

Altarnun Parish Council

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CLERK: Margaret Savage, Tremas, Treween, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7RD - 01566 86582

2016-2017 Altarnun Parish Council (APC) Annual Report

INTRODUCTION: 2016/17, the final year for the outgoing Council, saw it focus on parish projects & the upkeep of parish grounds and assets. There were no changes in the make-up of the Parish Council. Parish Council meetings continued to be held in the Altarnun Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, with a couple of meetings a year staged at the Bolventor Reading Room. Council members participated in networking events, attended the East Cornwall Planning sub-committee & considered pre- planning/planning applications. It met with external speakers and members of the public wishing to represent individual & community opinions on Parish affairs or planning applications. The Parish Council once again reviewed & renewed their decision not to invest time, funds and energy into producing a Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. It also committed to bolstering reserve funding for the proposed new public toilet block in Altarnun.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: An increased number (35) of planning applications were considered. These included barn conversions; private/commercial building renovations/extensions; new builds (affordable/open market homes); repair works; new conservatories/windows; change of use requests and tree works. 32 were supported. The Wain Homes "Fairfield Park" development proposal was once again opposed after well attended public consultation meetings. It was later rejected on appeal at an East Cornwall Planning Sub Committee meeting. An informal site meeting of the APC with CC Planning and representatives from Wain Homes after the conclusion of the formal planning process proved to be constructive with the developer withdrawing to reconsider next steps. Disappointment at the delay in approving the preferred "Gratton Field" affordable /open market home development scheme on a smaller exception site at Five Lanes was expressed by the Parish Council. Deliberations are ongoing. The Parish Council were delighted to see the small affordable development at Todda Park, Bolventor, go on the market in the new year.

ENVIRONMENT: Altarnun Parish Council aim to promote, protect & preserve the environment for the benefit of all residents, local businesses (reliant upon agriculture & tourism) and visitors. The Council renewed its Local Maintenance Partnership Agreement with Cornwall Council to maintain specific public footpaths and it funded herbicide treatment of the roadside in Trewent, Five Lanes & Altarnun.

HIGHWAYS: The never-ending story of identifying road surface blackspots and organising repairs continued throughout the year. Working tirelessly with the local Highways Agency/Cormac based on feedback from scheduled joint inspections and monthly data collection. Speeding vehicles remain a cause for concern across the parish. Community pressure was also sustained with Altarnun Ward Cornwall Councillor, the APC & neighbouring parishes talking with Highways England to secure a scheme to address road safety failures on the A30 at Plusha Junction.

COMMON LAND & PARISH MAINTENANCE: Paul Smart, the parish groundsman, is an invaluable member of the team. The APC & I thank him for his tireless & self-less contribution to the successful running of the parish. Several parish projects such as the planting of the new cherry trees by the bridge; cemetery improvements; the installation of a new bench on the village green following receipt of a bequest from Mrs J Bishop, an ex – resident of Cosy Cottage, Altarnun; the replanting of Mill Green and the provision of a new bin on the Altarnun Village green were completed. Thanks go to Paul Smart and Phil Parsons, APC project advisor, for their help in this. Footings have now been laid and a drainage connection made to the local sewer/water mains in line with SWW & Building Regulation guidance. The work was undertaken by a local builder who volunteered his services. Parish Council thanks go to Mr Phil Branch for this generosity. There will be a tender exercise for the main toilet block in the coming year. Thanks also go to St Nonna's PCC for continuing to allow the Church Hall toilets to be used by the public in the meantime.

FINANCIALS: The Parish Council received a successful 2015/16 external financial audit. The Parish Council produced a viable budget for 2016/17 in line with Cornwall Council guidelines built on an annual precept award of £8500 and a reduced CTS grant of £478. The bulk of Parish expenditure, some 52%, went on parish grounds maintenance. Fees/administration charges accounted for a further 11%. Donations, including cemetery maintenance at St Nonna's & Bolventor Churches and new stage carpeting in the village hall for the Penpont Players, accounted for 8% and project spend for some 29% of all spend. The external audit of the 2016/17 accounts will be submitted ahead of the required deadline. The provisional budget for 2017/18 was set in December 2016 in line with guidelines from Cornwall Council. No increase was sought in the Parish Precept.

CONCLUSION: The APC said goodbye to Cllr Scott & Cornwall Councillor Hall who stood down in the recent local and town Council elections. Their contribution to the success of the Council was very much appreciated and the Parish Council wished them every success in the future. The APC is looking forward to working with their successors Rosalyn May & Adrian Parsons. Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the members of the Parish Council for their diligence and pro-active approach to setting the Council agenda and budget; and for representing the wider interests of the parish, its residents and visitors alike.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council

21st May 2017

This report was submitted for consideration of the Parish Council and endorsed by APC at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 7th June 2017.