

EAST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

Bulletin No. 5.

Registration of Common Land

Under the Commons Registration Act, 1965, the Parish Council has registered the following lands with the County Council: Aldfield Common, Dancing Hill (Green), and Chapel Square (west side) (Green). If any other areas are known, or thought to be Commons or Greens, please give particulars to the Clerk as soon as possible. If registration is not made before 2nd January, 1970, any existing rights will be lost.

Grass Cutting

Due to a reduction of the money available for this purpose, the County Council was unable to carry out its usual programme this year. As a result the Parish Council had to engage a lengthman to cut grass and hedges in various places where inconvenience was caused to the public. It is understood that next year the County Council will revert to its previous standards of maintenance.

Ford Lane

No decision has been made yet on the Parish Council's application to the County Council to declare Ford Lane a "No Through Road". But the County's representatives, at a recent meeting in the Lane, were impressed by the arguments put forward and it is hoped to have a favourable answer soon.

The rails on the culvert and along the brook have been wired to prevent small children falling through them.

Housing

It has been announced that the Rural District Council has accepted a tender to enable twenty-two more houses and bungalows to be built in Couplings Close - work to commence by 30th December this year and to be completed by 31st December, 1969. Land will be allotted for a children's playground.

Sports Ground

To get a reduction of the rates on this ground, the Parish Council is arranging to let it out to a Joint Committee formed from the Cricket and Football Clubs.

Repairing and painting the Pavilion is being done by the Football Club, the cost of materials being met by the Parish Council.

Police Matters

The Parish Council has again pressed hard for a resident policeman which the village had before the last war, and some nearby villages still possess. It is hoped that constant reminders of this need will eventually effect a return to the older and, in the opinion of the Parish Council, better system.

Traffic Signs

Cautionary white lines have been painted on some difficult road junctions in the village. The Divisional Surveyor has been asked to

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provide similar lines at the east end of Orchard Lane and at the junction of Chapel Square with the High Street.

Conservation Area

Following on the designation of most of the village as a "Conservation Area" (shown shaded in the Village Plan) it is expected that even minor alterations or additions to properties in that area will now need planning approval. The idea is, of course, to prevent possible "eyesores" and preserve the character of the village. The Surveyor, R.D.C. Wantage, should be consulted before work is put in hand.

Countryside Treasures

A Joint Committee of the Parish Council and Womens Institute worked for some time on this scheme and has sent descriptions of some 170 items of all kinds to the County Council. These will be referred to by the County Planning Officer when considering planning applications affecting the Parish.

"Treasures" were chosen on the basis that they were "features which in the opinion of local people make a significant contribution to the character, interest or beauty of the locality".

A copy of the set and relevant maps has been retained by the Parish Council and may be inspected - but not borrowed - by arrangement with the Clerk.

Village Hall

The Management Committee are concentrating on the planning activities necessary before any final decision about a public Village Hall. The old Anglican school is expected to be on sale in the spring; before this a public meeting will discuss the Committee's building, managing and financing proposals.

The recent Christmas Bazaar raised £220; a Gift Stall in Wantage £44; a Garden Stall in the village £8, and the Youth Club provided £12. All funds are now in the order of £1,000.

Some future events can be found in diary, but of special interest is the Spring Garden Stall - please plan a little surplus for the cause.

Parish Council Elections

An election for all Parish Council seats will take place in May, 1969.

Old Cars

The Wantage R.D.C. has made arrangements to dispose of old cars under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. In case of need please inform the Public Health Inspector, Wantage R.D.C., Belmont, Wantage (Tel: 8-3211). Mr. A. Haynes, Roadside, East Challow, and Breakspear Bros., Charlton, are also able to take old cars.

Clerk

The Parish Council regrets that Mrs. Gilbert feels unable to carry on as Clerk. Anyone interested in this work, preferable with the ability to type and having a telephone, is invited to get in touch with the Clerk or the Chairman as soon as possible.