

# GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Thursday May 2, 2019 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 Pickles, Cllr Mrs Praed, Mrs Hughes, Mr and Mrs Hawkins, Mr S.Neal, Mr and Mrs Taylor and Freddie.

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **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 3, 2018 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, 2018.

## **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 third Annual Report as Chairman of Germoe Parish Council.

“I'd like to start by thanking my fellow Councillors who enthusiastically act as the eyes and ears of the Council and the voice of the residents. And I must of course thank our clerk, Colin Chapman, whose knowledge and experience has helped me over the past three years and enables the Council to function so smoothly.

“My thanks also go to Cllr John Keeling, our Cornwall Councillor, for his support and assistance to the Parish, particularly with planning issues and access to his Community Fund.

“For most of the year we had a full compliment of Councillors, however in November Diane Whitehead resigned and in March we were fortunate to be able to co-opt Joe Pickles on to the Council. I thank Diane for her service to the Council and welcome Joe to our ranks.

“As I started to think about this year for my report I thought that we had a fairly quiet year but as a small Council we have been quite busy.

“One of our main activities is to make observations, to Cornwall Council, on planning applications. Over this year we have looked at 27 applications. I am grateful to Councillor David Blencowe, as our planning expert, for his thorough and detailed preparations prior to the meetings that have helped us to make well considered and relevant observations. These have generally been taken on board by the planning officers. Looking through our responses to planning applications, we have supported the positive development of smallholdings on agricultural land and opposed inappropriate and unsustainable development in the countryside.

“Another responsibility the Parish Council has over the years chosen to take on, on behalf of Cornwall Council, is the maintenance of the public rights of way. These are cut regularly by our contractor Bob Sanders who also looks after the small green spaces and carries out minor repairs. Cornwall Council has recently considered the local Bridleways Association request to modify the designation of a number of paths on Tregonning Hill. This will go out for public consultation soon.

“We were grateful to accept the donation from Mrs Cox, in memory of her mother, that enable us to replace the bench at the top of Moors Lane following its mysterious destruction one night.

“With the help of funding from Cllr Keeling’s Community Grant we have added Cornish language text to the welcome stones on the A394.

“With encouragement from residents of the Parish, in February we declared a Climate Emergency in response to global warming. We will work to support the Parish and Cornwall Council to help prevent the worst outcomes of climate change.

“Through our Cornwall Councillor we continue to liaise with the Council in their delivery of services to residents and work with other town and parish councils in the Helston and South Kerrier Community Network Panel.

“This year, we joined the congregation of Balwest Chapel for the Armistice Day ceremony at the war memorial on Tregonning Hill and in their service of Remembrance at the Chapel. Those of us who made the trek up the hill really appreciated the cup of coffee served afterwards.

“As Chairman I represented the Parish Council at the Helston Town Council Civic Service and Cllr Blencowe represented us at the unveiling of the new cover of St Germoe’s well.

“It is important that the Council communicates our activities to the residents of the Parish and I thank Councillor Graham Bell for producing the monthly reports for the Link and the local press and all Councillors who look after the parish noticeboards.

“Where we have the legal ability to do so we have financially supported St Germoe Church and Balwest Chapel in maintaining the graveyards and in their Christmas celebrations. We have also made donations to Cornwall Air Ambulance, the Royal British Legion and the Sowenna Appeal at the new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit in Bodmin.

“In conclusion I would again like to thank the clerk and my fellow Councillors for their commitment to the Parish and with their continued support the Parish can look forward to another successful year.”

#### **4 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2018 – 2019. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £3,600.07 and ended it with a reserve of £6,194.32. During the course of the year the Council’s income had been £12,234.76 and its expenditure £9,640.51 The accounts are all available to view on the website.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Pickles asked if the Council might like to consider the use of social media to make the work it does more widely known within the community. It was noted that the Council does have a Facebook page, but that this is not widely known and that perhaps there may be other media sites that may be more attractive. There are problems with the General Data Protection Act, but these can be overcome if individuals agree to being contacted by signing up to a particular site. It was agreed to make this matter an agenda item for the meeting in June.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 6, 2019

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 7, 2020

Chairman