

Altarnun Parish Council

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DRAFT Minutes of Altarnun Parish Council (APC) meeting held at Altarnun Village Hall, Wednesday 3rd June 2026, which commenced at 7.30 pm. **APC members present:** Cllr Dowler (Chair), Cllr Branch, Cllr Kendall, Cllr Halls & Cllr Pannell. **Also present:** Three members of the public & APC clerk, Mr R Turner.

79/26 Apologies for absence: Cornwall Cllr A Parsons. APC Cllrs Bloomfield, Masters, Vickery, Pooley, Smith & Wendon.

80/26 Members declaration of interests and requests for dispensations. Members declaration of gifts and hospitality. No declarations of interests or gifts were made.

81/26 Invitation for members of the public and Cornwall Cllr Adrian Parsons to address the meeting.

-A member of the public sought permissions to plant flower plants, to be purchased with retained funds previously awarded to Altarnun many years ago. Sites were identified and the clerk undertook to liaise with the landowners to progress matters.

-A member of the public encouraged the parish council to consider preparing a Neighbourhood Priority Statement.

***Cllr Parsons written monthly report was delivered by the clerk and included:-**

-Neighbourhood Priority Statements

Cornwall Council (CC) are currently asking parish councils for Neighbourhood Priority Statements (NPS) which are a community-led document to set out local priorities for growth, change, and investment.

An NPS is a simpler, shorter alternative to a full Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), introduced under the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023. It allows communities to express their priorities for development, infrastructure, and local improvements without including formal planning policies or allocations. The document is produced by town or parish councils in consultation with residents but is optional. If produced and published, CC will be legally required to consider it when preparing the new Local Plan (forward to 2025).

-Plusha

I have had meetings with our Highways team and Portfolio holder Cllr Dan Rogerson as we near the end of CC's Plusha feasibility study period. The results of the study will be presented to interested parties 10.6.2026.

-Altarnun

In the past week we have seen two more lorries get stuck on the road out of the village behind the church heading towards Ocazziny. I've asked for Highways to get some improved signage up to help prevent similar occurrences.

-Saltash Tunnel

We are told National Highways work on their tidal flow improvements (lighting systems) at the Saltash Tunnel are complete, so hopefully this will lead to less hold ups.

-Trekelland Bridge

Last week's closure of Trekelland Bridge for much needed repairs, led to an increase in traffic on our rural roads, and highlights why getting a crossing at Plusha right, is vital for local connectivity. When the bridge was closed - from the Congdons Shop area we were expected to make a 16-mile diversion to Five Lanes and back just to get to Launceston. There was a surge of traffic through Lewannick, with drivers attempting to avoid the longer diversion via Five Lanes with cars backing up Old Hill to the village when it was busy and also slow to cross the A30 with cars stacking three wide in the centre reservation. That said it will be good to see the old bridge brought back to its former glory until the next time!

-Schools

Following recent public meetings about behaviour policies in some of Cornwall's secondary schools, I was pleased to second a motion brought forward by James Ball to support the mental health and wellbeing of children.

The proposal is to establish a task-and-finish group to engage with schools, assess what is working and what is not, and report findings back to the Department for Education. The aim is to move towards an academy system that is more accountable and better supports both pupils and teachers. Next week along with James Ball we have a meeting in at Launceston college to meet Mark Blackman and Matt Thompson.

-DS Smith, Launceston.

Locally, there is real concern over the consultation on the potential closure of the DS Smith factory in Launceston. For over 50 years, it has been an iconic business in the town, providing employment and opportunity for many local families. Discussions are ongoing with the owners to find a way forward. One can only hope they act responsibly as the employees have contributed greatly to the site's success, and they deserve a secure and fair outcome. The prospect of losing such a significant employer locally in the current climate is deeply worrying.

-Banking Hub

Plans have now been submitted for a new banking hub in Launceston, at the former Santander site. With both the banking sector and high streets changing rapidly, this facility should prove an asset to the town.

-Adult Social Care

Following a recent CC Adult Social Care inspection, services were rated as good.

82/26 To approve the minutes of the Altarnun Parish Annual Council meeting held 13th May 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr Branch and seconded by Cllr Halls, then unanimously **resolved** that the minutes of the APC Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2026 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chair. Cllr Dowler signed the minutes.

83/26 Matters arising from minutes of Annual APC meeting 13th May 2026 and not included in this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

84/26 Finance Matters:

Responsible Finance Officer reported:

-Funds received 29.5.2.2026, £12.17 Nat West deposit interest.

-APC bank balance as at 31.5.2026 was £25752.03 credit.

-Requirements of the external audit 2025/26 have been fulfilled and receipt of its submission were acknowledged by BDO LLP (external auditors) 18.5.2026.

Accounts payable

£382.05 Clerks salary June 2026. Chq 1569

£280.77 HMRC Apr-Mch 2026. Chq 1570

£1780.00 Smart Brothers. (General Maintenance £326, Toilet cleans £234, Penpont View grass cuts £80, Parish grass cuts £210, Bolventor cemetery £80, Footpath cut £850) Chq 1571.

Cllr Kendall proposed to approve the payments, Cllr Dowler seconded, and it was unanimously **resolved** to pay these accounts. Cllr Dowler signed the schedule of payments being made.

85/26 Planning Applications: No applications were tabled for consultation.

86/26 Planning Decisions – for information only: No decisions were reported.

87/26 Pre-Application Planning: No cases were reported.

88/26 Highways:

- It was confirmed Cllr Halls and the clerk plan to attend the CC A30 Plusha GSJ Study Group meeting 10.6.2026.

-It was confirmed the clerk plans to attend a Cormac – Meet the Team event 11.6.2026

-The clerk reported he plans to meet with the local CC highways manager 11.6.2026 to raise various matters and be updated on ongoing remedial highway works. A report will be given to the next parish council meeting.

89/26 Proposed reintroduction by Cornwall Council of highway weed spraying.

The clerk reported that there had still been no developments with appraising Town and Parish Councils.

90/26 Footpaths:

-It was reported that the first biannual footpath cut has been completed.

-An Enhanced Local Maintenance Partnership grant would be made available, by CC, for application in financial year 2026/27 should eligible works on the footpath network be identified.

91/26 Councillor Training, Code of Conduct and councillor email addresses.

-The clerk advised that national guidelines dictate that the councillor residential address is to be removed from their Register of Interests with effect from June 2026.

-The clerk reminded councillors to maintain clear focus on the councils' Code of Conduct as published on the APC website.

-The clerk reminded councillors that Cornwall Assn of Local Councils offer a range of bespoke training across all council topics and a budget is in place for their participation as required.

-The clerk requested that councillors who have not put in place a council specific email address for the conduct of council business, do so with **immediate effect** as per digital compliance guidelines as currently applying to Town & Parish Councils.

92/26 Altarnun Parish Cemetery Fees.

2026/27 review of fees. After lengthy discussion Cllr Kendall proposed that following this review, the definition of a parishioner would be anyone who has resided in the parish at any time for a minimum of 10 years and that the following scale of fees be adopted with immediate effect. Cllr Dowler seconded, and it was **resolved** to adopt these changes as proposed.

Exclusive Rights of Interment	Parishioners	Non Parishioners
Interment in new grave	£250	£950
2 nd interment in grave	£180	£550
Interment of ashes in new plot	£140	£400
2 nd interment of ashes in plot	£80	£200
Reservation of plot (20 years)	£50	£300
Siting of memorials	NIL	NIL

93/26 Correspondence – for information only.

-Various CALC, NALC, Cornwall Council and Community Area Partnership briefings.

94/26 Advise venue, date & time of next council meeting expected to be at Altarnun Village Hall, Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 7.30pm – for information only.

These details were confirmed and Cllr Dowler closed the meeting at 9.05pm.