

GERMOE PARISH COUNCIL

www.germoeparishcouncil.org.uk

C.F.P.Chapman
Clerk to the Council
Chy Lean
St Keverne Road
Mawgan
Helston TR12 6AY
telephone 01326 221648
parish.clerk3@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Germoe Parish held on Monday May 24, 2021 at 7.00pm in Balwest Methodist Schoolroom. Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mrs Doeser presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Present: Cllr G.Bell, Cllr D.Blencowe, Cllr R.Johnson, Cllr Mrs G. Praed, CCllr J.Keeling.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Johnson proposed, Cllr Blencowe seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 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, 2019.

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 final year of the Council elected in 2017 and to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and commitment to the Parish.

“What a strange year this has been. We started the year with the country in “lockdown” as Covid 19, coronavirus global pandemic spread through the population. We learnt a whole new vocabulary as members of the Government and health experts addressed the Nation in a daily briefing. We also learnt the value of community, as residents volunteered to help out their neighbours who were at greater risk from the virus.

“The Council, being unable to meet face to face, adopted emergency measures to enable us to carry on the day to day business, with decisions delegated to the clerk in consultation with the Chairman. By June we had discovered the online facility of Zoom and were able to hold virtual meetings. This certainly tested our technical skills as we battled with occasional interruptions from dogs and children. I'd like thank my fellow Councillors for coping with these challenges and continuing to act as the voice of the residents of the Parish. A huge thank you must go to our clerk, Colin Chapman, who adapted to working with the technology which enabled us to continue to function as a democratic council. He also had to keep up with the continually changing regulations and guidance from the Government and the National Association of Local Councils.

“Despite being unable to hold our meetings in public, members of the public were able to join our meetings from the comfort of their own homes, this did attract a number of observers.

“I'd like to thank Councillor John Keeling, our Cornwall Councillor, for his continued support and assistance to the Parish, particularly with planning issues. I congratulate him on his re-election to Cornwall Council for the newly constituted seat of Porthleven, Breage and Germoe.

“Our work continued in making observations, to Cornwall Council, on planning applications. The number of applications this year was no less than previous years. We are fortunate in having Councillor David Blencowe, whose diligence and expertise has helped us to make well considered and relevant observations. He is ably assisted by Councillor Graham Bell who has also prepared a spreadsheet to monitor the trends in types of applications and decisions. Our comments have generally been taken on board by the planning officers but where there was a discrepancy, we have agreed to disagree. Three decisions were taken to appeal by the applicants, in all

three cases the planning inspector allowed the appeal against Cornwall Council's refusal. We have tried to oppose inappropriate and unsustainable development in the countryside. We have noticed an increase in applications to convert redundant agricultural buildings to residential or holiday accommodation.

"Councillors Praed and Johnson have been keeping eye on the public rights way within the Parish, but maintenance was affected by our contractor Bob Sanders putting his staff on "furlough", however we have still managed to install waste bins at Great Work and the bus stop at Germoe Crossroads. As staff returned to work, the work to protect the ground at the Balwest triangle has been completed and visitors are now directed to the car park at Balwest Chapel to prevent further damage.

"Councillors Blencowe and Bell have been keeping the Parish free of litter on their "daily permitted" walks, equipped with the tools we were able to purchase through the Clean Cornwall grant scheme.

"We engaged specialist contractor, Roger McLean, who had previously worked on the Adit, to complete the repair to the abutments and slate bridge over the stream at Germoe Green.

"We have at last, through the persistence of Councillor Blencowe, seen the installation of the Tregonning Hill gateway signs aimed at reducing the speed of traffic along the hill, by making drivers aware of the fact that they share the road with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This scheme was funded through the Helston and South Kerrier Community Network devolved highways budget.

"The Armistice Day ceremony at the war memorial on Tregonning Hill was very different this year, having to be "socially distanced". We are grateful to Steve and Gillian Allen who stepped in to conduct the brief service and play the last post and to Councillor Graham Bell who laid the wreath on behalf of the Council

"We have continued to keep the residents of the Parish informed of our activities throughout this year and I thank Councillor Graham Bell for maintaining our Facebook page and producing the monthly reports for the Link. And thanks to all Councillors, we have kept the parish noticeboards up to date.

"With regard to our spending, which is covered in the financial report, we have continued to support Balwest Chapel and St Germoe Church to maintain the graveyards. We provided grants to Balwest Chapel and Germoe Village Association to provide Christmas trees for the community to enjoy. We gave a donation to Friends of Germoe School to help them purchase a shed to store their equipment.

"As the year ended, only five members of the Council chose to seek re-election. I'd like to thank the retiring Councillors Lee Molcher and Joe Pickles for their services to the Parish during their period of office.

"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 2020 – 2021. In brief, this showed that Germoe Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £6,517.53 and ended it with a reserve of £11,212.15. During the course of the year the Council's income had been £15,783.42 and its expenditure £11,088.80 The accounts are all available to view on the website.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on July 1, 2021

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 5, 2022

Chairman