

Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 9th January 2013

Chair Dowler, 7 Councillors, Cornwall Councillor Parsons, Parish Grounds Manager P Smart, one member of the public, Andy Rigby, General Manager, BIBIO Ltd and Charles Layiwola, representing the Guinness Partnership, were present at Bolventor Reading Room.

The visitors introduced themselves. Bibio wished to update the Parish Council on the Pooley site at Five Lanes. A new housing association (Guinness Partnership) were interested in exploring the opportunity to develop 12 section 106 affordable family homes for rental at 80% of market rental rates, within housing benefit limits, on this potential site. Initial thinking would reflect the communities concerns about local housing need, environmental aesthetics, excessive water run-off, sewage over capacity and affordable on-going running costs. A small number (3 – 6) of market value homes would still be needed to assist funding the build. The new partnership were looking to complete plot option discussions and physical site tests with the landowner; commence community engagement, full local consultation and planning approval processes so that the development would be ready for potential tenants in early 2015. The Guinness partnership ran managed affordable housing with ongoing maintenance and tenant management services delivered from their Plymouth offices. They had similar housing sites in St Cleer, Bodmin and Launceston today. No detailed work had been done but Bibio would like the opportunity to set up public meetings and further talks with the Parish Council and community in the coming weeks/months. There followed considerable discussion. Parish Council repeated their concerns about the flood risks attached to this particular site, the sewage issue, the extension to the community development boundary, the actual affordability and occupier prioritisation associated with any possible scheme. The Chair asked Bibio if they had had any dealings with the land owner of the small (6 homes) affordable housing scheme proposed for Bolventor itself which had been supported by the Parish Council. Nothing appeared to be happening at all and planning approval time was evaporating. Both visitors confirmed they had not. The Chair thanked them for the update and the Council agreed to await further approaches.

Mr Naylor from Trewint enquired if anything more had been heard about either the Common Land/Pennon SWW Reservoir matter, or the potential small affordable housing scheme at Trewint. The Parish Council stated that there had been a number of constructive meetings with the landowner who was understood to still be considering options for the affordable homes site and its access but nothing more was known to date. In relation to the Pennon/SWW covered reservoir dispute, formal notification had been received from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol that a public inquiry will begin at 10.00am on 19th February 2013 (closing on 20th February 2013) at the Altarnun Church Hall. The Clerk then distributed a copy of an official common land ordnance survey map (SX2280) produced by the Local Land Charges/Commons and Greens office of Cornwall Council in response to queries raised by the Parish Council and Cornwall Councillor Parsons on these matters which clearly shows that the covered reservoir sits within defined common land area CL 230.

The Parish Council then discussed the pre application consultation scheduled to run between 4th January and 31st March 2013 about extending the dual carriageway on A30 between Temple and Higher Carblake. The proposals were supported by the Council. Councillor Parsons noted the Council view that improvement was long overdue but longer slip roads were needed from Parish experiences elsewhere. Enquiries were also made about introducing the equally long awaited improvements to the Plusha Junction slip roads whilst these extensive road works were in the vicinity of the Parish. Documents detailing the proposed improvements were open to the public at Bodmin One Stop Shop, Bodmin Library, Lower Bore Street and Launceston One Stop Shop at Bounsall's Lane for anyone interested in viewing them. Comments can also be fed into the website at www.cornwall.gov.uk/majorschemes.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Parsons for his continuing support in resolving the issues surfacing during the flood prevention scheme implementation. All had noted that there had been a noticeable improvement in the containment of the potential damage from recent excessive land water run-off, and this was a major relief to local householders. The Council were not however satisfied that the scheme was yet completely finished. They had doubts that the ingress and egress openings met the stated requirements. Damage had already occurred to the Village Green river banks opposite the run off entry and the effectiveness of the opening during the fall was in question. Remedial landscaping repair would also be needed by the landowner. Councillor Parsons agreed to assist the Council in pursuing these issues.

There was a detailed review of Parish Finances, the priorities for funding in the coming year, the provisional budget and precept submission proposed by the Parish Clerk. After an extensive discussion, the Parish Council determined to contain the 2013/14 Precept submission to Cornwall Council at the current 2012/13 rate, rather than seek an increase on this occasion. The Parish Council also conducted their annual review of Parish Cemetery charges and again agreed to hold these at the 2012 stated rates for the coming year.

The Parish Council then considered the following planning applications and raised NO OBJECTIONS:-
PA12/07459 to convert three farm storage barns into residential dwellings at West Trezelland, Bolventor.
PA12/10095 to extend time for the conversion of a redundant barn for residential use at Trespettigue, Altarnun.
PA12/11185 for the felling of a sycamore tree in a conservation area at Penpont Mill, Altarnun.
PA12/11475 for the construction of a tractor and implement store at Higher Trethinna Altarnun.
PA12/12096 request for EIA screening opinion re 30m wind turbine on land to the south of Trethinna House, Altarnun.

Finally, the Clerk ran through the outcome of her January training session on the Localism Act 2011 which states that all Councils must have a local code of conduct based on general principles of public life. The refreshed Cornwall Council Code of Conduct, if adopted by the Parish Council has implications for all Town/Parish Councils, as well as individual Council members. This was particularly relevant as the general elections for all Parish Council seats were to be staged in May 2013. Members, current and potentially new, will be required to complete new declaration of interest forms that are to be published on Cornwall Council website. The Clerk will process in line with the guidance received.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th February Altarnun Village Hall and as usual all residents are welcome.

Clerk Altarnun Parish Council – January 2013