

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – 17th April 2024

Townlands Charity

Fen Ditton's Townlands Charity was drawn up in 1908 to raise money for the poor and needy in the village of Fen Ditton and to also give support with the upkeep of the Church.

It consists of three charities:-

- the Estate Charity which generates income for the two other charities;
- the Parochial Charity which supports individual people in need in the village or contributes towards something for the whole village;
- the Ecclesiastical Charity which gives support with the upkeep of the Church but not the Chancel.

The Townlands' income is raised by letting out Osier Holt (the field at the end of Green End) and the small stable area (at the end of Field Lane) for grazing over 10 months of the year, letting it out for two weeks each summer, in June and July, for the University and Town Bumps, and from dividends generated by the Charity's COIF investments.

Trustees

The trustees of the charity are Laurie Woolfenden (PC representative), Lizzie Wieser (PC representative), Jenny Dawson (PC representative trustee), Jenny Parr (PC representative) and Sue Buttery (Church Warden - Ex-Officio trustee). There is still a vacancy for a second church representative Ex-Officio trustee. All the trustees reside in Fen Ditton.

Estate Charity

Anglian Water

Unfortunately, there were two further sewerage leaks during the latter months of 2023 - a substantial burst at the end of October/early November 2023 in Osier Holt (a large area of the field was contaminated with sewage and associated detritus). AW attended relatively quickly to make repairs but couldn't implement the clean-up due to the prolonged heavy rainfall on already saturated ground. No sooner that repair was done, a further leak occurred during the last week of December in the field across the river on the Fen Road side. It was difficult for AW to do the repair as that field is a flood plain so therefore it took much longer than expected. This meant that there were tankers coming and going day and night through the village.

AW suggested installing a semi-permanent horse fence, with five-bar gate, for access, which would allow safe grazing for the ponies on the northern side of the field and assured safety away from the contaminated area on the southern side. The horse fencing was installed in November 2023 and will remain in situ to allow for the management of any reseed until the trustees and the grazier deem the reseeded areas fit to be stocked. The Charity will retain the benefit of the materials should it wish to remove the fencing or redeploy it elsewhere.

Due to the prolonged inclement weather, the new date to start work to replace the rising main which runs from the pumping station to, and under the river, to the current water treatment plant (see attached map) is now expected to start on 29th April 2024.

Osier Holt and Bumps rowing races

The trustees have agreed with Fitzwilliam College Billygoats Rowing Club and the Cambridgeshire Rowing Association to rent out the field again this summer for the University and Town Bumps events which will be held in June and July respectively. With the semi-permanent fence in place, both clubs will be restricted to a smaller area for their members, marquees and parking. Both organisations have been kept fully informed of AW's progress.

The hemlock issue continues to be monitored – during Springtime it is vital because hidden seeds can quickly germinate and the seedlings soon run rampant. Regular inspection, digging up any seedlings, spraying the area plus mowing, continues.

Parochial Charity

This year the trust was once again able to contribute towards two residents' personal alarms. By doing so, it has enabled these residents to continue to stay at home. If anyone knows of someone needing financial support, where the statutory authorities cannot help, you can contact Trustee/Secretary, Jenny Parr, on 07870846523 or email townlandsfenditton@gmail.com or by letter to 34, Green End, Fen Ditton CB5 8SX.

Finance

The closing balance of the Lloyds Estate Account on 29th February 2024 was £4,999.79

The closing balance of the Lloyds Parochial Account on 29th February 2024 was £2,000.38

Jennifer Parr
Trustee/Secretary

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