

MAY 1946

Minutes of the proceedings of a SPECIAL Parish Council Meeting held at the School on Monday, May 13th 1946, to consider a petition for Drain Drainage

Present

Mr. W.C. McDonald, Chairman, Mrs. Kerrison, Mrs. Laslett, the Rev. W.E. Goundry (R.D.C.) Messrs. Charman, Geary, Little and Martin.

Petition.

A petition was read, by the Chairman, urging the speedy introduction of Drain Drainage in the village.

The Rev. W.E. Goundry (R.D.C.) was asked when it had been decided to relegate Tatsfield from 2nd to 4th place in consideration for Drain Drainage, & whether he had opposed this measure.

The R.D.C. representative in his reply said that the matter had been settled about 9 months ago, & that the Drainage was now a Government Scheme, to cost 3/4 million pounds, & involved working jointly with surrounding parishes. This had necessitated a re-arrangement of former plans. He assured the Parish Council that the effluent in Westmore Rd. was harmless, & had no smell, also that the Sanitary Inspector had the matter in hand.

Mr. Geary referred to the possibility in the near future of a free cleansing service which would help considerably in abating the cesspool nuisance.

The Rev. W.E. Goundry said that he had always opposed the making of a charge for emptying cesspools, when the parish paid a sewage rate, & had obtained a reduction in assessment rate as some compensation.

Members present stated that there had been no

reduction in their assessment rates, and asked the R.D.C. representative to take up the matter with the Godstone R.D.C. They also expressed doubts as to the harmlessness of the effluent in Westmore Rd., & after some discussion, the following resolution was passed unanimously:-

Resolution

"That the Petition received from the residents of Tatsfield regarding the insanitary state of the village should be forwarded to the Godstone Rural District Council with a request that it receive immediate attention. The Parish Council considers that the Petition is fully justified, as the overflowing cess-pool drains running down the main street constitutes a grave public menace, which calls for rectification at the earliest possible date. The Parish Council is also of the opinion that nothing short of main drainage will suffice as a permanent solution. The return of the Petition after consideration by the Rural District Council to the Parish Council is requested.

3/6/46

W. J. Daniels

Chairman

JUNE 1946

Minutes of the proceedings of a Parish Council Meeting held at the School on Mon: June 3rd 1946

Present Mr. W.C. McDonald (Chairman) Mrs. Kerrison, Mrs. Laslett, the Rev. W.E. Goudry (G.R.D.C.) Messrs. Charman, Geary, Little, and Martin, with the Clerk, Miss Kelly

Minutes The minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

I
British Empire Cancer Campaign a letter was read from the Rev. W.E. Goudry, saying that he could not go on with the appeal on behalf of this Campaign. Mrs. Laslett, Mrs. Kerrison, Mr. Geary and the Clerk agreed to form another Committee, with powers to co-opt, to organise a collection for the B.E.C. Campaign.

II
Path leading from Westmore Green to Greenway The Clerk read a letter from G.R.D.C. assuring the Parish Council that any damage to this path would be made good as soon as possible, & that the Council was endeavouring to obtain a separate access from a point almost opposite Tangleland Castle.

III
Election of Parish Councillors 1946 The Clerk read a notification from the Returning Officer that the Election Costs amounted to £ 19.. 12.. 8

IV
Victory Celebrations Proposed by Mrs. Laslett, seconded by Mr. Charman that a cheque for £15 be given to Mr. Little, Chairman of the Victory Celebrations Committee, towards expenses arising therefrom. (see P. 211 8)

Carried.

V
 Precept for £50 Proposed by Mrs. Laslett, seconded by Mr. Chas.
 "that a Precept for £50 be issued on the Local
 Rating Authority, to meet the requirements of the
 Parish Council for ensuing year -

Carried.

VI
 Accounts for
 Payment Proposed by Mrs. Laslett, seconded by Mr. Chas.
 that following accounts be paid for payment:

Clerk's Salary to 30. VI. 46	✓ £ 10-0-0
Sub. Commons Preservation Society	✓ 10-6
Messrs. Shaw & Sons (Stationery)	✓ 3-8-6
Clerk's Petty Cash	✓ 5-0-0
Mr. Little (towards Victory Celebrations)	✓ 15-0-0

Carried.

Minutes of
 Special Meeting. Minutes of the proceedings of special meeting
 held May 13th to consider a Petition for main Drainage
 were read & confirmed.

VII
 Further Letter The Chairman read a further letter from
 77 residents disagreeing with statements made
 by the R.D.C. representative at the special meeting
 as to the effluent from the cesspool in Westmore
 Rd. being without smell, & harmless.
 Mr. Gundry (R.D.C.) repeated that he had been
 assured that this effluent was harmless, & that
 the Sanitary Inspector had the matter in hand.
 The Chairman expressed the hope that the arguments
 put forward by the Rural District Council representative
 who was also a member of the Main Drainage Comm.
 would not prejudice Tatfield's chance of getting
 main Drainage at the earliest possible moment.
 Mr. Gundry declared that he had been mis-
 directed about the reduction in the assessment
 value of houses in Tatfield. This had always

been 33½% lower, owing to the lack of amenities.
 After further criticism of Mr. Jounstra's statements,
 the R.D.C. representative declared that he felt he
 had not the confidence of all the members of
 the Parish Council, & would therefore resign his
 position as Tatfield's representative on G.R.D.C.
 He then left the meeting.

Mr. Little proposed that the second petition be
 left "on the table" until an answer to the
 petition forwarded to the District Council had
 been received.

1/7/46

Agreed.
 Alan Donald
 Chairman.

JULY 1946

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Parish Council Meeting held at the School on Monday, July 1st 1946
 Present Mr. W.C. McDonald (Chairman), Mrs. Kerrison, Treas.
 Charman, Geary and Little, with the Clerk (Miss Kelly)

Present

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed

I

Victory Celebrations.

Mr. Little, Chairman of the Victory Celebrations Committee, presented an account of the work done by the Committee towards making the Celebrations a great success, and returned a balance of £10-8-6 to be paid to the Parish Council's Banking account. The Chairman proposed that letters be sent thanking the Women's Institute, Working Men's Club, Headmaster & staff of the School, Mrs. Fearless, Mr. Jarvis, & co-opted members for their generous help.

II

Footpaths Committee

It was decided to read the report on the footpaths, when both members of the Committee were present.

Carried.

III

August Meeting

Proposed by Mr. Geary, seconded by Mr. Charman, that there be no meeting in the month of August.

IV

Notice of Audit

The Clerk reported that she had received notice of Audit for the two years ended ^{March 31st} 1945 & 1946, which was to be held 30th July, Council Office, Oxted.

V

Paynesfield Rd. encroachment

Mr. Charman said that he had received a complaint of encroachment by Mr. Gooding near Toronto House. He was asked to find out more particulars, and to bring the matter up at

VI

Main Drainage

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VII

Widening Road from School to Church Hill Corner.

the next meeting.

VI
Main

Drainage

A letter was read from Godstone R.D.C., stating that the Drainage Committee had considered the petition forwarded to them, urging main Drainage for the village of Tatsfield, and pointing out that "in 1930 the District Council submitted to the Parish Council a scheme for the drainage of the Parish, which, at that time, could have had the advantage of the Government Grant for relieving unemployment of 63% of the annual loan charges, but the Parish Council did not approve of the scheme owing to the heavy charge which would then fall on the rates of the Parish." also "that the Council have before them a comprehensive scheme for the drainage of the more populous parts of their area, including the village of Tatsfield, & under this scheme Tatsfield is second in order of priority." The consent of the Minister of Health had also to be obtained before the scheme could proceed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Little that the P. Council should defer consideration of this reply until a special meeting could be called that all members could attend.

Carried.

VII
Widening
Road from
School to
Church Hill
Corner.

After discussion about the possibilities of the Green Line Coaches coming into the village the following Resolution was passed:—

"As it is possible that Transport facilities in the parish of Tatsfield might be greatly improved if the road from the Primary School to Church Hill Corner were

improved the Parish Council desires the Highway Committee of the Rural District Council to be so good as to ascertain whether such improvement is practicable, and the cost of the minimum alterations necessary.

VIII
Accounts for
Payment.

Proposed by Mr. Little, seconded by Mr. Geary that the following ^{res} be passed for payment:-

Audit Stamps	£2 - 0 - 0
S.C.C. (School Lettings) Jan. Feb. March.	6 - 0 - 0
Shaw & Sons (Stationery)	6 - 10 - 0

Carried.

W. Little

Secretary

23/2/46.

R

Tisbury Parish Council

July 29th

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Special Parish Council Meeting held at the School, Mon. July 29th 1946

Present Mr. W.C. McDonald (Chairman), Mrs. Kerrison, Mrs. Laslett, Messrs. Charman, Geary, Little and Martin, with the Clerk, Miss Dr. W. Kelly.

I
Chair

Drainage

The Chairman opened the proceedings by referring to the "unsatisfactory reply" received from the Godstone R.D.C. to the petition sent on May 14th. He said that he had received a certificate from Dr. Rohan stating "this is to certify that, in my opinion, an overflow from a cesspool on to a main street or road is dangerous to the public health."

Mrs. Laslett suggested that if it could be proved that the pond water caused the overflow from the cesspool in Westmore Rd, the tenants ^{of the Parade} should not be required to pay the full fee for emptying the cesspool in question.

A resolution was read, and examined, exception being taken to the word "sewage" mentioned therein. "Overflow from cess-pit" was preferred, but Mr. Geary preferred the word "effluent." After discussion: Proposed by Mr. McDonald, sec. Mrs. Kerrison & carried unanimously, that following resolution be sent to the Surrey County Council, & a copy thereof to the Godstone Rural District Council:—

Resolution

"The Tatsfield Parish Council invites the attention of the Surrey County Council to the insanitary state of Tatsfield Village, & the failure of the Godstone Rural District Council to deal therewith. It forwards herewith 1) a petition

from the residents of Tabfield stating that the overflow from a cesspool flows frequently down the village street past the baker's, butcher's & other food shops, and asking for the introduction of main drainage as an urgent matter; 2) a copy of a resolution of the Parish Council supporting the petition & stating main drainage, to be, in its opinion, the only permanent solution; 3) a copy of the reply of the Godstone Rural District Council and 4) a certificate from a local medical practitioner that such overflow is dangerous to public health. This document is forwarded because the parish representative on the R.D.C. has repeatedly stated the overflow in question to be harmless.

The Parish Council is constrained to say that the allusion by the R.D.C. to the events of 1930 is inaccurate and incomplete. The P.C. of 1930, so far from disapproving the introduction of main drainage, was unanimously in favour of it, and recommended its adoption to the Parish meeting, which, however, rejected it. This was not altogether surprising, since the cost would have fallen solely on the parish, and after allowing for the Government grant, would have involved the parish for many years in a local sewage rate of at least $\frac{1}{6}$ in £ the total debt not being discharged for about 40 years. It is impossible at this distance of time to obtain exact figures, but the details just quoted are given from memory by the then Chairman of the P.C., & may, it is suggested, be regarded as sufficiently accurate.

But it is to

But it is to the concluding sentences of the R.D.C.'s reply that the P.C. invites particular attention. It gives no indication of the progress of the negotiations mentioned, or indeed, that they have been begun, & it says nothing of steps being taken to remedy by temporary measures, the intolerable state of Tatsfield village. For nearly 20 years the overflow from this cesspit has flowed down the village street. Residents have at times had to spread disinfectants in the gutters to mitigate the smell and general nuisance. Children play in the street, & their toys fall into, & are picked out of, the overflows. Complaints to the sanitary authorities have had negligible results. Early last May the Sanitary Inspector stated he would arrange for the cesspool to be pumped out once a week. Since then it has been emptied once. Since 30th May, 1946, when systematic notes were first made, the overflow has flowed the street on 57 days. This overflowing cess-pit, though much the most serious defect in Tatsfield's sanitation is not the only serious defect.

Tatsfield P.C. being satisfied that the Godstone R.D.C. has neglected its duty in respect of the dangerously insanitary state of Tatsfield, feels compelled to request, with its respects to the Surrey C.C. 1) to exercise its powers under the Local Govt. Act 1894 & take over the Godstone R.D.C.'s powers in this matter & 2) to adopt such temporary as well as permanent measures as it deems advisable & necessary to remedy the present insanitary state of Tatsfield."

Rural District
Councillorship.

Proposed by Mr. McDonald see Mr. Martin that P.C. go into Committee on this subject. The Clerk reported that the R.D. Councillor, Mr. Goundry, had called on her before the meeting, with a request that any discussion on this subject should not be taken in Committee, but that the Press be allowed to report it.

Mr. Geary proposed that this matter be dealt with in "open Council," Mrs. Leslett being in favour of this amendment.

It was decided to have the subject of the "Rural District Councillorship" held in open meeting.

The Chairman said he thought it was essential to have the facts on record, regarding the R.D. Councillor's break with the Parish Council & read a resolution. After discussion Mr. McDonald proposed, Mrs. Kerrison seconded, that this resolution be noted in the Minute Book.

Mr. Geary expressed the wish that his vote against so doing should be noted in the Minute Book. Mrs. Leslett abstained from voting on the matter. All other members were in favour.

Resolution

"As at the meeting of the Parish Council on 3rd June 1946, the Rev. W. E. Goundry announced he would resign his position as Tatfield's representative on the Godstone R.D.C., & as it was stated ~~he had~~ in the local press on the 21st June 1946, that Mr. Goundry had stated he had decided not to resign from the R.D.C., the Parish Council considers it advisable to place

on record the relevant facts, so far as the P.C. is concerned.

1) at the Special meeting held on 13th May 1946, to consider a Petition from Tatsfield residents, complaining of an overflow from a cesspool in the village street, & asking for the early introduction of main Drainage, Mr. Goundry stated that the Tatsfield Scheme had been relegated by the R.D.C. to fourth place. — The R.D.C. stated the Tatsfield scheme is second in order of priority.

2) At the Special meeting, Mr. Goundry stated that the effluent flowing down the village street was harmless & without smell. Seventy-seven residents wrote the Parish Council that in this, Mr. Goundry was quite wrong.

At the meeting on June 3rd Mr. Goundry denied having said it was without smell. Mr. Goundry added that the original petition & the letter from the 77 residents were not worth the paper on which they were written. A local Doctor certifies that in his opinion such an overflow is dangerous to public health.

3) At the special meeting Mr. Goundry stated that many villages were in a worse sanitary state than Tatsfield, & that, in one case the overflow from a cesspool flowed across a road into a house. When he was questioned on this at the meeting on 3rd June, he denied having said that it flowed into a house. He referred the point to a Press reporter, who confirmed that he had made this statement.

4) At the Special meeting, Mr. Joundry stated that if the Tadfield sewage were delivered to the Biggin Hill drain the latter would be blocked. On 3rd June he stated that what he had said was that the Biggin Hill drain might be blocked.

5) At the Special meeting Mr. Joundry stated that Tadfield had recently had a reduction of one-third in its assessment, as it had no drainage system. At the meeting on 3rd June he volunteered that he had been mis-informed.

6) At the Special meeting his attention was directed to the grant of £15,000,000 under the 1944 Act for the improvement of rural water supplies & sewerage. He said that advances under this scheme were repayable with interest. The Ministry of Health states this is a free grant, not repayable & not bearing interest. The Parish Council, representing the interests of the residents of the Parish, confines itself to placing on record the facts which led to the refusal of Mr. Joundry to attend the meeting of the Parish Council.

[Handwritten signature]
Vice Chairman

23/9/46

Pres

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I

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Mr. J.

letter to

9 S.C.