

ALTARNUN PARISH COUNCIL – HIGHLIGHT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016

Chairman Dowler, 7 Councillors, CC Hall and one resident met in Altarnun Village hall on Wednesday, 5th October 2016. Cornwall Councillor Hall ran through his activities over the month including the visit of Ms Kennally to his ward. Sites included the Altarnun Village Shop; a farm in Trebartha; Coads Green; Lewannick School; the microbrewery at Polyphant and the Jamaica Inn. He ran through developments in the parliamentary, electoral and boundary reviews and expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in terms of kicking off the action group to press for improvements at Plusha Junction. Councillors pressed for greater urgency in pulling the Plusha Improvement group together.

There were no planning applications to consider at the meeting.

The APC reviewed highways matters noting the commencement of white lines repainting in Five Lanes. It received updates on various projects noting that Building Regulations and SWW/Western Power feedback on the new toilet block scheme was still awaited, that the new Altarnun Green bin had been installed, that the “Cosy Cottage” bequest bench had arrived and was to be placed on the green after oiling and that the replanting of Mill Green had started.

The APC noted that the houses at Todda Park, Bolventor were now up for sale. Posters had been posted. Most of the Councillors & the Clerk had actually visited the site over the many months of construction and all were pleased to see the scheme come to life. The Chair, Clerk, Cllrs Scott and Bloomfield reported back on the exploratory meeting initiated by Wain Homes. It took place on a “without prejudice” basis with two representatives from Wain Homes on 3rd October 2016. They said the meeting had been informative and constructive. They reprised the latest ideas being mooted by Wain Homes and shared with the APC the various points raised in the discussions. These included Wain Homes’s idea of a new, independent vehicle access onto the original A30; the movement of the play area into the centre of the estate; making the current Fairfield entrance pedestrian only; the possibility of a new school entrance with parking, or an improved drop off area in School Hill; a reduction in the number of houses to 36, split 50:50 between affordable and open market with 12 for rent and 6 for intermediate purchase; the possibility of closing off the original A30 as suggested by some residents in the Row, Five Lanes and the possibility of a community facility such as a Doctor’s surgery and retail unit with parking. The Chair had stressed the ongoing need to reassure the APC/community that there would be no sewage issues or flood risk and pointed out that the APC and the local community did not believe that additional affordable housing was needed given the small mixed developments already supported. Wain Homes thanked the Cllrs for listening to them. They were still considering their options following the recent planning rejection. Further news is awaited but a fresh application was thought to be likely. The APC & community will be fully consulted as and when anything formal is received.

The Clerk reported that the Chair had undertaken Chairmanship Training in Liskeard on 26th September and that Cllrs Smith and Jasper were planning to attend a planning training session for Councillors on 6th October 2016. The Clerk continued to press the School principal and representatives from ALAT to attend a future APC meeting to bring the community up to date with developments at Altarnun Primary School. Cllr Branch reported back on the Launceston Community Network meeting held on 21st September 2016 at which MP - Scott Mann had been present. Key take outs included plans to proceed with the planning application for an extension to the Launceston Hospital and the delay to the construction of a much needed new school in Launceston.

After authorising financial transactions and noting current bank balances the APC were told that a satisfactory 2015/16 small parishes audit report had been received from Grant Thornton. The Clerk then shared the publicity timelines, the helpful comments and suggested lessons to be learnt for 2016/17 which included the need to ensure that the 30 days’ notice of accounts must be working days – The APC had included weekends and was therefore technically short of required timelines. There was reference to the non-inclusion of the unpaid cheque in the 2014/15 annual report which had resulted in an overstatement of £15 in the opening balance for the year in question. This had been corrected in a revised submission under direction by the auditors. There had been an omission in that boxes 8, 9, 10 of the report had been left blank as there was nothing to report. This too had been corrected with dashes inserted in the revised submission. The Auditors had commented about the high level of reserves and urged the APC to take steps to reduce it. The APC had explained in the submission’s variance report that the funds were being deliberately built up to fund the new toilet block in Altarnun with a target date for completion before the end of 2016/17. The Audit completion notices/copy report will be posted on the web and Parish Notice Boards. The Clerk then reprised the correspondence received & circulated in September 2016. It included an invitation to the Bodmin Moor Parishes Network meeting @ 6.00pm in Bolventor Reading Room on 17th October 2016; a resident suggestion that the APC set up CPR training for volunteers in the community. Cllrs thought the cost of CPR training was about £80 per person. The APC decided that the idea should be combined with the project to provide a defibrillator - another residents suggestion. This idea was currently linked to the new toilet project but Cllr McCallum suggested that as there were more people living in and around Five Lanes it might be better sited there. The Clerk is to produce a revised project scope document for consideration including potential funding options for both. There was an invitation to the Cornwall Community Flood Forum’s AGM on 6th October 2016 in Truro Town Hall @ 9.30am. Various CC public Consultation exercises were discussed and responses agreed including proposed new policies designed to harmonise/unify across Cornwall Hackney Carriage and private driver rules; Proposals from BT re the potential closure of the phone box at Five Lanes which had no calls over 12 months; a request for comment on household rubbish and recycling collections with BIFFA Environmental Municipal Services and input to the CC Sexual Health Partnership Group’s proposed Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021. Finally, the APC reviewed CALC Bulletins on the final Report of Governance Review External Review (GREG) and the C4C response to the report and the Electoral Review panel re the future size of CC.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Altarnun Village hall. Residents are welcome to attend and input on anything discussed is always appreciated.