

Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 2nd May 2012

Parish Councillor Chair, Craig Dowler, seven Councillors and Parish Grounds Manager, were joined by two parishioners. Apologies were received from Cornwall Councillor Parsons and Councillors Jasper and Kendall. Cllr Parsons had advised the Clerk that final details on the flood prevention pipe scheme were awaited. The planned public meeting was still on hold. He had also confirmed that there had been no further news on possible trunk road works to improve road safety at Plusha Junction. The Clerk and Cllr Parsons had been progressing the opportunity for the Council to take over responsibility for the public conveniences in Altarnun Village centre with a number of bodies. An exciting new approach was now being formulated by Cllr Parsons involving the provision of disabled access and a separate disabled toilet and Visitor reference area. Details would be shared with the Council at a future meeting. Finally, in his pre-meeting briefing to the Clerk, Cllr Parsons had acknowledged the strong Parish Council complaints about the completely unsatisfactory situation facing the community following the failure of Cora to run the Residential Waste, Recycling and Dog Bin clearance services they had been given an 8 year contract to undertake. He had escalated to the highest authority and meetings had been arranged for Cornwall Council to supply route/residential maps and for Grounds Manager Smart to show their representatives where the Dog Bins were. The parish Council agreed to monitor the situation very closely in the coming weeks and would re-escalate if there were no improvement by the June meeting. The Clerk advised that WPC Lawson had confirmed that noise testing equipment was to be installed by the Environment Agency, who along with Planning Enforcement was monitoring the Motocross site. Neither the Police, nor the Highways Agency had found any problems to date. One of the Parishioners present had expressed support for the venture which had provided a positive activity for many local youngsters who had nowhere else to go, and nothing else to do. There was then a general debate about facilities for the young and the noise issue. In conclusion, all agreed that a properly defined, more remote site, on the moor was probably the only long term solution to the Motocross noise disturbance concerns. Cllr Parsons was already pursuing this idea and his feedback was awaited.

The Clerk had entered extensive discussions with the Affordable Housing team and planning Officers in Cornwall Council. She reported that investigations into the status of the three potential affordable Housing Schemes had revealed that the two schemes in Five Lanes were currently still under consideration by the owners/developers but that the scheme for 6 mews type two bedroom affordable homes near Laskey's Farm, Trewint with two open market bungalows on a nearby site in Trewint was proceeding. Although submitted on 30th April, no formal record of a planning application had been recorded at the time of the meeting. In answer to questions posed by the Clerk, the developer (ALMa) had provided a sketch plan which was circulated and will be posted on parish notice boards. ALMa had confirmed the intention to build; that the scheme would include a request to replace the current area laid to rough chippings and used as an access road to Laskey Farmhouse/farmland adjoining, by a tar macadam/hard solid surface roadway. (Council have stated that this is Common Land but note the comment by the developer that access is currently enjoyed over it and that requirement would merely continue.) The developer assured the Clerk that no land outside the ownership of Mr Smith would be involved and that the section 106 amendment is all within land owned by Mr Smith. Finally, in answer to two major concerns for the community and Parish Council, ALMa had stated that sewerage would be on a Private soakaway system, with SUDS for Surface Water into the land and drainage run-off that will channel any hard-surface water run-off into the neighbouring farmland to be dispersed by land drain system. ALMa appreciated the concerns of the Community regarding adding to existing drainage problems and any proposal will be with full consultation with the PC and designed to cover a 200% run-off scenario. The Council await the planning application and will make arrangements for a public meeting to discuss the proposals fully shortly.

Cllr Bailey reported on the Jubilee Celebration preparations. He also reported back on the progress he and the Clerk had made on the Altarnun Parish Council web site initiative. Rough mock ups were circulated; content, costing, maintenance were discussed and agreement was given to proceed. The Council were briefed on the outcome of a meeting, organised by the Clerk, between the management of the Bodmin Moor Services at Plusha and the Highways Agency. Agreement had been reached on a joint road/and Services site access improvement scheme aimed at improving both the visibility and the appearance of the first Services area following entry into Cornwall along A30. The verge between the site and the A30 were to be cut right back by the Agency and thereafter serviced by the Services management team under licence to the Agency. The plan was to complete before the Jubilee Week holidays. Volunteers were needed to help clean up the area of any remaining rubbish/rubble subject to appropriate safety measures. Anyone interested in assisting with the clean up are welcome to contact Alex Bailey at alex@ctcwholesalers.co.uk, to register/receive reporting instructions. The Clerk and Highways Agency Manager had gone on to complete the 6 monthly Parish road inspection tour and an action plan for a number of problems found, including highways infringement, bad surface damage at Trewint & the centre of Altarnun, the repositioning of the water mark signs in Draynes Valley and general clean up of Hurdens Lane to name but a few, had been triggered for inclusion in the upcoming 13 weeks works cycle for rural maintenance. Ideas for the A30 exit island from Launceston were also discussed again with the Highways Manager.

The Council then considered planning application PA12/03264 for the erection of a 34.6m high wind turbine on land at Higher Tregunnon, Altarnun. Wind turbine schemes are contentious and feelings about them run high across Cornwall. The Clerk advised that Council that this scheme had already received two objections from two neighbouring properties.

This application generated a lively debate. In the end, the Council decision was taken to a vote with 5 votes for, 1 vote against and 2 abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Grounds Manager Smart advised the Council that dog faeces on the Greens and the public areas he maintained had become a major problem. In mowing the lawns that day he had been sprayed in his face by someone's dog mess. The Council were appalled. This is not the first time the community had been called to act on this matter. With the better weather coming and the celebrations and Fun Week approaching, the communities open areas were designed to be enjoyed by all - not spoiled or fouled by a the selfish, lazy, uncaring and irresponsible few. Clerk was asked to escalate to the Police Authority, and Dog Warden, and kick start another anti-dog faeces campaign and community watch. Dog bins are provided by the general community for the use of the dog owning community and those owners failing to take proper care of their animals poop are asked to be more considerate, responsible and co-operative. Steps will be enforced to look after the wider interests of the community, the public at large and the Parish Council workers. **You** know who **you** are -- "stop, scoop, bag and bin it"-- or lose the dog! Help us keep the parish clean and healthy.

The Parish Council had learnt on 1st May that insufficient applications to Cornwall Council had triggered the authority for the Parish Council to run its own selection to co-opt a new Parish Councillor. The Clerk was asked to re-advertise the local selection and the Councillors were asked to volunteer to join the panel to be chaired by Chair Dowler and Vice Chair Retallack in early June, other commitments permitting.

Finally, the Council considered correspondence, feedback from recent Cornwall Council events and other business.

As a result of the Jubilee Celebrations and the Cornwall Show the next meeting - the Altarnun Parish Annual General Meeting - will be rescheduled to Wednesday 13th June in Altarnun Village Hall.

As ever, all Parishioners are welcome to attend

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council – May 2012.