

EAST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

Bulletin No. 1

January, 1967

It has been suggested that distribution throughout the village of a bulletin giving news of Parish Council decisions and activities would be appreciated. The Council therefore presents this first issue and, if the experiment is successful, hopes to continue with further bulletins at six-monthly intervals.

Composition of the Council

Chairman: Mr. L.S. Northcote, St. Catherine's, Cat Street

Councillors: ~~Mr. C.H. Baynes~~, The Old Rectory
Mr. F.D. Bushell, Chantry Cottage, Cat Street
Mr. A. Cowdery, Corner Dairy
Mr. T.M. Eyston, Hendred House
Mr. S.J. Francis, Hunts End, St. Mary's Road
Mr. P. Heading, School House
Mr. J.R. Parker, Well's Head, Newbury Road
Mr. K.J. Taylor, Westbury, Orchard Close

Clerk: Mrs. O.P. Ashthorpe, Bowling Over, Horn Lane

Statutory powers and obligations

The Parish Council is the smallest unit of local government and has limited but various powers and obligations. It is, however, the official elected authority representing the parish and, as such, is consulted by higher authorities (principally the Rural District Council and the County Council) on matters affecting the parish (for example, planning applications). It is also, of course, free to put forward representative views to other persons or organizations, such as the local Bus Company.

Mr. F.D. Bushell is the elected representative of the parish on Wantage Rural District Council.

Recent matters of interest

Following completion of the latest building on both sides of White Road, the Abingdon Postmaster at last agreed to provide a post-box in the area. The Council had been requesting this for some years. The Telephone Manager at Oxford, however, refused an application for a telephone kiosk on the grounds that the existing one in High Street is unremunerative and that he cannot, within a distance of half a mile, provide a second which would also probably not pay its way.

Upon a request from the present Trustees of the Sports Ground, the Council has agreed to take over the Trusteeship. The legal formalities have just been completed. The Council already administers the Children's Playground.

The Festival of Britain seat previously by Kings Manor Barn has been put in the Sports Ground.

The Council has continually pressed the County Council for resurfacing of the minor roads in the village and for the repair of footpaths. The reply is generally that no money is available. It now appears, however, that the 1967/68 financial year beginning in April may see some improvements.

The Council has also asked the County Council for better service from the maintenance gang to improve the general appearance of the village, but is informed that the service is the best that can be provided with present resources and is comparable with that given to other villages.

In conjunction with Steventon Parish Council, work has been carried out to maintain free access along the Bridleways between the two parishes.

An official Council notice board for use in addition to the present display positions is under consideration. Mr. Castle has kindly offered a site near the Post Office entrance.

Bye-laws

Bye-laws made by the County Council and applicable to the Wantage Rural District came into force on 1st November. They relate amongst other matters to wireless loudspeakers and to dogs fouling footways.

Commons Registration Act, 1965

The registers for registration of rights of Common under the Act opened on 2nd January, 1967, and will remain open for three years. After the first 18 months a fee will be payable for registration. After closure of the registers rights of Common not registered will be lost for ever. Further information about this matter can be obtained from the Clerk, who will also have available copies of registrations affecting land in this area.

Meetings

The dates of Council meetings so far arranged for 1967 are as follows:

January 17
February 21
March 21 (Annual Parish Meeting followed by
Council Meeting)
April 18
May 23

The meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the C/E School and are open to the public who may attend but may not (except, of course, at the Parish Meeting) take part in proceedings unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The public may, however, ask for any matter to be considered by the Council, and such matters should be notified to the Clerk or to a Councillor at least a week beforehand, so that they may be put on the agenda.

The Council wishes to thank Father Steward for the use of his duplicator, and Mr. John Miller for arranging the distribution of this bulletin.