

Altarnun Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Altarnun Parish Council (APC) meeting held at Altarnun Village Hall, Wednesday 7th January 2026, which commenced at 7.30 pm. **APC members present:** Cllr Dowler (Chair), Cllr Branch, Cllr Wendon, Cllr Bloomfield, Cllr Masters, Cllr Vickery, Cllr Kendall, Cllr Smith, Cllr Halls & Cllr Pannell

Also present: Two members of the public.

1/26 Apologies for absence: Cornwall Cllr Adrian Parsons, APC Cllr Pooley & APC clerk, Mr R Turner.

2/26 Members declaration of interests and requests for dispensations. Members declaration of gifts and hospitality. No declarations of interests or gifts were made.

3/26 Invitation for members of the public and Cornwall Cllr Adrian Parsons to address the meeting.

-A member of the public suggested the use for the Tregunnon Cross telephone box could be as a library and that book stocks are available at no cost.

Cllr Parsons submitted a written report as follows:

-A balanced draft budget for Cornwall Council expenditure will see investment in the services that are critical for residents and has gone out for public consultation, from December 29 to January 27 2026, following its consideration by Cornwall Council's Cabinet committee, and includes:

- Over £36m in our Together for Families services in 2026/27, which not only addresses the overspend during 2025/26, but also provides investment;
- Over £37m to continue the transformation of our adult social care services, providing better care delivered in the right place at the right time;
- £8m investment to protect delivery of core frontline services including waste and regulatory services;
- £9m invested to support transport, housing, economic growth and environmental services across Cornwall;
- £3m investing and improving our fire services capability.

For the first time in a decade, Government has provided local authorities with a multi-year financial settlement to allow a draft budget which is balanced over every year of the three years of the settlement.

Alongside the investments are plans to reduce spending through efficiencies and modernising working practices.

The cabinet are proposing savings of around £50m in 2026/27 - rising to a total of £133m over the full three-year period.

-The Tamar Bridge committee agreed to the recommendation to increase the standing charge for the Tamar Bridge toll from 80p a month to £2. A meeting is taking place in the next week when it's hoped this will be reviewed and reduced.

-Issues with flooding and blocked drains were a cause for a number of complaints in early December, this has been replaced with ice and lack of gritting recently. Again our roads are deteriorating in condition, but we must just ensure we do what we can to get our fair share of the budget for this area by identifying and reporting of the defects asap.

4/26 To approve the minutes of the Altarnun Parish Council meeting held 3rd December 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Masters and seconded by Cllr Wendon, then unanimously **resolved** that the minutes of the APC Meeting held on 3rd December were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chair. Cllr Dowler signed the minutes.

5/26 Matters arising from minutes of APC meeting 3rd December 2025 and not included in this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

6/26 Finance Matters:

Cllr Branch delivered the monthly RFO report as follows:

-Funds received £30, 5.12.2025 HM Land Registry, refund re Altarnun War Memorial.

-Funds received £3276.22, 11.12.2025 Cornwall Council in respect of Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP) & Enhanced LMP grants 2025/26.

-Funds received £15.42, 31.12.2025, bank interest.

-Q3 2025/26 internal finance check in progress by Cllr Branch.

-Finance spreadsheet year to date as at 31.12.2025 circulated to all members 4.1.2026 as per standing order 17c, which states bank as at 31.12.2025 £25,215.64 credit.

-Invoice received £0.00 (nil) from Geosphere Ltd in respect of rebranding web site domain and clerks email to gov.uk.

-Withdrawals from Reserves in Q3. The RFO recommends:

£200 from Toilet block reserve for payment of periodic Electrical Installation Condition Report.

£343 from Election reserve for 2025 election expenses.

£394 from Bolventor reserve for Q3 maintenance of Bolventor cemetery.

In accordance with Financial Regulation 4.11 Cllr Kendall proposed that reserves will now be restated as follows:

Toilet £5610, Defib res £1920, Mill Green £263, Cemetery £3850, Bolventor £1250, Election reserve £1201 & General Fund £11122. Cllr Vickery seconded and it was **resolved** that APC cash reserves be restated as proposed.

Cllr Branch advised the meeting of the accounts payable now due:

-£60.60 Pennon Water Services – Riverside Toilets. Direct debit to be collected 8.1.2026.

-£382.05 Clerks salary Jan 2026. Chq1544

-£35.97 Amazon Printer Inks. Chq1545 – VAT £6

-£865.92 Smart Brothers-in respect of the following:

Maintenance per schedule supplied £469, Waste Disposal £162.92, Toilet cleans £234. Chq1547.

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

7/26 Planning Applications: No applications were received for comment.

8/26 CC planning Decisions: No planning decisions had been advised since the last APC meeting.

9/26 Pre-Application Planning: The following case was reported for information only.

PA25/01259/PREAPP Location: Land North Of Lower Trenarrett, Altarnun. Purpose: Pre app advice for replacement of two connected 20m by 6.75m poly tunnels with a single residential dwelling.

10/26 Highways:

Cllr Branch reported for information only:

-That an expression of interest for the Community Area Partnership Highways Funding Scheme 2025 per minute no. 188/25 (being additional physical measures to support the 20mph speed limit scheme, set to be introduced later this year) was submitted to Cornwall Council and circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

- An A30 Plusha Study Working Group members update meeting is due to take place agreed for 28.1.2026. Cllr Halls & the clerk are to attend.

Finally in general discussion, potholes in need of reporting to Cornwall Highways were identified and noted.

11/26 Clerks annual performance review.

Cllr Dowler had completed a one to one performance review with the clerk prior to the meeting and deemed the clerk fulfils duties to a satisfactory standard. In discussion, councillors agreed with Cllr Dowler's appraisal and that a satisfactory rating should apply. No areas for improvement were identified.

12/26 altarnunparishcouncil.gov.uk & clerk@altarnunparishcouncil.gov.uk.

For information only, the rebranding of the APC website to a gov.uk domain name has been completed. The clerk also has a gov.uk email address which is fully operational. Positive confirmation of compliance by way of a new Assertion 10 'Digital & data compliance' will be an explicit requirement within section 1 of the 2025/26 Annual Governance & Accountability Return and APC's full compliance will be reported.

13/26 Correspondence – for information only.

-Various CALC, NALC, Cornwall Council, CAP briefings

-High Street Safari re World Book Day 2026

14/26 Advise venue, date & time of next council meeting expected to be at Altarnun Village Hall, Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7.30pm.

These details were confirmed and Cllr Dowler closed the meeting at 8.51pm.