

ALTARNUN PARISH COUNCIL – HIGHLIGHT REPORT FOR MAY 2016

The sudden welcome change in the weather saw six Councillors, including Chair Dowler, Grounds Manager Smart and Cornwall Councillor Hall meet with two residents and a visiting speaker in the Altarnun Village hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 4th May 2016.

Cornwall Councillor Hall reprised his activities over the preceding month including the public consultation meeting @ Coads Green on the application by Cormac to create a hot mix asphalt plant in the nearby Black Hill Quarry and his attendance at various Cornwall Council meetings including a meeting with the new CEO. The major cause for his concerns currently centred on access, connectivity and related transport matters so critical to increasing sustainability in rural communities such as Altarnun Parish. He then welcomed Mr S Havers, CC, who had agreed to answer Parish Council questions about the proposal by CC to seek registration of the skies above local AONB, Bodmin Moor, as one of 7 international dark sky parks recognised for the exceptional quality of the night sky.

The initiative which is bid & designation free, has three aims – To protect & share the quality darkness of the sky which enables stars to be seen so clearly today; To open up & strengthen related science & education opportunities both locally & internationally, and finally; To protect & promote the AONB that is Bodmin Moor & its currently unpolluted sky. The collation of the evidence needed to support an application is well underway and widespread consultation has started. Local support to date includes the Caradon Observatory & education centre and tourist based businesses such as the Jamaica Inn who were hoping to benefit from potentially new specialist visitor demand and an extended tourist season. The CC approach to the proposal is low key, common sense based and pragmatic. No heavy handed intervention in community affairs is planned and minimal Council overheads or resources are expected to be needed to sustain the registration if secured, as special interest groups and volunteers, such as those mentioned previously, would be directly involved in providing any activities and initiatives triggered by registration. In answer to questions from the Parish Cllrs, he said that CC, businesses & residents would be reminded to consider modernising lighting as and when replacements were called for. There were increasing numbers of cost effective/energy efficient bulbs and down lights available and people were trending that way on their own. Contrary to current rumours, there was absolutely no requirement for a war-like “black out” regulation. It was a question of common sense, he argued, to only provide lighting when & where really needed, and to turn any/all lights off when not in use, and to systematically modernise existing lights over time. He dismissed the idea that a significant increase in paid parking would be needed on the moor. There would be some “heritage” type brown signage but not huge amounts. The 2-mile buffer zone proposed missed almost every village and town in NE Cornwall as the area is currently remote and sparsely populated. After a lively discussion the Chair said that the APC were committed to the protection and promotion of the Moor and its AONB recognition. It could not argue with a desire to stimulate education opportunities, nor initiatives that might generate opportunities for its local businesses as long as this did not bring with it unnecessary bureaucracy and hidden costs. He thanked Mr Havers for coming along to answer their questions.

In answer to a query from Mr Rider Cllr Hall said he had nothing to report on the possibility of CC introducing plans to recycle all plastic waste material. He would follow up. Mr & Mrs Rider updated the APC on their success in revitalising the annual village fun day. It was to be rebranded as “Fun on the Green” and staged on the 2nd July 2016. They asked if public liability insurance cover would be available and the Chair confirmed that the Clerk had advised the APC Insurers and the event would be covered. He wished them every success and good weather.

There was a discussion about the damage caused to the Parish Cemetery by sheep which had escaped from the neighbouring pasture land. Considerable distress had been caused to local residents but the Parish’s Cemetery Sub Committee Chair, Cllr Baker-Pannell, the Clerk and Parish Grounds Manager, Paul Smart, were quick to respond and restore order. Fencing was now being strengthened by the stock owner who had apologised to the Chair for the incident.

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications: -

** **PA16/09360** – Revised application by Mr L Webb representing Wain Homes Ltd to erect up to 37 new homes (19 affordable) & toddler play area on land behind Fairfield Park, Five Lanes was discussed. The APC **REMAINED OPPOSED** on the basis that there is no local need for further affordable housing in the Parish to justify the development of a new Parish “Exception Site”. Demand had been met by three small schemes already supported and approved. The APC still had concern about the location of the toddler play area; certainty about the provision of a new pedestrian access within the village school site boundary; the lack of a permanent second access onto the original/old A30; absolute dis belief in the SWW claims that such a development will cause no downstream problems and the inability of the community to absorb/assimilate/integrate such a large influx of residents given the lack of public services and amenities within the Parish will drive householders to have motor transport and life dependency interests outside of the community.

** **PA16/03310** – Application by Mr P Coles to relocate a livestock farm including permission for a temporary occupational dwelling on land NW of Jollsground, Altarnun raised **NO OBJECTION**.

** **PA16/02812** – Listed building/planning permission by Mr A Jackson for minor amendments to the proposed new Farm Shop i.e. alterations to internal walls; new roof lights; external levels and window/door elevations related to PA14/09381, @ Jamaica Inn, Bolventor raised **NO OBJECTION**.

The Clerk had circulated the bulk of the correspondence received in April 2016. The Council discussed the following:-

***The Annual Insurance Policy renewal.

** A Fairfield Park Resident query re a damaged salt/grit bin not on the Parish Register.

** Consultation on CC's Gypsy/Travelling Community site allocation plan which raised no comment.

** Confirmation the Bodmin Moors' networking meeting will be on 16th May 2016 at Blisland Village hall @ 6.30pm.

** Notes on March Launceston Community Network Panel meeting and date for next meeting on 15th June 2016 @ 7.00pm in Launceston Town Hall.

The June 2016 meeting will be held in the Altarnun Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 4th May 2016.

All parishioners are welcome to come along.

M. A SAVAGE - *Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council*

8th May 2016