

### **Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

It was a full house for the September meeting in Altarnun Village hall. Councillors were joined by Cornwall Councillor, Vivian Hall; Parish Project Support Officer, Phil Parsons; Parish Grounds Manager, Paul Smart; 6 members of the public and Mr. Ray Newberry, Head Master of Altarnun School.

Chair Retallack welcomed Mr Newberry who opened the meeting with a reprise of recent history at the school, information behind the recent Ofsted Special Measures rating and actions in place to deliver the improvements being sought. These included the appointment of two new teaching staff, fresh investment in IT, the introduction of new software tools and behavioural routines with a focussed return to basic academic learning whilst maintaining wider character building experiences such as educational excursions and physical exercise, so valued by local parents. He recognised that there was considerable experience and expertise amongst the Parish Council that might aid the School and he invited members to visit the School more often to talk with children, staff and parents, and experience first-hand school life. Ofsted reports were now on a term basis and another is imminent. In response to an invitation from the Chair, he agreed to come to future meetings to keep the Parish Council abreast of progress.

Cornwall Councillor Hall then briefed the Parish Council on what had been keeping him busy through the month past. He had been in correspondence with SWW; the NFU; Cormac about highways and hedge cutting issues, meetings at County Hall, Planning Committee meetings, a meeting of the Park Homes Forum in Bodmin and a meeting about the operation of a Community Chest Fund. He urged all of the Council members to try and get to the rescheduled Network Meeting at Coads Green on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 as HIGHWAY issues, such as Plusha Junction, would be a focus of the meeting.

Public representation centred on objections to the proposed installation of a wind farm along the ridge from Crowdy Reservoir to Advent on nearby Davidstow Moor. The scheme proposed 16 turbines of 130m (426') in height plus ancillary structures and a further meteorological mast. The wind farm was forecast to generate 48MW per annum of power over a projected life of 25 years. The speakers pointed out that the masts would be taller than Rough Tor and Brown Willy, Truro Cathedral, Big Ben and the Delabole wind farm masts. Rough Tor and Brown Willy are two of the highest points of land in Cornwall and the proposed wind farm would be seen from 35kms away. They pointed out that a significant number of organisations such as AONB Cornwall, National Trust, NATS, RSPB had already objected to the application. Their objections sought to protect the unique wilderness landscape with its historic, environmental and archaeological interest and the nearby AONB of Bodmin Moor. They were also concerned by the impact such an installation would have on wintering birds such as the golden plover and starlings, and potential damage to tourism/related businesses.

The Parish Council considered application **PA13/03743** during its session on planning applications. The application actually related to a site in a neighbouring parish but a wide canvass of opinion had been sought by Cornwall Council, and Altarnun Parish had been invited to form a view and make comments. Members of the Parish Council had also been invited to attend a general PUBLIC Meeting being staged by Davidstow Parish Council at Clease Hall, Camelford, on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.00pm. The full Council were to be canvassed likewise and despite their personal interests or views/support for or against wind turbine technology they were to be given a free vote following a full and frank discussion. Council members had received and reviewed prior to the meeting information including CC planning website public comments; government planning guidelines on such developments; reports, maps and input from a wide range of organisations, many comments with which individual Councillors agreed. Davidstow Moor is a popular location for Altarnun parishioners and tourists alike, and for many on the Parish Council the unique combination of recent and ancient history and the natural beauty of wild moorland made it a Cornish treasure. The Parish Council in general endorsed the view that this was a sensitive and special site of significant landscape, environmental, historical and archaeological interest, and as such was worthy of protection as a natural wilderness. The erection of masts of such magnitude adjacent to Brown Willy, Rough Tor and the Bodmin Moor ANOB was deemed totally inappropriate. In their debate, the Parish Council acknowledged the attractiveness of a potential Community Fund by-product from such a scheme but the lack of clarity as to how such a scheme could be set up, the cost of set up, scale of funding available, detail on legal enforceability, governance participation, administrative controls and actual eligibility criteria, particularly in terms of Altarnun Parish, led the Parish Council to dismiss this in their deliberation.

The Parish Council voted to **OBJECT** to the wind farm application. (Votes: 8 against; 1 for; 2 abstentions).

The Parish Council went on to consider and raise **NO OBJECTIONS** to the following applications:-

**PA13/07092** for a rear single storey extension with slate hanging to elevations at Robin's Nest Trewint;

**PA13/06758** for change of use from redundant butcher shop to a dog grooming parlour & associated pet product retail sales at Cissy's in Altarnun Village;

**PA13/07878** for work to trees in a conservation area (dismantling & removing a western red Cedar tree and crowning by 5m a decaying Ash tree) at Penleat House, Altarnun.

The highlights from the remainder of the meeting included discussion on possible solutions to speeding issues at Trewint forwarded to the Clerk by Cormac Ltd. The Parish Council favoured graduated white lines and speed limit numbers rather than rumble strips initially. The interim use of the Church Hall toilets appeared to be working well. Contact had been established with SWW and a meeting was imminent to explore a short term solution involving the old toilet block. Legal activity on the acquisition of a site for a long term solution was underway. Tenders were being sought for work to resurface the Parish Cemetery drive way as part of the Cemetery improvement project. The Parish Grounds Manager advised that he had nearly finished the second round of cuts to the designated local footpaths under the Parish and Cormac LMP agreement.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Altarnun Village hall at 7.30pm on THURSDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

