

2018-2019 Altarnun Parish Council Annual Report

INTRODUCTION: Council meetings continued to be held on the first Wednesday of each month, with three meetings staged at Bolventor. There were no meetings in August 2018 & January 2019 due to holiday season clashes. There was one change in the membership of the Parish Council when Mrs Polly Smith was co-opted onto the Council in February 2019 to replace Councillor Ros May. The Council were sorry to lose Counsellor May. Her professionalism and pro-active support in helping the APC to successfully address public concerns about Altarnun Primary School had been much appreciated. The Council participated in a number of consultative surveys including the Cornwall Council Boundary Review; public meetings; networking events; pre- planning & planning application exercises. The Cornwall Council Ward member; external speakers including the new Altarnun Primary School Head Mistress; members of the public wishing to represent individual & community opinions on Parish affairs attended various meetings throughout the year. The Council once again decided against embarking on the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: There was an increase in the number of planning applications received in the year. 35 (up from 24) including barn conversions, building renovations, modifications & extensions; new build affordable and/or open market homes, were considered of which 32 were fully or conditionally supported and 3 were opposed. The Council also noted several pre-application advices.

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. The Council renewed its Local Maintenance Partnership Agreement with Cornwall Council to maintain specific public footpaths. The Council has noted an increase in the amount of mixed waste being left in or by Council bins especially in the Cemetery & by the bus stops. It will look at trying to encourage green waste separation & recycling options in 2019/20.

HIGHWAYS: The pro-active reporting of blocked drains & pot-holes is helpful in directing scarce resources in Cornwall Council/Cormac. Repairing & resurfacing the stretch of road from Five Lanes to Trewen is a major priority. Speeding vehicles remained a cause for concern in Trewen & Trewint with the Council securing commitment for a mobile speed-calming safety scheme at Trewint initially & a safety road signage scheme at Bolventor to be included in the Cornwall Council/Cormac road safety schemes plan for 2019-2021. Road safety failures at Plusha Junction continued to be a source of concern. The extreme weather conditions in February/March affected the parish & residents significantly but grit bins had been filled and the Parish Groundsman was able to grit some of the local roads to help keep major routes open.

COMMON LAND & PARISH MAINTENANCE: The Parish Groundsman, Paul Smart, ensures the effective upkeep of all public spaces, the cemetery and Parish assets. I thank him for his contribution to the successful running of the parish. My thanks also go to Anthony of AAV Services who looks after the public area in Bolventor. The Council considered solutions to the damage caused to the Altarnun Village green by car users trying to park vehicles when attending events at the Church/Church Hall. This will be pursued in 2019/20. Similarly, the Council monitored problems caused by unleashed dogs and dog fouling across the parish. Late in the year a local builder, G Smith, was appointed to begin construction of the proposed new toilet block in Altarnun. The Council are very grateful to a number of people and organisations for their help in bringing the plan to life, namely - Mr & Mrs Harthill for their generosity in making the site available; Mr M Sandercock & his colleagues in Western Power for their pro-active help in finding a power supply; to SWW for their generous community spirit in allowing the Council to connect to the grid via their old toilet block connection point; to St Nonna's PCC for allowing the public access to the Church Hall toilets over several years & finally to a band of willing volunteers who helped with the site preparations. The toilets should be open to the public in time for the summer season of 2019.

FINANCIALS: The Parish Council received a successful external audit of the 2017/18 accounts. It produced a viable budget for 2018/19 in line with CC guidelines built on an annual precept award of £9,000 and CTS grant of £275. Expenditure was deliberately contained through the year with surplus funds & a grant of £500 from the CC community chest fund directed towards the new toilet block fund. The Parish Current Account stood at £2,136.27 and Reserve funds at £25,037.72 at 31st March 2019 including £12.57 interest. The bulk of Parish expenditure in 2018/19, some 39.11% (£4,955) went on parish grounds & asset maintenance; fees and administration charges accounted for a further 28.53% (££,615) & donations for 5.35% (£677) of the available budget funds. The balancing £3,422 - 27.01% was directed to the reserve fund. The external audit of the 2018/19 accounts will be submitted in line with revised audit regulations in late June - July 2019. The provisional budget for 2019/20 was set in December 2018 in line with guidelines from Cornwall Council with an increase of £5000 sought in the Parish Precept to cover the future operational running costs of the new toilet block and the proposed community library & defibrillator in the old BT phone boxes at Altarnun & Five Lanes, acquired by the parish in 2018. The application has been approved and funds have now been received for the current year (2019/2020). The provisional budget has been updated to reflect this and will be authorised at the June 2019 meeting.

CONCLUSION: So, a steady as you go, somewhat frugal year, with a significant focus on delivering the new Toilet Block, resolving Highways issues, addressing Dog Fouling and considering Planning matters.

This is my last AGM as I retire after ten years as your Parish Clerk. It has been a privilege & pleasure to serve the community. My thanks 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.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council

31st May 2019

This report will be submitted for consideration of the Parish Council and approval was given at the Public Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 5th June 2019.