

Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Monday, 2nd June 2014

Chair Retallack; Vice Chair Dowler and 5 Parish Councillors; Parish Grounds man Smart; Parish Project Officer Parsons; Cornwall Councillor Hall and 4 member of the public attended the meeting in St Nonna's Church Hall. They were joined by Mr. Ray Newbury, Principal of Altarnun School and Mr J Smith COO ALAT & a colleague. The School had assumed academy status on 1st June 2014.

Mr. Newbury introduced Mr. Smith who gave a detailed overview of the history & constitution of ALAT explaining that they were a new Trust with operations in Cumbria and currently four schools in Cornwall. In response to questions he confirmed that ALAT was a "Not for Profit" organisation with charitable status. There was an exchange between the Councillors and the public in which he said that funding from DoE now went direct to ALAT, and the bulk of this was then directed at the school providing a slightly higher budget than before which was enhanced by access to the wider resources of ALAT. They, and the school, were still subject to regular OFSTED reports but ALAT were committed to self assessment and continuous improvement. The school staffs had been retained and were now eligible for further development & support. The school governors would become a sub-committee of the ALAT Board going forward. The Chair thanked the visitors and pressed them to continue with plans for wider, more open dialogue with parents, would be parents and the wider community as a whole. The Parish Council wanted to see the school do well, successfully serve the community it supports and grow.

Mr Newberry took the opportunity to then thank Councillor Dowler and the Clerk, M Savage, for attending the presentation of the prizes for the School's 2014 bus shelter mural painting scheme being organised by Devon & Cornwall Police, led by WPC N Lawson. Work was expected to start in late June. The practical and financial support of the Parish Council was much appreciated.

The Parish Council then opened the **2013/14 Annual General meeting**. The Parish Clerk read out the annual report submitted for discussion and approval. (This is included elsewhere). She also reprised the 2013/14 Audit Report and Budget reconciliation review, details of which had been circulated earlier to all Councillors. The Annual Report was accepted. The Audit report was also approved and signed by the Chair. The Clerk was instructed to submit the report for external Audit in line with Government guidelines and ahead of required deadlines. The out-going Chair, Mrs Retallack, was given a gift in appreciation for her excellent leadership through the year and her contribution as a pro-active Councillor over many years of service. She thanked the Council and wished them well in the coming years. Following discussion of the outcome of an internal selection exercise, Mr C Dowler was duly elected as Chair to the Parish Council with effect from 3rd June 2014. The Parish Council agreed to suspend the role of Vice Chair, electing to rotate stand-in Chair responsibility to Council members in seniority order to cover for any unforeseen absence of the Chair. The Clerk's recommendation that during the remaining three years of the Council each Councillor should be given an opportunity to chair at least one meeting for training, experience, confidence & general developmental purposes was also approved. The Parish Council moved on to the **June monthly meeting**. Planning Application **PA14/04259** & Listed Building Consent **PA14/04979** was considered and the Councillors raised **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed internal alterations and extension at West Carne, Altarnun, PL15 7SP. This had arrived on 30th May, after the agenda had been posted. The Clerk ran through correspondence received in the month including two letters from local families expressing frustration that eligibility criteria for affordable housing assistance excluded them from access to local affordable home opportunities. With input from members of the public present, and support from CC Hall, the Parish Council determined to approach Cornwall Council Affordable Housing & Planning Dept's to set up an urgent meeting to explore what could be done to address their concerns. They were also seeking a copy of the current affordable homes register and validation of alleged demand numbers. The Parish Council were concerned that given the alleged demand for local affordable homes by local families and those with ties to the Parish, two small schemes previously approved at Bolventor and Trewint had not yet started. There was also concern expressed about the number of empty homes across the Parish and the current rate of market based rental prices which were seen to be outside the remit of many local people. In this context, they also agreed to convene a special meeting with the Architect and the drainage engineer working on the Gratton Field site at Five Lanes to explore in detail the engineering evidence and drainage report recommendations claiming that the development would not exacerbate the potential for downstream flooding in Altarnun Centre. Finally, it was announced that Parish Councillor Helen Mason had tendered her resignation for personal reasons. In response to recognition from the Chair, Clerk and fellow Councillors she said how sorry she was to be leaving as she had enjoyed working with the team. Altarnun was a very special Parish, she said.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 7th July 2014 in the Altarnun Church hall. All residents are welcome to come along.

Residents: please note that Altarnun Parish Council now has two Councillor Vacancies to fill. Notification of these openings will be posted by Demographic Services, Cornwall Council and circulated widely within the parish. If you are interested in contributing to the community you live and work in, watch out for the notices and follow their directions. Existing Parish Councillors and the Clerk will be happy to talk about what is involved – please do not be afraid to ask.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council – June 2014.