

ALTARNUN PARISH COUNCIL – HIGHLIGHT REPORT FOR JULY MEETING 2017

Chair Dowler and six parish councillors welcomed Cornwall Councillor Adrian Parsons and Mr. A. George, Director, Cornwall Community Land Trust (CCLT) to the monthly meeting.

Mr George gave a presentation explaining that CCLT is a charitable, “not-for-profit” organisation & a registered society under the Co-Operative & Community Benefit Society Act 2014. Set up in 2007, it is governed by a board of volunteers elected by its shareholders at each AGM. It aims to work with local communities to provide land and to deliver good quality, permanently affordable, homes for local people in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly. To date it has helped build some 200 homes to meet local need. He mentioned successful local community trusts in Delabole, Luxulyan, St Ewe and small affordable housing developments in St Teath, Blisland & the Lizard amongst examples of their projects. He said that the CCLT is a long-term steward of both buildings and assets, holding them in trust for the community they benefit so that they remain available for the whole community forever. All their projects are community led; designed to meet local housing need in perpetuity. They aim to provide good space accommodation with standards at or above Government guidance levels in homes that provide beneficial low carbon/low cost living. Importantly they set out to be genuinely affordable - selling at less than two-thirds of market price and renting at never more than four-fifths of market rent. CCLT work in partnership with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust to ensure schemes mitigate environmental impact and where possible enhance nature conservation standards. The Parish Council raised many questions and discussed several hypothetical situations and options to fully understand how such schemes could be set up and operate. The Chair then thanked Mr George for an extremely interesting presentation and wished the organisation continuing success as more truly affordable housing was needed across Cornwall.

The sentiment was echoed by CC Parsons who went on to give a brief reprise of his activities and engagements during the month. He, like his predecessor, had been appointed onto the East Cornwall Planning Sub-Committee. There followed a lengthy discussion about the continuing poor safety record at Plusha Junction and inability to raise its profile for improvement with Highways England. He would be discussing the issue with MP Scott Mann shortly and would keep the Parish up to date with developments.

The Parish Council considered and raised NO OBJECTION to planning application PA17/05493 for construction of a dormer roof at Thorn Cottage, in Five Lanes.

The Clerk then advised that SWW had written advising that their work to relocate & reconnect pipes at the dis-used Trewint Reservoir would commence on 24th July 2017. Permission documentation copies were awaited but public notices had been posted at the site.

The Clerk, Chair Dowler and a Councillors said they had all taken time to visit Todda Park within recent weeks to see how work had progressed. Cllr May declared a prejudicial interest in the site and left the meeting during the discussion. Fencing was being erected and site works were virtually complete. Landscaping was expected to commence shortly and it was understood that all the properties had been assigned/reserved for occupation. The Parish Council then reprised the status of the other Parish Council supported small mixed affordable housing developments at Trewint and Five Lanes. Discussions were still underway with Cornwall Council Planning and Development and the Chair concluded that the Parish would have to await details of any revised proposals.

The minutes of the AGM & June Meeting were approved and signed as a true record of events. The Parish Council considered the month’s financial transactions which included the monthly grass cutting charges; a donation towards the cleaning of the Church Hall toilets for June and a payment for plants for Mill Green. The Clerk said that work was underway to get the Altarnun Green ready for the Fun on the Green event on Saturday, 8th July 2017. The first phase of the LMP footpath maintenance had also started.

In response to a question from Cllr McCallum the Clerk said that she expected the tender documentation for the new toilet block to be issued during July 2017. There was a general discussion on highways matters with a lengthy discussion about a new resident’s concern at speeding at Trewint which had seen a pet cat killed. The Councillors reflected that they had previously considered speed cameras, automated speed warning signs, road bumps and road narrowing but each had pros and cons including significant costs. Another idea had included setting up a locally appointed & trained neighbourhood speed watch volunteer group. The Clerk was asked to gauge support for such an approach by inviting residents to contact her if they would be interested in joining such a volunteer group.

Participation would be spasmodic and part time and anyone interested in taking part should apply via email to

clerk2altarnunpc@btinternet.com or contact the Clerk on 01566 86582. The Clerk then reported back on recent Altarnun Village Hall Committee meetings including advice of a small increase in hall hire charges and safety procedures. She also confirmed that she had written to ALAT & Altarnun Primary School thanking them for attending the June meeting, reprising agreed actions and reminding them that the next joint public meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday, 1st July 2017 in Altarnun Village Hall.

Cllr Branch then gave a brief update of the outcomes of the Launceston Community Network Panel meeting on 15th June 2017. This included information on the new school proposed for Launceston and information that the Council were to introduce a plastic recycling scheme which was expected to impact on Altarnun Parish from September 2017.

Finally, there was a brief reprise of correspondence circulated during the month including a thank you letter from Altarnun Community Choir for the donation to the new digital piano/keyboard and an invitation to the Choir/Penpont Player concert in the Village Hall on 22nd July 2017; a copy letter from Scott Mann MP to the Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group supporting calls to create an Urgent Care HUB in Launceston; a request by Seafarers UK to help raise awareness of this island nations dependence on seafarers & shipping by flying a Red Ensign on Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September 2017; various CC consultation exercise briefings and requests and a briefing note on the journey to deliver superfast broadband infrastructure in Cornwall. This latter note triggered a very heated exchange amongst Councillors, many of whom had suffered from two recent broadband failures which had caused loss of service in and around Trewen, Altarnun and Five Lanes. Many residents had been affected and there was considerable frustration with the supplier because of the time taken to fix the problems and the extremely poor customer service including repeated missed appointments and poor follow up. The Parish Council felt the situation an intervention and the Clerk was asked to send a letter of complaint to BT/Openreach.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, 2nd August 2017 at 7.30pm in the Bolventor Reading Room. Residents are welcome to attend and give input on anything discussed, as always.