

Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, 15th May 2013

The Parish Clerk opened the annual parish meeting at 7.30pm in the Altarnun Village hall. There had been a pre-meeting in which the new Council members had been briefed by the Clerk, completed appointment documentation and commenced their induction.

After welcoming the incoming Council members - Craig Dowler, Tom Hoskin, Neil Jasper, Helen Mason, Marion McCallum, Lisa Baker-Pannell, Veronica Retallack, Catherine Richards, Ian Scott and Wesley Smith; the new Cornwall Council representative Mr Vivian Hall; Parish Grounds man Paul Smart and 9 members of the public she read out the Clerk's Annual Report for 2012/13. She also tendered the apologies of incoming Councillor Kendall for whom it is lambing season. The Clerk expressed thanks to the outgoing Council members, Messrs Bailey, Carlyon, Langley, Rider and Tharme and retiring Cornwall Councillor Parsons for the phenomenal contribution they had made to the Council, the Community and the Parish over recent years.

The Clerk then disclosed the outcome of the secret ballot for Chair of the incoming Council. Mrs V Retallack had won with 6 votes and Mr Dowler became Vice Chair with 5 votes. The Clerk then handed control of the monthly Parish Council meeting to the incoming Chair and invited her, and Cornwall Councillor Hall to address the meeting. Mr Hall was looking forward to his new role but stressed the pressures that Cornwall Council and the Parish would face with reduced funding. Prioritisation and working well together were critical for success he said. Councillor Retallack agreed and expressed her delight at her appointment. She thanked her predecessor, the new Vice Chair, for his contribution to the parish and for his long term support. She was excited by the diverse makeup of new Council with the increase in women members and the arrival of younger members of the community who were the future of the parish. Each member stood up and introduced themselves to those present. Their contact details were to be published in TrePolPen, the Parish website and posted on village notice boards. All looked forward to working with & for the community.

In response to a question by a member of the public, the Clerk walked through the steps taken to co-opt the final three members of the new Parish Council and execute the ballot for Chair. Altarnun Parish had a well balanced, full Parish Council, ready to hit the road running from the first meeting of the new term. The Clerk then ran through a number of outstanding matters briefing the new Council on the extremely successful Altarnun-Gueltas Twinning visit; the opportunity to input ideas into the Village Hall centenary improvement project; the status of the progress on the Spring Highways Inspection tour; the unfinished reparations following the installation of the flood prevention culvert and the closure of the public conveniences in Altarnun Village. The Council debated the closure but agreed universally that it could not justify, nor afford to retain the SWW toilets. The toilets will be closed on Friday 15th May 2013. Prioritisation of the agenda for the coming year was essential and there then followed a lively and constructive discussion about a number of topics and potential projects. The new Council agreed that their immediate priority was reparations after the flood prevention scheme delivery; the resurfacing of the parish cemetery drive, provision of an independent water supply and improved hearse turning area; introduction of a new toilet facility; investigation into public support/ideas for the closure of the old A30 spurs and consultation about how a WI FI and Satellite TV provision could open up opportunities for wider community use of the Village hall. Small working groups involving various Council members and the Clerk are to be set up to develop the schemes and engage with the community. An idea for road widening and shrinking of the Mill Green was not popular with the Council members or the public and it was agreed that this would not be pursued. A number of other ideas including A30 exit island planting; provision of a children's play area and/or adult outdoor keep fit area and allotment/orchard site plus any fresh ideas the public or the new Council may have will be looked at during future meetings.

The Parish Council went on to discuss application PA13/02722 seeking permission to erect a detached garage at Moorview, Bolventor, PL15 7TS and continuing support for the replanting scheme; PA13/03387 seeking permission for the conversion and extension of an existing garage to form a utility room with garage link and a new porch and conversion of loft for additional living space at Beech Meadows, Lower Tregunnon, PL15 7SX. They recorded NO OBJECTIONS. The Clerk then alerted the Council to some pre-application notifications, including PA 13/03642 concerning the potential demolition of an external storage building and erection of a building to form a self contained accommodation/holiday unit at West trelyn Cottage, PL15 7SN would be addressed at a later meeting as there was insufficient detail upon which to reach a conclusion.

There followed a brief discussion about correspondence, financial affairs and a range of other business including agreement to switch the date of future meetings to the third Thursday of each month. The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Altarnun Village Hall at 7.30pm on THURSDAY, 20th June 2013. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

Clerk - Altarnun Parish Council – May 2013