

Altarnun Parish Council
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CLERK: Margaret Savage, Tremas, Trewen, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7RD - 01566 86582

2015-2016 Altarnun Parish Council Annual Report

INTRODUCTION: 2015/16 saw a year of stability. There were no changes in the make-up of the Parish Council. Parish Council meetings continued to be held on the first Wednesday of each month, with three meetings a year staged at Bolventor. Council members participated in various consultative surveys, networking events, pre-planning & planning application consultative exercises and East Cornwall Planning Sub – Committee hearings. It has welcomed the Cornwall Council Ward member; several external speakers; several members of the public wishing to represent individual & community opinions on Parish affairs and local press from time to time to the meetings.

Strategically, the Parish Council reviewed & renewed their decision not to invest time, funds and energy into producing a Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan at this time. It also determined to reserve funding for prospective projects including a new public toilet block in Altarnun Village centre.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: 25 planning applications including barn conversions, building renovations & extensions; new build affordable and/or open market homes were considered, of which 23 were supported. Three schemes dominated the year – The Wain Homes “Fairfield Park” and the Pooley “Gratton Field” affordable /open market home developments on exception sites at Five Lanes, and the Bettison mixed development at Todda Park, Bolventor. Several well attended public consultation meetings were organised to share public concerns & differing opinions. A site meeting with the Cornwall Council (CC) Planning & Transport Officers also took place on the Wain Homes application. The Wain Homes and Todda Park applications were referred to the East Cornwall Planning Sub-Committee. Councillor’s Scott and Richardson represented the APC @ Cornwall East Planning Sub Committee hearings to present the Parish Council input in five cases including Canaglaze (approved); Polglaze (refused); the Tregunnon wind turbine (approved) and the Todda Park (approved) and Wain Homes Fairfield Park (refused) developments.

ENVIRONMENT: Altarnun Parish Council aim to promote, protect & preserve the environment for the benefit of all residents, local businesses (reliant upon agriculture & tourism) and visitors. One highlight from this was the choice of Altarnun village by a German TV crew filming an adaptation of a Rosamund Pilcher book. The Council renewed its Local Maintenance Partnership Agreement with Cornwall Council to maintain specific public footpaths and it funds the regular herbicide treatment of the roadside in Trewint, Five Lanes & Altarnun. Council & residents continue to watch water levels in Penpont Water and Sewage Plant & foul water network for flood & failure risks especially in the wet/winter conditions.

HIGHWAYS: Working tirelessly with the local Highways Agency/Cormac it identifies damaged road surfaces for repair. Twice-yearly joint inspections, followed by 6 monthly works cycles address issues found. The pro-active reporting of blocked drains & pot holes is helpful in directing scarce resources. Speeding vehicles remain a cause for concern, with the Council, Police and Cormac constantly seeking solutions including a resolution to road safety failures at Plusha Junction.

COMMON LAND & PARISH MAINTENANCE: The Parish Grounds Manager, Paul Smart, ensures the effective upkeep of all public spaces and Parish assets. He is an invaluable member of my team. I thank him sincerely for his tireless & self-less contribution to the successful running of the parish. Several Parish Projects namely improvements to the turning area for hearses at the Parish Cemetery and the removal of dead cherry trees from the pack horse bridge were completed. Pre-application planning consultation on a new toilet block in Altarnun started and again, my thanks go to Paul Smart and Phil Parsons, our Project Manager, for their help in this. Thanks also go to St Nonna’s PCC for continuing to allow the Church Hall toilets to be used during the day by the general public whilst the potential new block scheme is processed.

FINANCIALS: The Parish Council received a successful external audit of the 2014/15 accounts. It produced a viable budget for 2015/16 in line with CC guidelines built on an annual precept award of £8500 and CTS grant of £569. Funding from CC for the enablement of on line planning administration was also received and Parish owned equipment will be purchased this year. The bulk of Parish expenditure, some 74%, went on parish grounds maintenance. Fees and Administration charges accounted for a further 18% & finally, donations accounted for 8% of all spend. The external audit of the 2015/16 accounts will be submitted ahead of the required deadline. The provisional budget for 2016/17 was set in December 2015 in line with guidelines from Cornwall Council with no increase sought in the Parish Precept.

CONCLUSION: So, a year of stabilisation & consolidation, with pockets of heightened tension and public concerns around specific planning applications.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the members of the Parish Council for their diligence and pro-active approach to setting the Council agenda and budget; and for representing the wider interests of the parish, its residents and visitors alike. In particular, my thanks go to Cllrs Scott & Richardson for their additional support on the fulfilment of Planning Sub-Committee responsibilities.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council

21st May 2016

This report will be submitted for consideration of the Parish Council and approval was given at the Public Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 1st June 2016.