

### **Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

Eight Councillors including the Chair, Mrs. V Retallack, were joined by Cornwall Council representative, Vivian Hall; Parish Project Office Support Officer, Phil Parsons; Parish Grounds Manager, Paul Smart, and 6 members of the public in the Bolventor Reading Room on a somewhat gloomy night at the height of our magnificent summer.

Chair Retallack and Councillor Hall welcomed Mr A Hooper, Managing Director - Cormac to the meeting. Mr Hooper had welcomed the invitation to join the Council to explore potential solutions to the road & traffic management problems raised by the Parish Council and the wider community. The conversation quickly focussed on concern about traffic entering Trewint from the A30 at speed. Various options including bumps/rumble strips, road narrowing/chicanes, electronic speed monitors and different signage/locations were all reviewed. Mr Hooper explained that funding was very tight & options therefore limited but if answers were relatively simple and cheap then something may be possible to sort out. Chair Retallack stressed that whilst Parish Council funding was also very limited, the Parish Council were willing to see how it could contribute something towards a solution if that would help get things moving. The discussion then broadened to look at the state of local roads. The Parish Council told Mr Hooper that they were very pleased with the relationship and support they had from Mr O Jones in addressing seasonal and regular road maintenance matters. Mr Hooper acknowledged this recognition with thanks and said he would pass it on.

Discussions then turned to speeding issues through Altarnun, Five Lanes and Trewint, the nature of traffic using local roads, recurring road congestion issues at Five Lanes, the need for grass cutting on the A30 near the Callington/Services turn-off and continuing road safety risks at the Plusha Junction on the A30, highlighted by several near misses and other incidents throughout the summer. Cllr Scott explained what action had been taken in preceding years with public meetings, meetings with Police, Highways Agency and Cornwall Council but nothing appeared to have been done and another summer has come and is almost gone. The Parish Council asked Cornwall Councillor Hall if he would now champion this issue as a matter of urgency with the various agencies and government departments including the Cornwall & Devon Police. Councillor Hall agreed to see what he could do.

This led to a wider debate about the need for greater engagement with the Police so that traffic laws and restrictions could be properly and effectively enforced. The Clerk then highlighted another example of the type of difficulties, delays and inaction that happens when multiple agencies become involved. There had been considerable frustration and concern about the non-completion of remedial work to the telegraph pole opposite the school following a recent traffic accident. The amount of lobbying, championing and persistence needed in every case was always high but the elapsed time for any resolution was really intolerable. Mr Hooper acknowledged the point and said he would look into this. He would also ask Mr Jones to relook at the Trewint matter urgently and resume co-operation with the Clerk and Parish Council to explore potential solutions.

The Parish Council then heard updates on the Flood prevention scheme; the successful Parish Council members training session on the "Code of Conduct" held in the Altarnun village hall in July; the successful agreement reached with the St Nonna's Parochial Church Council to use the Church hall toilets through the summer months; general parish maintenance and highways reports; and the progress to date of the various parish project teams. Following a further incident in which Grounds Manager Smart was splattered by dog faeces whilst mowing the various village greens in readiness for summer festivities, Chair Retallack and the Council asked the Clerk to look into conducting an official risk assessment in the interest of health and safety, and propose mitigating action including the possibility of the greens NOT being cut until the risk is removed. There was a heated debate about the Parish Council's ability to enforce the Dogs Not Allowed signs; Bye laws status and enforcement measures and the lack of community response to calls for help in catching perpetrators. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Cornwall Council in seeking new initiatives/ideas.

The Parish Council turned to the month's planning applications formally supporting **PA13/06481** - the construction of a single storey extension at Crinnicks, Tresibbett, Altarnun; **PA13/05870** - the construction of a rear extension at 2, the Row, Altarnun and **PA13/06683** the siting of a mobile home on the former coal yard in Lower Trewint. A speculative request from a local developer of affordable homes to consider a joint approach to Cornwall Council to kick off yet another general call for the identification of suitable land for the provision of affordable homes was placed on hold for the time being. The Parish Council wanted to press for the two schemes already supported by the Parish Council to start before kicking off any new initiatives.

The Chair reminded the Parish Council that Mr R Newbury of Altarnun Village School had accepted an invitation to attend the September meeting to share with the Parish Council planned developments for the new school year.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Altarnun Village hall at 7.30pm on THURSDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

Clerk - Altarnun Parish Council – August 2013