FORUM

Cllr Blencowe asked if the Council might consider making a donation towards the work done by the St Julia's Hospice in Hayle. Those present agreed that such a request should be favourably received, particularly as the Charity has supported and undoubtedly will support residents with palliative care.

Cllr Whitehead asked if similar financial consideration might be given to the school. Those present noted that the funding of the school is quite different from that of the Cornwall Hospice Care, but that consideration might be given to the purchase of particular pieces of equipment.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 7, 2018

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 2, 2018

Chairman