

Altarnun Parish Council Meeting Highlights - 6th March 2013

A well attended meeting in the village hall addressed a busy agenda. Chair C Dowler was joined by 5 councillors, Cornwall Councillor P Parsons and Parish Groundsman P Smart and 18 members of the public.

The topic of interest was the application seeking support for the erection of a wind turbine on land north of Tregenna, close to the A30. There was a full and frank discussion, including the sharing of other comments and objections registered on the Cornwall Council's Planning website and a direct statement posted with the Clerk. Objections included observations relating to the application site's proximity to A30 @ Plusha Junction; associated road safety risk at Plusha; closeness to residential properties; environmental impact in terms of ANOB sites of Bodmin Moor; Fox Tor; Lynher Valley and risks to migratory birds, local bat and other wild life; the fact that it was not directly attached to a farm/micro-business property as had been the case in previous Parish applications; that unlike recent single turbine schemes, the applicants lived away from the site and their application was said to be a speculative purely for profit initiative; adverse impact on local tourism and neighbouring businesses including holiday let homes; concerns about site access during build and subsequent maintenance and finally, several points challenging the actual effectiveness and efficiency of wind turbines and cost to community in general.

Sustainable energy schemes including individual wind turbine applications are each taken on their own merit by the Parish Council. To date there is no overarching community strategy or neighbourhood plan on such sustainable energy initiatives although the incoming Parish Council will restart work on a neighbourhood Plan after the elections in May 2013. Those present were assured that the Parish Council have received no incentive or financial benefit from such applications. Historically, the Parish Council are on record as being supportive of sustainable energy initiatives in principle; they had raised no objections to three similar owner applications through 2011/12. Two members of the Parish Council had registered a conflict of interest in this particular debate and abstained from the subsequent Council deliberations. The Altarnun Parish Council then debated the application:- PA13/00766 – Land at Tregenna, Altarnun, PL15 7SB – to erect a small 50 Kw Wind Turbine: associated electricity cabinet; underground cable to pole and temporary access. After a vote, it recorded objections to this particular application reflecting many of the points recorded above. Their objections will be placed on the planning portal for all to see.

The Parish Council went on to consider the other sustainable energy scheme application on the agenda;- PA12/11005 – Trekennick Farm, Altarnun, PL15 7SL – for the installation of a 10KW (40 x 240w Panels) ground mounted photovoltaic PV system in 2 blocks of 20 for farm use. The panels would be raised to allow grazing for hens and sheep etc underneath. Photographs and site plan was thoroughly examined and after debate the Parish Council decided that it had no objection to this application.

The Parish Council then considered the following planning applications/notifications and raised NO OBJECTIONS on any of these:-

- PA13/00588 – Part Trelawney Farm, Altarnun, PL15 7SN – Erection of an agricultural dwelling.
- PA13/01456 – West Trezelland, Bolventor, PL15 7TL – application to change use of three barns from storage into residential use and garaging.
- PA13/01639 – Land in garden north of Glenfield, Treween, PL15 7RD – to erect a detached family dwelling and garage.
- PA13 01158 – Altarnun Community Primary School, Five lanes PL15 7 RZL – for the construction of a conservatory.

The Parish Council then noted advice of tree felling and crown work on trees situated in a Tree Conservation area at both Penleat House and Penleat Cottage in Altarnun - (PA13/01126 and PA13/01124). It discussed other Tree problems across the Parish and agreed several actions to resolve these.

As a point of interest the proposed public meeting to discuss the Common Land issue surrounding the dis-used reservoir at Trewint Common had been postponed, possibly cancelled, by the owners of SWW. The Clerk will keep the Council and Community updated.

Cornwall Councillor Phil Parsons then shared feedback on the successful open sessions he had hosted with Mark Allett of the Highways Agency at the Altarnun Primary School and the Kings Head to demonstrate a virtual visualisation of the extension of the dual carriageway at Temple on A30 and the Parish Council concerns about road safety at Plusha junction.

The Parish Council then turned their attention to the upcoming General Elections for both Cornwall Council Officers and members of the Altarnun Parish Council on 2nd May 2013. Several Parish Councillors have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election. All positions are open and nomination packs are expected to be available at the end of next week. All nomination forms must reach and be with the Deputy Returning Officer in Luxstowe House, Liskeard, PL14 3DZ no later than NOON on 5th April 2013. An advanced notice alerting the community to the opportunity was approved by the Council for posting by the Clerk and entry in the TREPOLPEN and Parish website immediately. They also approved the Clerk's plan that the meeting on 1st May in the Altarnun Village Hall will comprise AGM; final meeting of the current Parish Council and the standing down of the current members.

The rest of the meeting was taken up on housekeeping, Parish maintenance projects, financial transactions and general correspondence.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2013 at Bolventor Reading Rooms at 7.30pm and all residents are welcome as usual.

Clerk Altarnun Parish Council 7th March 2013