

## Altarnun Parish Council

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## *2017-2018 Altarnun Parish Council Annual Report*

**INTRODUCTION:** Local elections were held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The uncontested outcome of the exercise sadly saw the resignation of long standing Councillor Mr I Scott and the arrival of Councillor Ros May. The re-appointed Chair, Councillor Dowler thanked Mr Scott for his excellent service to the Community over many years and wished him well. He also welcomed Cllr May onboard. Parish Council meetings continued to be held on the first Wednesday of each month, with two out of three planned meetings a year staged at Bolventor.

The Council participated in various consultative surveys, networking events, pre- planning & planning application consultative exercises. The Cornwall Council Ward member; a couple of external speakers; several members of the public wishing to represent individual & community opinions on Parish affairs attended various meetings throughout the year. Strategically, the Parish Council reviewed & renewed their decision not to invest time, funds and energy into producing a Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan at this time. It also determined to continue to reserve funding for prospective projects including a new public toilet block in Altarnun Village centre.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:** 24 planning applications including barn conversions, building renovations, modifications & extensions; new build affordable and/or open market & private homes were considered, of which 21 were either fully, or conditionally, supported. The Parish Council continued to support and press for approval to the proposed small mixed development at Gratton Field, Five Lanes and welcomed the completion of the small development at Todda Park, Bolventor. (NB:- There was no progress on the proposed small mixed development at Trewint.)

**ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES:** 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 the herbicide treatment of the roadside in Trewint, Five Lanes & Altarnun. Council & residents continue to watch water levels in Penpont Water to look for early signs of flood risks especially during the exceptionally wet winter conditions.

The War Memorials at Altarnun & Bolventor were both added to the National Heritage List for England during the year. A Commemorative Service supported by St Nonna's PCC & many members of the community was held in Altarnun village centre in November 2018 to remember and honour the dead from the first & second world wars.

Two public meetings & several APC Councillor /School Representative joint meetings were held during the year to discuss changes and issues affecting Altarnun Primary School which is run by ALAT. As the year progressed the community saw the creation of a new DRIVE team, the loss of the head mistress & appointment of a successful & popular interim head master and the completion of an Ofsted report which recognised some improving aspects in the running and performance of the school. Cllr May was appointed as a member of the DRIVE team. The situation continues to be monitored by the Parish Council. (NB: - A new full time permanent Head Mistress was subsequently appointed by ALAT.)

**HIGHWAYS:** Working tirelessly with the local Highways Agency/Cormac the Parish Councillors identified damaged road surfaces for repair. Joint inspections with Cormac on behalf of Cornwall Council Highways, followed by 6 monthly works cycles, address issues found. The pro-active reporting of blocked drains/pot holes helps directing scarce resources.

Speeding vehicles remained a major cause for concern, with the Parish Council, Police and Cormac seeking solutions. Pressure continues to be put on Cornwall Council and Highways England to address road safety failures at Plusha Junction.

**COMMON LAND & PARISH MAINTENANCE:** Protection of Common Land/Commoner Landowner rights were reviewed due to issues being raised at Trewint Common, and consultation on the declaration of Bodmin Moor as a national Dark Sky area. Parish Grounds Manager, P Smart, ensures the effective upkeep of all public spaces and Parish assets. The APC thanked him & AAV Services who look after the public areas in Bolventor, for the contribution they make.

The Parish Council were delighted to support the Fun on the Green event re-vamped and re-launched in July 2017. The volunteer organisers led by Mr & Mrs Rider of Tregirls, were thanked for their initiative.

The Parish Cemetery continues to be is well kept & appreciated by grieving friends and relations. Once again, the Bolventor Cemetery Trust and St. Nonna's PCC were awarded charitable donations of £120 towards the upkeep of their respective cemeteries. Complaints continued to be received about the state of the now privately-owned Methodist Chapel cemetery. Approaches to the Methodist Circuit & owner failed to generate action or improvement.

Preparatory work was completed on the site and footings/base for the proposed new toilet block in Altarnun. Thanks go to Paul Smart & a small band of volunteers for their support in delivering this milestone. Tender documentation was issued for the construction of the block. (NB: - A builder has now been appointed. It is hoped work will start in Autumn 2018).

In the interim thanks go to St Nonna's PCC for continuing to allow the Church Hall toilets to be used during the day by the public. (NB: - This facility has since been terminated due to serious anti-social behaviour & damage to the Church Hall toilets on several occasions during the summer of 2018).

The Parish Council decided to purchase the public phone boxes in Altarnun & Five Lanes following decommissioning from service by BT. Parish projects to convert these into a voluntary free lending library and a community defibrillator site will commence in 2018/19.

**FINANCIALS:** The Parish Council received a successful external audit of the 2016/17 accounts. It had produced a viable budget for 2017/18 in line with CC guidelines built on an annual precept award of £8500 and CTS grant of £364. The bulk of Parish expenditure, some 61%, went on parish grounds & assets maintenance. Fees and Administration charges accounted for a further 31% & donations accounted for 8% of all spend. The parish spent £2428 on parish projects including purchase of decommissioned telephone kiosks; Mill Green & the proposed new toilet block. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the current account balance stood at £6,297 & the reserve account balance at £25,025. The external audit of the 2017/18 accounts will be submitted in line with revised audit regulations. The provisional budget for 2018/19 was set in December 2017 in line with guidelines from Cornwall Council with an increase sought in the Parish Precept raising this to £9000 to account for general price increases across a range of services and charges.

**CONCLUSION:** So, a steady as you go year, with focus directed on the new Toilet Block proposals, highways issues & parish maintenance & projects.

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 2018*

**(NB: - This report was submitted for consideration of the Parish Council and approval given at the Public Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.)**