

## GERMANSWEEK PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of the Annual Germansweek Parish Meeting held via Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### AGENDA

1. Parish Council Chairman's Welcome: Cllr Theobald welcomed everyone
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
**approved**
3. Parish Council Chairman's Report  
This is my first annual report, although I have been in post for two years! The pandemic and lockdowns took their toll on parish activities and meetings. The first year saw the new Council getting into their roles and discovering the ins and outs of local government. We soon found our feet and working with the new team was a pleasure; everyone supported each other and became involved.  
During that year we held the usual parish activities and entertainments, which led to very positive feedback from the parish. We also appointed Rachel Ward as our paid Clerk and Loveday Lamb continued in her role as Responsible Financial Officer. Their combined work has been superb and thoroughly professional and I give my thanks to them both for all their hard work over the two year period. My thanks must also extend to Councillors Southcott and Mott who have given us lots of advice and updates from West Devon Council which has been invaluable.  
The past year was initially very different and difficult but from July we were able to meet digitally using Zoom. There were teething difficulties due to the lack of internet speed in parts of Germansweek but we struggled through despite the fact it was hard to stay quorate!  
Last year we welcomed Jamie Collins to our team as our maintenance person for the land we have responsibilities to keep neat and tidy. Jamie brings many skills and is so willing to turn his hand to anything so he will be a great asset to our team. Sadly this was due to the sudden and untimely death of Martin Huggins, a huge shock for everyone who knew him. He is much missed.  
The usual activities which the Council are involved with came to a halt due to social restrictions because of the pandemic. Cllr Steve was given the task of laying the poppy wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Andy continued to keep a weather eye on Jubilee Woods and has now organised a voluntary maintenance team to come shortly as the lockdown lifts. Cllr Carlie was instrumental in developing the idea of a socially distanced Christmas quiz and although it was the first year of our newly planted eco -friendly Christmas tree, it was still garlanded with lights to welcome and celebrate the season. Cllr Lynne was busy as Snow Warden and has been appointed as our police commissioner's liaison officer for the parish.  
During the first lockdown we encountered difficulties with waste disposal and a trial took place to remove said bin and monitor behaviours around dog mess and rubbish in Germansweek. Subsequently the decision was made to remove the bin permanently although this is continuing to be monitored. Despite the epidemic we have been busy and involved and I would like to thank on your behalf, all your Councillors for their work, time and efforts for the parish.  
On a personal note I would like to thank the Council and Staff for their gift of time to me, their friendly input and thoughts on parish matters .It has been a privilege to serve and be part of the team during this difficult time for us all.

Jacky Theobald Chairperson.

4. Parish Council Finance Report  
During the financial year 2020/21 the Council managed its finances effectively with total precept expenditure slightly under budget. The council appointed a parish clerk in May 2020 and staff costs for the year were above budget. This was offset by underspends on repairs and hedge trimming, grass maintenance, training, clerical expenses and incidentals. There were additional costs to redevelop the Council's website to ensure that it complies with relevant legislation. However, these costs were absorbed within the budget as expected spend on dog waste bins did not take place. The Council continues to maintain significant ring-fenced funds (c.£6.5K) for contingency, election and maintenance purposes as well as future work in Jubilee Woods, transparency grant spending and support for parish community events.

There are no further transactions that would have a financial impact on the year end accounting statements.

The budget for 2021/22 was agreed in January and included a 7% increase in the precept to fund expected rises in staff costs and increased spend on grass maintenance and repairs, hedge trimming and tree cutting.

Loveday Lamb RFO

Close of meeting at 19:42