

Fleet Parish Council, Lincolnshire, UK

FLEET MINUTE BOOK from 4th June 1924 to 23rd February 1953

p 1 A Special Meeting of the Fleet Parish Council was held in the Council School, Hazelwood Lane, on Monday 5th May 1924. Councillors present being:

Mr J. Knights, Mr A Marshall, Mr D Doubleday, Mr G. Halgarth, Mr C I Patchett, Mr B Dickerson, Mr A Charlton, Mr A Halgarth

The previous minutes were read and confirmed.(Pmrc)

The Chairman stated the Councillors appointed to meet Mr Bennett the owner of the Church Fields Allotment had not had an opportunity (in respect to the Hiring of the land again for allotments) of interviewing him, but would do so as soon as possible.

The Clerk presented the financial statement for the year ending 31st March 1924 which showed a balance in hand of £23.16s.8d. in favour of the allotment tenants, this balance allowed of 10/-return per acre to the tenants of the Church Fields and Longstaffs Field which the clerk had deducted from the rentals.

Mr Patchett raised a strong objection to the action of the Clerk in making such returns without the consent of the present Council, the Clerk stated that he was acting on precedent that whenever there had been a balance in favour of the tenants in previous years, the surplus had always been left to him to distribute to the allotments holders as a matter of course. This was borne out by the oldest member of the council. Some heated discussion was raised and eventually Mr Patchett left the meeting in protest. The Council Treasurer collected the rents, thus allowing the returns aforesaid to the tenants.

Mr Herbert Morris applied to the Council for a portion of the Village Pit on which to erect a cobblers shop and upon the proposition of Mr Marshall seconded by Mr A Halgarth it was decided to allow him a piece of land at a rental of 5/- per annum. It was decided that an agreement should be drawn up at an early date between Morris and the Council.

It was decided that the councillors appointed to see Mr Bennett should interview him on Saturday the 10th inst.

The Clerk was directed to write to Mr Diggle (who had offered to come down and view the allotment situation at an early date), that any time next week would be convenient to meet him.

The allotment rents were collected with good results. Cheques were signed and made payable as follows: Mrs Webb £9.1s.3d Rent, Mr A. Fysh £17 ditto, Mr W.Bennett £48.3.7. ditto,

Mr Waterman £1.16.5.ditto, Mr A.Halgarth £14.ditto, Mr A. Marsh £5.15.ditto.sgd
J.W.Knights, Chairman.

An Ordinary Meeting of Fleet PCC was held in the Council School, Hazelwood Lane on Monday 4th June 1924. Councillors present being: Messrs Knights, Marshall, Charlton, F.Halgarth, Doubleday, G.Halgarth, Patchett. The previous minutes were read and confirmed.

The Council decided that an agreement should be drawn up between them (the Council) and Herbert Morris who had recently hired a portion of the Village Pit for the purpose of erecting a hut upon it.

The Chairman reported that Mr Bennett had been interviewed as to whether he would let the Council the Church Fields for allotments at the expiration of the present lease and Mr Bennett declined to enter into any negotiations with the Council but stated that he intended to let the land privately to some of the existing tenants.

The question of providing some allotment land was considered and various fields were mentioned. Eventually it was decided to approach various landlords and propositions to that effect were made as follows:- Mr Marshall proposed & Mr Charlton seconded that Mr John Sharpe Patchett be approached - carried unanimously. The Council decided to apply to Mrs White for a portion of the Manor Farm. It was considered desirable to apply to Mr R Dring of Thorney for a field now in the occupation of Mr Albert Franks and situated near the village and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Dring to the effect that if the land became vacant at Michaelmas would he be prepared to let it to the Council for allotments.

Mr Fred Halgarth proposed & Mr Marshall seconded that the owner of Mr C J Patchett's farm viz Mr Bensley of London be applied to for a field - carried.

It was decided that the allotment committee should inspect the allotments on Monday 16 June at 6.30 p.m. Cheques were drawn and made payable as follows: Mr Loweth £2/-/- audit stamp, Mr Fulcher 10/- preparing school. Sgd John Wm Knights, Chairman

A Meeting of Fleet PC was held in the Council School, Hazelwood Lane on Friday 4th July 1924, Councillors present being: Messrs Knights, Doubleday, Patchett, G.Halgarth, A Halgarth, A B Charlton. The previous minutes were read and confirmed. The Clerk presented a rough statement of agreement between the Council and Herbert Morris for his site on which to erect a hut on the village pit and with slight alterations it was decided that the proposals be passed with slight alterations.

The Clerk presented several replies which he had received from Landowners in the district in regard to the obtaining land for allotments and it was stated that Messrs J Bensley and JS Patchett had declined to accede to the Council's request. Mrs White had not yet answered the letter sent to her and Mr R Dring was willing to let 5 acres of newly broken up land on a 7 years lease for £55 per annum.

Mr Patchett informed the Council that he had interviewed Mr Dring on the matter and he had consented to take £8 per acre for the land. The Council fully considered the offer and it was left with the Clerk to see 4 likely tenants in order to ascertain if they would be willing to hire lots of about 2 acres at £8/8/- per acre. In the meantime it was left to Mr Patchett to interview Mr Dring at an early date to ascertain if he would give any more favourable terms.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Council to the fact that 2 fields suitable for allotments situated on Hazelwood Lane would be offered for sale on the 17th inst. and after considerable discussion Mr Doubleday proposed and Mr Dickerson seconded that the Council endeavour to buy the field containing 13 acres more or less - carried unanimously.

Mr G Halgarth proposed and Mr Doubleday seconded that the Council's limit for the land should be £800 - carried unanimously, our failing the obtaining of this field that the Council should bid up to £60 per acre for the 10 acres more or less.

It was decided to call a Parish Meeting for the 15th instant in order to obtain the ratepayers' consent for the acquiring of a loan from the Public Works Loan Committee in case this land was bought by the Council. The Clerk was directed to write to Mr T Banks and The Ministry of Health in order that they might offer help on the matter. (sgd) JW Knights, Chairman.

A Parish Meeting was held in the Council School Hazelwood Lane on Tuesday 15th July 1924 for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the rate payers that the Parish

Council should obtain a loan of £800 for the purpose of purchasing a field in Hazelwood Lane if possible for allotment land. The field contained 13 acres, 0 rod, 19 perch.

Mr Albert Charlton proposed that the Parish Council be authorised to apply to the Public Works Loan Committee for the loan of £800 for the proposed purchase of the above field for allotments. Mr George Halgarth seconded, carried unanimously. sgd J.W.Knights, Chairman.

A Special Meeting of the Fleet PC was held in the Council School Hazelwood Lane on Tuesday 15th July 1924, Councillors present being: Messrs John Knights, CJ Patchett, A Marshall, G Halgarth, A Charlton. The previous minutes were read and confirmed.

The Clerk stated that he had interviewed several likely applicants for allotment land in regard to Mr R Dring's field which he had offered to the Council at £8 per acre and he had obtained two likely tenants who would take 2 acres each, the remaining 11/2 acres he could not dispose of. It transpired however at the meeting that a member of the Council would take the 11/2 acres and it was decided to ascertain through Mr Patchett whether Mr Dring would take any less for the land and also if he would consent to let it on a yearly tenancy.

The Council unanimously decided that Mr Knights should represent the Council at the land sale on Thursday and bid for the land. sgd JW Knights, Chairman

p8 An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc on Thursday 18th September 1924: present: Knights, Marshall, F Halgarth Jr DS Doubleday, G Halgarth, A Halgarth, A Charlton, Dickerson. Pmracs.

The matter of trying to hire Mr R Dring's field for allotments was discussed and after considerable debate Mr G Halgarth proposed and Mr Doubleday seconded that £7/-/- per acre be offered. An amendment was proposed by Mr Fred Halgarth that £6/-/- per acre be offered, Mr Marshall seconded, upon the amendment being put to the meeting three members voted in favour of it. The proposition was then submitted when two votes were obtained. The amendment was therefore carried and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Dring informing him of the decision of the Council to offer him £6 per acre for the land on a yearly tenancy.

The Chairman said that it might be wise to ascertain what amount of allotment land was required in the Parish so that something definite might be forwarded to headquarters as to the requirements for allotments. The Council therefore decided to issue notices asking for applications to be sent in to the Clerk at an early date.

A letter was read which the Clerk had received from Mr W Bennett respecting the dykes, gates and posts and general cultivation of the Church Fields allotments. He also stated that he wished for the pump which had been removed 14 years ago to be returned.

Mr Doubleday proposed and Mr Dickerson seconded that the allotment committee interview

Mr Hardy regarding the pump (Mr Hardy had been entrusted with same) and also to inspect the land and report at the next meeting.

Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts viz: Mr Duck Poor Rate £5.10.6., Mrs Fulcher, preparing school 2/6d, Mr Chamberlain, Stationery 16/0d, Hadden Best & Co, Notices etc. £1.4.2. sgd J W Knights, Chman

An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc Thursday 21st October 1924: Present: Knights, Doubleday, Patchett, Dickerson, A Halgarth, A Marshall, G Halgarth. PmrCs.

The Clerk was directed to write to those tenants of the Church Fields allotments who had any claim against the Council for compensation to send in their bills for guano etc at once.

The Clerk was also instructed to write to Mr Bennett asking if he had any claim for dilapidation against the Council. The Clerk was also to state that seasonal tenants had claims for Inventory.

It was also decided that providing Mr Bennett intended to make a claim to ask him who he intended to approach to act as his valuer. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr RH Holdsworth, or Messrs CE May & Son, pr??? Mr Bennett employed Mr Holdsworth as valuer for the Council.

Mr Doubleday proposed and Mr Marshall seconded that the Council endeavour to purchase Webbs allotment field which was shortly coming into the market, carried unanimously.

The Council considered ways and means in respect to the purchase of the field and eventually Mr Bernard Dickerson offered to purchase the field for £400 if possible (The field contains 6a3r14p) and the Council might have it at that price or he would keep it himself. The Council agreed to that arrangement.

The Chairman said he was removing from the Parish and he should leave himself in their hands. It was decided not to collect the allotment rents until the Council had heard further in respect to the claims for Inventory and/or dilapidation. sgd John W Knights, Ch.

An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc Monday 1st December 1924. Present: Knights, Dickerson, Marshall, Charlton, Doubleday, A Halgarth, G Halgarth, F Halgarth, CJ Patchett. prev. mins.

The Clerk reported that Mr Spencer Lee, the purchaser of ??? allotment land had made arrangements with the Council's tenants and taken over several of the allotments as from 11th October last. Some strong remarks were expressed as to the action both of Mr Lee and the allotment tenants which was in direct opposition to the terms of the agreement and the Clerk was directed to write to Mr Lee expressing the Council's annoyance at his action without first consulting the landlords.

It was decided to write to the offending tenants a strong letter of disapproval of their procedure. He was also to state that they rendered themselves liable by not obtaining any future allotments.

The Clerk read a letter which he had received from Mr R Dring of Thorney in which he offered to let to the Council 5a2r20p of land situated near Fleet Hargate at a rental of £3/5/- per acre and upon the proposition of Mr Fred Halgarth seconded by Mr G Halgarth the Council unanimously decided to accept Mr Dring's offer. The tenancy of the land will commence on the 11th October 1924.

The Council next proceeded to collect Michaelmas rents due from Messrs Halgarth's and Fisk's allotment holders with fairly satisfactory results.

It was reported that there was (sic) 2 defaulting tenants who had not paid their Lady-day rent JWnote: March 25) and the Council decided that the Clerk should write asking for immediate payment. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Alfred Halgarth £14, Millder & Son £9.1.3., J. Waterman £1.16.5. sgd Chas. J. Patchett, Chman.

p13 An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc on Friday 2 January 1925, present: Dickerson, Chman, CJ Patchett, F Halgarth Jr, Arthur Halgarth, G Halgarth, D Doubleday, A Charlton, A Marshall. PmrCs. The Council proceeded to consider the applications for the five allotments in Drings Field, the Clerk stating that he had received eleven applications by Harold Halgarth, JW Wright, Hugh Dickerson, William Coupland, Daniel Coupland, Robert Parker, Fred Jackson, G Hall, E Whitmore, Stanley Halgarth and T Wright. Three of the applicants were struck out and upon the proposition of Mr Arthur Halgarth seconded by Mr B Dickerson, the Council unanimously decided that seven of the men should draw for four lots, the fifth being allocated to Fred Jackson who had previously been promised one. The applicants then drew; those successful being Daniel Coupland No1, William Coupland No2, Harold Halgarth No4 and Tatam Wright No5. Fred Jackson therefore took No.3. It was stated that there would be some Inventory to pay by four of the tenants and that they would be liable to pay for the measuring of the land. Tenancy to commence 11th October 1924. Messrs G Halgarth and Arthur Halgarth were appointed to procure the states for the allotments.

The Council decided that the unsuccessful applicants be considered first in case any more land was procured.

Mr B. Dickerson proposed and Mr Doubleday seconded that the clerk write to Mr J Baker asking him to furnish the Council with his bills for corn and cake with reference to his claim for Inventory on his former allotment on Longstaff's field, carried unanimously.

The Clerk stated that J. Tazzeyman (?) had not yet paid for his straw which he had removed from his allotment in the Church Fields and upon the proposition of Mr Dickerson seconded by Mr Doubleday the Clerk was directed to write to him asking for payment of the £2 due within seven days or proceedings would be taken immediately to recover the amount.

Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr N(?) surveying 15s.0d., Mr G Bayston, Land Tax 2s6d, Mrs Ward, preparing school 7s6d. sgd JW Knights, Chman.

p15 An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc on Monday 2nd March 1925; present: Knights, Dickerson, Marshall, G, A & F Halgarth, D Doubleday, Charlton, Patchett. pmrCs.

The Clerk stated that Mr R Dring had seen him expecting the preparing of an agreement between the Council and himself for his field which he had let for allotments.

Mr Dring stated in the interview that he was willing that the Council should leave the dykes on quitting the land as they found them and that this stipulation might be entered in the agreement. He also left it to the Council to employ a lawyer to draft the said agreement but he refused to bear any part of the cost which would be incurred (sic).

Mr Dickerson therefore proposed that Mr SS Mossop, solicitor, Holbeach, be approached with respect to drafting the agreement. Mr G Halgarth seconded. Carried unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to see Mr Mossop in order to obtain some idea as to the cost and to report at the next meeting.

Mr Patchett proposed and Mr Doubleday seconded that the fourteen names of men suitable and liable to serve as Parish Constables for the ensuing year should be the same as last year. Carried unanimously. There (sic) names are: Frederick Wallduck, Charles Laban, George Lovels, Charles Lamming, Chas Ward, Joseph Waltham,

Albert Charlton, Herbert Drewery, Walter Twell, George Laban, William Parker, Arthur Jessup, John Ellington, Silas Patrick.

Mr Dickerson proposed and Mr Doubleday seconded that the parish meeting for the selection of Parish Councillors should be held on Monday 16 March at 7 o'clock p.m., carried unanimously. It was also arranged to hold the annual parish meeting at the conclusion of the previous meeting. The Clerk was directed to collect the Inventory from Drings allotment tenants.

A claim for Inventory amounting to £3.16.11/2 [three pounds, sixteen shillings, one and a half pence] was put in by John Baker a former allotment tenant on Longstaff's land. Against this Mr A Halgarth the present owner of the land had a claim of £2 for straw removed and the Council instructed the Clerk to interview Mr Halgarth to ascertain if he would say 'quits' and settle the matter, report to be made at next meeting.

The Council next considered the valuation schedule which had been prepared by Messrs Kingston with regard to the Inventory and/or dilapidation's on the Church Fields allotments land. The valuers on either side not having agreed an arbitrator had been appointed and his decision was as follows: Dilapidations £27.17.1d., Claims for Guano £11.5.5., balance £16.11.8., Umpires fees £5.14.0., S&G Kingston fees £3.3.0. Balance £25.8.8.

From this amount the council decided to deduct £7.10.0. which had been allowed for the pump and unanimously appointed the following committee: Messrs Patchett, A Halgarth, B Dickerson, with the Clerk to prepare the apportionate charges to each tenant.

It was decided to collect the rents on Monday 9th inst. at 8 o'clock and to call the meeting for 7 p.m. A precept was signed for £25. The council unanimously sanctioned the payment of the valuers and arbitrators fees with respect to the dilapidation's and inventory on the Church fields amounting to £8.17s. sgd. B. Dickerson Chman.

An adjourned meeting of FPC etc Monday 9th March 1925 present: Dickerson, Patchett, Marshall, 3 Halgarths, A Charlton, Doubleday, prcs. The Clerk reported that Mr SS Mossop, solicitor, Holbeach, had agreed to draw up an agreement between the Parish Council and Mr Richard Dring of Thorney for his field which he had let to the council for allotments for the sum of £3.7.d. and the Council sanctioned the said sum should be paid.

The Clerk reported that he had interviewed Mr Alfred Halgarth with regard to Baker's Claim for Inventory on his former allotment in Longstaff's Field. He said that Mr Halgarth was willing to surrender his claim for straw removed if Baker would forfeit the claim he had made.

Mr Baker attended the meeting and stated that he was not willing to accept this arrangement and the matter was left in abeyance.

Mr Dickerson reported that the committee consisting of himself, Mr Patchett and Mr Arthur Halgarth had met as arranged and had fully considered the apportionate charges made by the valuer in respect to the Inventory and dilapidation's on the Church Fields allotments and they had allotted to each tenant such charges as was consistent with the schedule which Mr Holdsworth had remitted to the Council.

The Council unanimously decided to accept the committee's report and proceeded to collect the Michaelmas allotments rents/charges re the Church Fields Allotments and satisfactory results were obtained. Other business was mentioned and it was decided that the Council should meet at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 16th inst. in order to

transact the same. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr RH Duck £2.13.0. Poor Rate., Mr Bennett £48.3.7. for year's rent. sgd John W Knights, Chman.

An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc March 16th 1925; present: Knights, Dickerson, Abraham Marshall, A Halgarth, G Halgarth, Albert Charlton, David Doubleday. prev.mins.

The agreement between the Council and Mr Richard Dring of Thorney for his allotment field was presented but the clause relating to the dykes was not considered satisfactory and it was decided that it should be returned amended.

The tenants of Drings Allotments paid their Inventory and signed their agreements with the Council.

It was unanimously decided to pay M Richardson £2 for straw which had been removed from his allotment and which had been paid into the Council's account by Mr Tazzyman.

The Council decided to write to Messrs S&G Kingston with regard to the payment of the amount owing to Mr Bennett for dilapidations. The amount owing was £16.11.8. which included £7.10 for Pump. The latter amount the Council decided unanimously not to pay and the Clerk was directed to ask Messrs Kingston whether they would take a cheque value £9.1.8. being the balance due to Mr Bennett.

The Clerk stated that a notice to the Council to quit Fish's allotment land had been received for the eleventh of October next. Consequently the Council decided to ask the Clerk to send notices to quit on 11 Oct. to all the tenants of said Fish's allotments.

The matter between Baker and Mr A Halgarth re Inventory etc was satisfactorily settled.

It was reported that all the Church Fields allotment tenants had discharged the amounts owing for delapidations. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts:

Mr Bailey £2.4.9. Sewers Rate, J. Miller £15 Fire Service Premium, F.Loweth £3.18.10. Salary and Stamps, J.Chamberlain & Son 12s.11d. Notices, Mrs Ward 7s.6d. School cleaning, H.Bateman £6.18.6. Inventory on Drings Allotments, H.Richardson £2 for straw sgd B Dickerson, Chmn

The Annual Parish Meeting held in the Council School, Wood Lane on Monday 16 March 1925 at 7 o'clock over which Mr JW Knights presided.

The Deacon & Fairfax Charity acpts (sic) were presented by the Secretary, Mr W English, and passed satisfactory.

The acpts [accounts] in connection with the Fleet Charity Trustees were read over by the Clerk (Mr F. Loweth) and were satisfactorily received by the Meeting.

Mr Loweth stated that the Village Hall had come under the supervision of the Charity Commissioners and at the next annual Meeting the acpts in connection with the Hall would be presented by the Secretary, viz Rev. G.T.Devitts.

The Annual Meeting for the election of Parish Councillors was held in the Council School, Hazelwood Lane on Monday 16th March 1925 commencing at 7.0 p.m.

The Chairman of the Council stated for what purpose the meeting had been called and having reviewed the work of the Council for the last 3 years he incidentally remarked that unfortunately the Council had lost a considerable portion of allotment land through no fault of their own, the land having made considerably more under

the hammer than the Council were prepared to give. He then called upon the meeting to elect a Chairman and it was duly proposed and seconded that Mr Knights be Chairman. This was carried.

Mr Knights thanked the meeting and at once called for nomination papers to be handed in.

In due course 14 nomination papers were forthcoming, the Chairman decided they were all valid. The names of the candidates were as follows:-Messrs Brotherwell, Bailey, Bettinson, Bycroft, Charlton, Dickerson, Gregory, Halgarth, Ingrey, Lamming, Marshall, Oliver, Patchett, Piggins. The chairman intimated that the meeting was at liberty to ask the candidates any questions and none being forthcoming the above names were voted upon with the following results: Brotherwell 48, Bailey 20, Bettinson 21, Bycroft 33, Charlton 16, Dickerson 44, Gregory 27, Halgarth 22, Ingrey 43, Lamming 18, Marshall 16, Oliver 43, Patchett 26, Piggins 17. An interval of 10 minutes was allowed to anyone to demand a poll and no one proposing the same, the Chairman proceeded to declare the following nine gentlemen as Parish Councillors for the ensuing 3 years: Brotherwell, Bettinson, Bycroft, Dickerson, Gregory, Halgarth, Ingrey, Oliver, Patchett. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

An Ordinary Meeting of FPC etc on Monday 30th March 1925: present: Dickerson, Marshall, Charlton, Doubleday, Halgarth, Oliver. Previous mins etc. The rents for Drings Allotments were fixed. Allotments 1,2,3 & 4 worked out at £7/11/- per acre and allotment 5 which contained 1a0r8p was fixed at £7/18/2, these accounts included Sewers Rate and Poor Rate.

George Sissons a former allotment tenant of the church fields went to the Council asking them to amend the arbitrator's award for guano used on his 2 allotments; it appeared that he had used 1.18.0. of artificial and the award was only £2. The council instructed the Clerk to write Messrs S & G Kingston asking for an explanation. Mr B. Dickerson proposed and Mr Marshall seconded that a cheque value £9.1.8. be remitted to Mr Bennet for delapidations on the Church Fields allotment land and that the clerk write Mr Bennett to the effect that the Council refused to pay the remaining £7.10.0. which was claimed for the pump, carried unanimously.

Mr G.Halgarth proposed and Mr B. Dickerson seconded that the clerk write to Mr Charles Hardy asking him to return the pump which had been removed from the church fields and placed in his custody on or about the 6 January 1911 within 14 days. The Clerk was also to point out that Mr Hardy was a member of the Council at the time the pump was deposited at his residence and he also attended the meeting when the arrangements were made. A cheque was drawn and signed for the following amount: Mr W. Bennett £9.1.8. delapidations. Signed: Chas.I. Patchett

The annual Meeting of Fleet Parish Council was held in the Council School Hazelwood Lane on Thursday 16th April 1925 the following councillors being present viz: Brothwell, Patchett, Oliver, Bycroft, Gregory, Dickerson, Halgarth, Ingrey, Bettinson. Mr Patchett proposed that Mr M? be provisional chairman. Mr Ingrey seconded, carried unan.

All the members signed the declarations upon taking office as Parish Councillors. The first business of the meeting was to elect a chairman, Mr Oliver proposed Mr B. Dickerson, Mr G Halgarth seconded.

Mr Ingrey proposed Mr Patchett, Mr Bettinson seconded. Upon a show of hands Mr Patchett was elected and consequently took the chair. Pmracs.

Mr Gregory proposed Mr Oliver as Vice-Chairman, Mr Brothwell seconded, carried unan.

The Clerk stated that he had received a reply from Messrs S&G Kingston re Mr G Sissons' application for increased inventory on his former allotments. Messrs Kingston's letter was to the effect umpires decision could not be altered and the clerk was instructed to write to Mr Sissons to that effect.

The clerk stated he had received a reply from Mr C Hardy with regard to the council's request that he should return the pump belonging to the council within 14 days from the hour of writing to him. The matter was therefore left in abeyance.

The next business was to appoint three overseers. Mr Patchett proposed Mr J Bollons, Mr Gregory seconded; Mr Ingrey proposed Mr Gregory, Mr Bettinson seconded; Mr G Halgarth proposed Mr Ingrey, Mr Gregory seconded; Mr Patchett proposed Mr J Brothwell, Mr Gregory seconded; Mr Ingrey proposed Mr C Bayston, Mr G. Halgarth sec., Mr Bettinson proposed Mr Patchett, Mr Ingrey sec; The voting was by ballot and the voting was as follows:

Mr Bollons 5 votes, Gregory 2, Ingrey 7, Brothwell 3, Bayston 2, Patchett 5. Messrs J.Bollons, C.Ingrey, I Patchett were elected as overseers for the year.

Mr Dickerson proposed that Messrs C.Bettinson, A Gregory, W Bycroft, G Halgarth, I Patchett, act as the allotment committee. Mr Ingrey seconded, carried unan.

Appointment of two school managers for 3 years. Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Ingrey; Mr Brothwell sec. Mr Dickinson propo. Oliver; Bycroft sec. Halgarth proposed Bollons, Ingrey sec. The voting was by show of hands, the result being that Messrs Ingrey and Oliver were elected.

The Financial Statement of acpts was presented by the clerk and was considered satisfactory but it was thought that a small committee ought to be appointed in order to inspect the allotment acpts etc Accordingly upon the proposition of Mr Oliver, seconded by Mr Dickerson, Messrs Brothwell and Ingrey were appointed as Finance Committee and it was arranged that they should meet at the clerk's house for the purpose of auditing the acpts sometime before the 4th of May.

The Clerk presented the agreement which had been prepared by Messrs Mossop & Mossop re Mr Richard Dring's field for allotments. The Chairman read the terms of the agreement and after some discussion the council decided to pass it as satisfactory. It was arranged that the collection of the Ladyday allotment rent should take place on Monday 4 May. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr R Dring £17.10.0 Mossop & Mossop £3.7.6. Chairman Chas.I. Patchett.

p.28 An ordinary meeting of FPC etc Monday 4 May 1925.Present: Patchett, Bettinson, Bycroft, Gregory, Brothwell, Halgarth, Dickerson,Oliver. PMRC

The Finance Committee comprising Messrs Brothwell & Ingrey reported on their inspection of the balance sheets presented by the clerk at the previous meeting. It was found that the balances of the Bennetts and Halgarths' fields were £10.7.8. & £7.5.8. respectively and upon the proposition of Mr Dickerson sec by Mr G Halgarth the Council decided to distribute the said balances equally between the tenants.

Mr Dickerson propo and Mr Gregory sec that the tenants be called together for the next meeting of the council in order to receive their shares of the balance. The Council next proceeded to collect the Ladyday allotment rents with very satisfactory results. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr Herbert

Marsh £17; Mr S Lee £9.19.11. Mrs Ward 7/6d for preparing school. Sgd Frederick Oliver, Chmn.

p 30 A special meeting of FPC etc Friday 12 June 1925 when the following councillors were present: Mr Oliver, Gregory, Halgarth, Bycroft. PMRC. The special business of this meeting was to distribute the balances (which obtained on the Churchfields & Halgarth's allotments) equally between the tenants. The amount distributed being £17.12.11. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: S Jackson 5/4d. stakes; F. Loweths £19.12.11 which included £2 for audit stamp and £17.12.11 allotment returns. Chairman Chas.I Patchett.

An ordinary meeting of FPC etc Friday 11 Sept.1925; present: Patchett, Ingrey, Gregory, Bycroft, Oliver, Brothwell, Halgarth, Bettinson. PMRC. The Council considered an offer of 13 1/2 acres land for allotments which had been received from Mr Lee of Holbeach. The fields are situated in Washway Road one field being already allotments and the other field has previously been rented by the council for the same purpose.

Mr Lee offered the council the land on a 14 years lease at £5/5/-per acre and after considerable discussion it was unan. decided on the proposition of Mr Gregory sec by Mr Halgarth that an offer be made of £4 per acre on a 7 years lease. The clerk was instructed to thank Mr Lee for his offer.

Reference was made with regard to the forthcoming sale of Fish's Allotment field and the Chairman was deputed to attend the sale and to lay out a reasonable figure. The council instructed the clerk to send notices to quit their allotments to the tenants of Lees allotment land.

It was decided to collect the Michaelmas allotment rents on Monday the 2nd of November.

A cheque was drawn and signed for the following amount: RH Dack, poor rate £2.19.5. Sgd Chas.Patchett Chman.

P32 FPC etc Monday 2nd November 1925: Present: Patchett, Ingrey, Bycroft, Bettinson, Gregory, Brothwell, Oliver, Dickerson, Halgarth. Mr C.

Clerk presented a letter which had been received from Mr S.Lee of Holbeach re his offer of 13% of allotment land to the council at £5.5.0 per acre and upon which it had been decided to make him an offer of £4 pa. The letter stated that Mr Lee was much obliged for the offer but that he could not possibly accept it.

Three tenants of Fisk's allotment field viz Thomas Marshall, Thos. Jackson and FC.Wakefield presented claims for inventory and the council decided that their clerk should interview Mr Piggins the purchaser of the field in order to obtain a settlement of the tenants claims. The tenants of Fisks and Drings allotments paid their Michaelmas Rents. Mr Whitmore also paid his dues for straw from his allotment on Webbs allotment land, the sum amounted to £2. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: R.Dring £17.10 Michaelmas Rent, F.Loweth £17. Fisks Mich. Rent. The clerk had previously sent a cheque for the latter amount upon being pressed for payment consequently the Council's draft was made out to him. Chas.I. Patchett.Chman.

Meeting of FPC etc Thursday 25th Nov. 1925. Pres: Patchett, Ingrey, Bycroft, Brothwell, Oliver, Halgarth Snr., Bettinson, Dickerson. pmrc. The tenants of Fisks

allotments had sent in their claims for Inventory amounting to £5.3.7. at the previous meeting and I had been appointed to interview Mr F Piggins the purchaser of the land and obtain a settlement if poss. The Clerk said he had seen Mr P but he had refused to pay any inventory at all consequently upon the proposition of Mr Dickerson sec. by Mr Gregory the council unan. decided that a detailed statement of each tenant's claim be presented to Mr P by the Chairman and Clerk and if he refused to pay, Mr Ingrey proposed and Mr Halgarth sec. that the Chairman of the council or any other member approach the Farmer's Union Secretary to ascertain their opinion on the matter and providing it was favourable Mr Dickerson proposed and Mr Bettinson sec. that the council endeavour to engage Messrs May & Son as valuers the previous resolutions were carried unan.

The clerk presented a letter which he had received from the Wisbech Post Master asking whether the council would be willing to allow the Whaplode Drove Postman a weekly half holiday on Saturday afternoon. If the application be granted the effect would be as follows: the box which now closed at 2 p.m. would then close at 12.5 p.m. and after considerable discussion Mr Ingrey proposed that providing the Gedney Hill P O was not affected and will remain open as per usual the council acceded to the request but if not the council strongly objects. Mr Patchett sec. and it was carried unan. the council signed the following cheques: Messrs Mossop & Mossop 5/- Bond Premium; Mrs Ward, preparing room 10/- sgd Patchett, Chman.

An Ord.meetg of FPC at the clerk's house, Hocklesgate, Monday 18th Jan.1926: Present: Patchett, Oliver, Brothwell, Bycroft, Dickerson, Bettinson, Halgarth. pmrc. Letters were read from Mr Piggins' solicitors re the inventory which the council claimed on account of the tenants of Fysk's allotments. Mr Piggins' solicitors stated that the council had no legal claim upon his client because the agreement between the council and the late Mr A.Fysk (the owner) stated that the land was let for the purpose of allotment gardens not exceeding 40 poles in extent and the council had committed a breach of the agreement by letting to their tenants plots containing one acre.

Mr Patchett stated that he had interviewed the secretary of the farmers union who also was of opinion that the council had no claim upon Mr Piggins, consequently upon the proposition of Mr B Dickerson sec by Mr G Halgarth it was unan. decided that the Chairman again write Mr March solicitor for the late Mr Fysk's trustees stating that probably the legatees would be willing to pay the council's claim in order to obtain a speedy settlement of affairs.

The clerk stated that he had heard from the Wisbech Post Master concerning the earlier closing of the 4 Turns letter box on Saturday. He said that the earlier closing of the box would in no way affect the clearance of the Gedney Hill PO. The Post Master thanked the council for their conditional agreement for the earlier closing of the box.

Letters were read which had been received from Mr Mossop Clerk to the Holbeach RDC [Rural District Council] relating to the necessity of having an agreement between the two councils for the use of the Holbeach Fire Engines. Mr Mossop stated the probable cost to the council would be 5/- being half the stamp duty. The council was unan. in favour of having an agreement and it was decided that the chairman should interview Mr Mossop with regard to minor details.

The matter of the balance which obtains on Webb's allotments was considered. The clerk stated that he had previously approached the auditor for the time being as to whether the council could distribute the balance equally between the tenants and he had received a negative answer. It was decided that the clerk should again seek the auditor's opinion on the matter because the allotments had ceased to exist. A precept was issued for £20. A cheque was drawn and signed in favour of Mr S Lee for £5.4.5. Sgd Frederick Oliver, Chmn.

p38 FPC etc. School Thursday 4 March 1926: present: Oliver, Bycroft, Brothwell, Ingrey, Dickerson, Halgarth. pmrc. The council proceeded to select 14 men suitable and liable to serve as Parish Constables for the ensuing year and upon the proposition of Mr B Dickerson sec. Mr Ingrey the council decided to send the same list as last year with the exception of Silas Patrick who had left and Mr Chas. Bettinson was selected instead.

To represent the parish on the committee in connection with the new Rating and Valuation Act 1925 Mr Brothwell prop. Mr CC Ingrey, Mr B Dickerson sec. carried; Mr Ingrey prop. Mr. CI Patchett, Mr Oliver sec. - carried. The council decided that the application of the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral for a donation towards the restoration of the sacred edifice be laid on the table.

It was decided to hold the annual parish meeting on the 22nd March if poss. .. either the 23rd or 25th inst. was fixed upon, which ever date suited best the convenience of the chairman. The council decided to write the RDC with respect to the dangerous condition of the road drain situated opposite to Mr Bennett's cottages, Fleet Church End. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: J W Chamberlain & Son 3/4 Stationery, L. Bailey 11/-, Sewers Rate, F. Loweth £1.14.2. Salary & Stamps, SS Mossop £15 Fire Engines Premium, SS Mossop 11/3 Part cost of agreement stamps Back Poor Rate 19/5. Chas. Patchett. Chmn.

[p39 Margin has stamp of Eastern Area No 8 District Audit 8 June 1926]

Annual Meeting FPC etc. Monday 19 April 1926 Present: Patchett, Bycroft, Gregory, Brothwell, Bettinson, Oliver, Dickerson. Upon the prop. of Mr Brothwell sec. Mr A Gregory, Mr Patchett was unan. re-elected Chmn for the ensuing year. Pmrc. The clerk was directed to write again to the RDC re the dangerous state of the road drain opposite Mr Bennett's Cottages, Fleet Church End. Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Oliver as vice-chmn for the year. Mr Bycroft sec.- carried unan. Mr Gregory proposed Mr Bycroft seconded that the previous overseers viz Messrs John Bollons, CI Patchett & CC Ingrey be re-elected to their offices - carried unan. Last year's allotment committee viz as before was unanimously carried for the ensuing year.

The Financial Statement for year ending 31st March was presented and passed satisfactory. The clerk was instructed to write to the Holland County Council asking that the allotments which would be at liberty on Hollerans' land at Michaelmas should be let to Fleet men seeing that the parish was extremely short of allotments. Attention was drawn by Mr Bycroft to the dilapidated condition of the following footpaths: the path leading from the station road across Mr Joseph Waltham's field on to Gedney Church End; also the path leading from Fleet Church End across the church fields owned by Mr W Bennett; it was also stated that the continuation of this

path which leads across Mr Fletcher's field onto Oak Lodge was out of repair and it was unan. decided that the clerk should write to the RDC asking that the various items should be attended to. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mrs Ward, preparing room 8s/4d, Mr R Dring half-year rent £17.10. sgd. F Oliver chman.

p42 Ord.Meeting of FPC etc Monday 1st November 1926; Present: Oliver, Bycroft, Brothwell, Dickerson, Ingrey, Bettinson. In the absence of the Chairman Mr F.Oliver vice-chairman presided over the meeting. Pmrc

Upon the proposition of Mr Bycroft seconded by Mr Dickerson the Council unan. decided to again call the RDC attention to the fact that the footpaths complained about had not yet been attended to. NB 'At a previous meeting the Council decided to report the dilapidated condition of the footpath leading across a field belonging to the Manor Farm and which extended part of the way from the Station Road to Gedney Church End, the other cause of complaint being the stopping of the path leading across the Church Fields allotment land. It was understood by the Council that the vacant allotments on the County Council land had been let to Fleet men.

The council collected the rents due from their tenants on Drings land all the tenants paying their dues. The Council unan. decided to distribute the balance on Webbs Allotments amounting to £4.3.3. equally between the tenants, the council signing a cheque for the amount and instructing the clerk to distribute 12s/10d per acre. Cheques drawn and sgd for following amounts: F.Loweth allotment returns £4.3.3. audit stamp £2., Messrs Mossop, Bond Premium £5, R Dring Allotments rent £17.10. Sgd Chas.Patchett chairman

Ord.meet FPC Thursday 27 Feb. 1927 commencing at 7 p.m. Present: Patchett, Oliver, Dickerson, Halgarth pmrc. Selection of Parish Constables. Upon the prop. of Mr Dickerson, sec by Mr G Halgarth the council unan. decided to select the same names as had previously been adopted (see above). The council issued a precept upon the Overseers for £20. The council approved the action of the clerk in forwarding a cheque for £15 in payment of the Fire Engine premium and to the Holbeach Urban District Council.

The chairman wished the following minute to be recorded: that seeing the balance at the bank was not sufficient to meet the above amount of £15 the clerk had advanced £2 to the credit of the council in order that the cheque might go through. Owing to the non-attendance of Parishioners at the previous parish meetings the chairman did not think it needful to call one this year. The council approved of this and the clerk suggested that the various charity accounts be presented at the Annual Meeting of the council. sgd. Chas. I Patchett, chmn

p45 Ord.meet.FPC Thursday 24 March 1927.Present: Patchett, Gregory, Bycroft, Ingrey, Brothwell, Bettinson. pmrc. Mr Ingrey prop. and Mr Bettinson sec. that the clerk write to the Traffic Manager GNWR Committee, King's Lynn asking for the telephone to be installed at Fleet Station carried unan.

Mr Ingrey prop. and Mr Bycroft sec. that the clerk write to the Post Master Spalding soliciting the delivery of letters in the afternoon in Fleet. An afternoon delivery had

obtained on the Main Road for some considerable time and the council was unan. of the opinion that other parts of the parish should enjoy the same privilege.

The Annual Meeting of the council was fixed for the 19th April. The Council decided to collect the Ladyday allotments rents on the same date. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr Duck 18s.7d. Poor Rate; Mr Bailey 10s.6d. Drainage Rate; Mrs Ward 7/6d. preparing school; Mr Loweth £2.13. Advance £2, salary 7/6, stamps 5/6. Chas.Patchett.

The annual meeting of FPC Tuesday 19 April 1927. present: (not entered). pmrc. Mr Brothwell prop. Mr Patchett as Chairman for the ensuing year; Mr Gregory sec. carried unan.

The clerk stated that his salary had not been paid by Mr Duck and it was decided that he should write Mr Duck asking for payment at once.

Telephone at Fleet Station. The clerk stated that he had heard from the Traffic Manager, King's Lynn. He stated that his Committee were quite agreeable to allow the installation providing there was found sufficient support to warrant it. Some discussion took place as to whom the support should come from and whether any cost to the council would occur.

Mr Bettinson was deputed to interview Mr C Cunnington of Gedney PC as to how his council had negotiated the matter (Gedney PC had obtained an installation) and whether they had been affected financially. The clerk was also to write again to the Traffic Manager stating that the installation was intended to benefit farmers who had the telephone in their houses.

Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Oliver as Vice-Chairman, Mr Brothwell sec. carried unan.

It was decided that the whole council together with the clerk should act as the allotment committee. A cheque was drawn and signed for the following amount: Mr R Dring £17.10.0. (Rent of allotment field) [margin note says No! £17 only]. sgd C J Patchett chmn

Ord.Meet. FPC 4th August 1927; present: Messrs Patchett, Gregory, Brothwell, Oliver, Dickerson, Ingrey. pmrc. The Chairman enquired what further progress had been made with regard to the installation of the telephone at Fleet Station and the clerk stated that progress had been made in the matter and that they might reasonably expect the installation would be completed at an early date.

The clerk read a letter which had been received from the assessors of the Fire insurance company in which they claimed on behalf of the said company the working expenses in connection with the fire which occurred on land in the occupation of Mr Frank Thorpe. It was stated that nothing had been paid by the council when fires had occurred previously and it was considered that the retaining fee of £15 per annum which was paid to the Holbeach UDC covered all their obligations.

Mr Brothwell therefore proposed and Mr Dickerson sec. that the clerk write to the assessors to the effect that the council holds the Fire Insurance Company responsible for all expenses incurred through the fire and that the council declines to accept any responsibility in respect to the claim. Carried unan. Upon the proposition of Mr Ingrey sec by Mr B Dickerson, Mr F Loweth was appointed clerk for

year ending 31st March 1928, Carried unan. A cheque was drawn and signed for 18s/7d in discharge of Poor Rate. F.Oliver, chmn

p49 Ord.meet FPC Monday 31st October 1927 commencing at 7 p.m.; present: Oliver, Bettinson, Gregory, Brothwell, Dickerson, Ingrey. pmrc. With regard to the Insurance Company's claim re Mr F Thorpe's fire, the clerk reported that a letter had been received from Mr Mossop, clerk to the Holbeach UDC which stated that the insurance people were paying the amount of the claim less the charge for appliances. The clerk stated that he was given to understand that the Telephone would be installed at Fleet Railway Station in the course of a few days.

The clerk read a letter which he had received from the clerk to the Sewers Commissioners which contained a request that the council should nominate 3 persons suitable to act as Dykereeves for the parish in place of Mr Luke Bailey, deceased, whereupon Mr Dickerson prop Mr Harry Piggins Jr, Mr Brothwell sec. Mr Gregory prop. Mr C Bettinson, Mr Ingrey sec. Mr Bettinson prop; Mr Grimwood, Mr Ingrey sec. The council next proceeded to collect the Michaelmas half-year's allotments rents, all the rents were paid.

Mr ? raised the question as to whether there was any balance on Dring's allotments accounts and the clerk stated that he would prepare a balance sheet for the next meeting of the council held for the purpose of collecting the Lady day rents. Cheques were drawn and signed for the following amounts: Mr R Dring £17 half-year rent; F.Loweth £1 audit stamp; Mossop & Mossop 5/- Fidelity bond premium. sgd C Patchett, chmn

Ord.meet FPC Monday 16 January 1928; present: Patchett, Gregory, Halgarth, Dickerson, Ingrey, Oliver. pmrc. They proceeded to appoint four Deacon & Fairfax Trustees for a period of ? years and Mr Patchett was proposed by Mr F Oliver, Mr Gregory sec., Mr B Dickerson prop. Mr Loweth, Mr Ingrey sec., Mr Oliver prop. Mr Dickerson, Mr Ingrey sec. Mr Ingrey prop. Mr Gregory, Mr Dickerson sec. There being no other names proposed the chairman said that the above were duly elected.

The clerk presented the correspondence amongst which was a letter received from Mr John Knights a Poor Trustee now living at Sibsey. He stated his wish to resign his position as Trustee.

The clerk was asked when the new Trustees were elected and upon reference it was found they would be elected on the night of the annual meeting of the council. some discussion took place as to whether it was necessary to appoint another Trustee for so short a period. Mr Gregory prop. Mr F Oliver as Trustee for the remaining 3 months, Mr G Halgarth sec., carried unan.

Mr Leopold C Harvey intimated that Mr Chas. Bettinson had been appointed to the office of Dykereeve for the parish.

The council decided to hold the annual parish meeting on the 19 March to commence at 7 p.m. It was also decided to call a council meeting for 6.30 p.m. on the same evening. Cheques were signed for the following amounts: Holbeach UDC

Fire engine prem. £15, F Loweth Balance of Drings Rent 10/-; R Dack Poor Rate 19.7. Mrs Ward Preparing room 5/- .sgd Patchett.

Ord.meet.FPC Monday 12 March 1928 at 6pm; present: Patchett, Oliver, Gregory, Halgarth, Brothwell, Dickerson, Bettinson, Ingrey. pmrc. The council proceeded to select 14 men suitable and liable to serve as Parish Constables for the ensuing year and upon the prop. of Mr Ingrey the council unan. decided to select the following 14 names viz: Mr Fredk. Waldock, George Courts, Charles Lamming, Charles Ward, Albert Charlton, Herbert Drewery, Walter Lovell, William Parker, Arthur Jessop, John Ellington, Charles Bettinson, Daniel Gay., Arthur Halgarth, & William Harrison. Drings allotments were reported to be in good order. Cheques were drawn and signed etc. F Loweth salary & stamps £6.5.6., C.Bettinson 11/-, C Ward 6/- .sgd J H Brothwell, Chmn

The annual parish meet. FPC Monday 14 March 1928 at 7 p.m. the chairman of the council Mr C J Patchett opened the meeting and called upon the same to appoint a chairman. Several names were mentioned but eventually upon the prop of Mr Brothwell sec.by Mr Ingrey, Mr W English was unan. elected. The chairman at once asked for nomination forms to be handed in and in due course eleven forms were received. The names of the candidates were as follows: Messrs Bettinson, Charlton, Halgarth, Dickerson, A Dickerson, F Oliver, A Gregory, C Ingrey, F Piggins, J H Brothwell, C J Patchett. The chairman declared all the nominations to be valid and asked if the meeting had any questions to ask the candidates. No questions being asked, voting took place and resulted as follows: Patchett 22 votes, Brothwell 27, Piggins 4, Ingrey 27, Gregory 21, Oliver 26, S Dickerson 14, Halgarth 18, B Dickerson 19, Charlton 15, Bettinson 20.

An interval of 10 minutes was allowed for a given number to demand a poll of the parish if they wished but no request being made the following nine men were duly elected parish councillors for a period of three years: Patchett, Brothwell, Ingrey, Gregory, Oliver, Halgarth, Dickerson, Charlton, Bettinson. The various charity acpts were presented to the meeting and duly passed. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

p55 Annual meet.FPC Monday 16 April 1928. Present: Patchett, Brothwell, Oliver, Halgarth, Bettinson, Gregory, Dickerson, Charlton. The new members signed the usual declarations upon taking office. Mr Dickerson prop. Mr Gregory as Provisional chairman, Mr Bettinson sec. Carried. The first business was to appoint a chairman for the year and Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Patchett, Mr Charlton sec. Mr Dickerson prop. Mr Brothwell, Mr Halgarth sec. Upon a show of hands 4 members voted for Mr Brothwell and 4 for Mr Patchett. The provisional chairman gave his casting vote for Mr Brothwell who was consequently elected.

Mr Brothwell upon taking the chair thanked the council for the honour conferred upon him and hoped they would work together amicably during his term of office. Mr Charlton prop. Mr Bettinson as vice-chairman, Mr Oliver sec. carried unan. Mr Dickerson prop Mr F Loweth as clerk, Mr Gregory sec., carried.

Several members expressed their appreciation of the services rendered by the clerk during his 30 years term of office and requested that their sense of appreciation

should be entered upon the minutes. The clerk thanked the council for their kind remarks. They had been a happy family during the last 30 years. He hoped the same mutual good feeling would continue. Pmrc. the whole of the council decided to form themselves into an allotment committee. The council proceeded to appoint 2 School Managers, Mr Patchett prop Mr Oliver, Mr Charlton sec. Mr Oliver prop. Mr Ingrey, Mr Bettinson sec., Mr Oliver and Mr Ingrey were therefore elected for 3 years.

The appointment of 5 charity trustees was proceeded with and Mr Patchett proposed Mr Oliver, Mr Charlton sec. Mr Bettinson prop Mr Patchett, Mr Gregory sec. Mr Dickerson prop Mr Brothwell, Mr Gregory sec., Mr Bettinson propo. Mr Bennett, Mr Oliver sec. Mr Gregory prop. Mr Halgarth, Mr Patchett sec., Mr Halgarth prop. Mr Charlton, Mr Gregory sec., Mr Dickerson propo Mr Gregory, Mr Halgarth sec., Mr Oliver prop. Mr Bettinson, Mr Charlton sec., Mr Patchett prop. that the voting be by ballots, Mr Oliver sec. Mr Dickerson said by show of hands, Mr Halgarth sec. The propositions was carried. The results were: Patchett 5 votes, Charlton 5, Oliver 4, Bennett 4, Brothwell 4. the foregoing gentlemen therefore hold office for 4 years.

The clerk read a letter which had been received from Mr CC Ingrey in which he resigned his office as Parish Councillor and all offices attached thereto. Mr Ingrey's resignation was accepted. Mr Patchett prop. that Mr Sid Dickerson be written to asking whether he would accept the vacant seat on the council. Mr Bettinson sec. Carried.

Mr Patchett raised the question of obtaining more land for allotments and suggested approaching the County Council again on the matter. Considerable discussion ensued. Mr Charlton pointing out that before compulsory measures were adopted the charity lands should be utilised for allotments. The chairman agreed so that it was so and after more discussion the matter lapsed. The clerk produced Dring's allotment accounts which showed a balance on 3 years' working of 17/7. The council considered that the balance was too small to divide amongst the tenants, therefore no distribution could take place this year. It was decided that the allotment rents due to April should be collected by the clerk at his house.

Cheques drawn & signed: Mr R Dring £17., rent, Hadden Best & Co. 4/3 Notices. Brothwell.

A Special Meeting of FPC etc on Tuesday 29 May 1928; present: Brothwell, Oliver, Dickerson, Patchett, Gregory, Bettinson, Charlton, Halgarth. pmrc. The clerk stated he had not received a reply from Mr S Dickerson re his taking office as parish councillor. The council therefore decided to approach some other gentleman. Mr Charlton prop. Mr Chas Lamming of Fleet Fen, Mr Patchett sec. Carried unan. Appointment of two parish representatives to act on the rating & valuation committees was then proceeded with. Mr Patchett prop. Mr William Bennett, Mr Bettinson sec., Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Fred Oliver, Mr Charlton sec., Mr Dickerson prop. Mr Gregory, Mr Brothwell sec., Mr Gregory said he did not wish to act.

Messrs A Bennett and Fredk Oliver were appointed as the two parish reps. A cheque was signed and made payable to Mrs Ward for preparing school room 5/-. sgd J H Brothwell, chm

p60 Ord.meet. FPC Monday 29 October 1928; present: Brothwell, Patchett, Gregory, Bettinson; Dickerson; Oliver; Lamming, Charlton. Mr Lamming signed the usual declaration upon his taking office as parish councillor. pmrc. The council unan. decided not to make a return to the tenants of Drings allotments land owing to the smallness of the balance in hand.

It was unan. decided to issue a precept upon the East Elloe RDC for £10. The collection of the Michaelmas Allotment rents was proceeded with, the whole of the rents being paid. cheques were drawn and signed: Mr R Dring £17.10. Allotments rent; Hadden Best, 2s2d., audit notices; F.Loweth £1 audit stamp; Mossop & Mossop 5/- bond premium. Sgd Brothwell.

p61 Ord.Meet.FPC Mon.18th February 1929. Present: Brothwell, Gregory, Bettinson, Halgarth, Dickerson, Oliver. pmrc. There being no business arising out of the minutes the council proceeded to select 14 men suitable/available to serve as parish constables for the ensuing year. The following names were adopted: Messrs Harold Halgarth, George Courts, Charles Lamming, Charles Ward, Albert Charlton, Herbert Drewery, Robert Knights, William Parker, Arthur Jessop, John Ellington, Charles Bettinson, Daniel Gay, Arthur Halgarth, William Harrison. A cheque was drawn and signed for £15 payable to Holbeach UDC for use of Fire engine for year ending 31st Dec. 1929. sgd JHBrothwell, chmn

p62 ord meet FPC Friday 22 March 1929. Present: Brothwell, Lamming, Charlton, Bettinson, Oliver, Dickerson. pmrc. The council unan. decided to make a call upon the East Elloe RDC for £5.

A vote of sympathy was unan. accorded to the widow of the late Mr George Halgarth member of the council and the clerk was instructed to forward a letter of sympathy to Mrs Halgarth to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The council decided to fill the vacancy on the council at their next meeting. It was decided to hold the annual Meeting on Friday the 19th April to collect the allotment rents on the same night.

Cheques were signed for the following amounts: C Bettinson Sewers rate 11s.5d., C Ward Preparing room 7s.6d., F.Loweth, salary, stamps & poor rate £8.0.6. sgd JBrothwell chman

p63 Annual Meeting FPC Friday 19 April 1929. Present: Brothwell, Lamming, Patchett, Gregory, Oliver, Charlton. Mr Oliver was appointed Provisional Chairman. Mr Gregory prop. Mr Brothwell as Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr Patchett sec. carried unan. Mr Brothwell accordingly took the chair. Mr Charlton prop. Mr Bettinson as Vice-Chairman, Mr Patchett sec. carried. Mr Patchett prop. Mr F. Loweth as clerk. Mr Lamming sec. carried.

The clerk stated that at the last audit of acpts the auditor wished that an entry should be made in the minutes in regard to the clerk's salary. Accordingly Mr Patchett prop. that £6 pa as previously paid should be the amount and that he should be paid 1s6d per acre for allotments. Mr Lamming sec. Carried unan. PmrCs. Mr Charlton

proposed. that Mr Alfred Morris of Mill Bank, Fleet Fen, be asked to become a member of the council in place of Mr G Halgarth deceased. Mr Lamming sec. Carried unan. The allotment rents were collected, all the tenants paying their dues.

The various charity acpts were presented and passed. The Rev. T S Devitt presented the hall and cottages acpts and Mr M English and Mr F Loweth also presented the Deacon & Fairfax and Jay's charity acpts respectively. A cheque was drawn and signed for £17.10 payable to Mr R Dring for allotment land. sgd J H Brothwell chmn.

Ord. meet FPC Monday 22 July 1929. present: Brothwell, Oliver, Gregory, Dickerson, Bettinson, Lamming, Morris. Mr A Morris signed the usual declaration upon taking office as parish councillor. PmrCs. British Legion [Royal British Legion, a national military charity] reps: The appointment of 2 residents of the parish to act on the county committee of the British Legion was considered and upon the prop. of Mr Bettinson sec by Mr F Oliver, Mr Cecil Ingrey was unan. appointed. Mr Bettinson prop. Mr A Gregory and Mr Dickerson sec. carried unan. In case Mr Ingrey declined to serve it was decided to appoint Mr Bettinson in his place.

Mr A Gregory drew the attention of the council to the dangerous corner in the village known as the Bull Corner. There had been several narrow escapes at that point and the clerk was instructed to write to the clerk to the County Council asking that a white line be placed round the corner with Dead Slow painted at each end. Also that a notice board be placed at the angle of the corner marked 'Dangerous Corner'.

The clerk was also instructed to ask that 'Dead Slow' be painted at the end of the existing lines situated at the cross-road on the Hargate.

It was decided to write to the District Council calling their attention to the condition of the church yard footpath. It was also decided to ask the said council to attend to the painting and lettering of the guide posts situated respectively at Mr C Lamming's corner and Jekels Bank corner. Cheques were drawn and signed fffa [for the following amounts]: Mr F Loweth £1 and stamp; Mrs Ward 5s preparing school. sgd J H Brothwell chmn

Ord.meet.FPC Friday 13 September 1929; Present: Brothwell, Patchett, Lamming, Oliver, Charlton, Dickerson, Gregory, Morris. pmrc.

White lines: The clerk stated that he had received a reply from the clerk to the County Council stating that the council's request that lines be placed at the Bull Corner and danger notices be erected would be placed before the next meeting of the County Council.

The Chairman stated that the matter of painting and lettering of certain guide posts had been brought before the District Council and that the matter would receive the attention of the Surveyor.

Lights: The clerk read a letter which he had received from the clerk to the East Elloe Rural D C which stated that lights were required from 52 householders residing within a quarter mile on the Rampart (Hargate) side and extending from the

Holbeach Boundary to the Poor Law Institution in the letter the clerk said in effect that he fancied it was a matter for the parish council to proceed with.

The council thoroughly thrashed the matter out and eventually instructed their clerk to write the Ministry of Health asking whether in view of an application from 52 householders living in a section of the parish having applied for lights be placed in that vicinity it would be necessary to hold a parish meeting to consider the matter and providing the meeting was in favour of the installation whether the cost of the same would involve the whole parish or on the particular section which had applied. Mr Dickerson prop. this resolution. Mr Charlton sec. and it was carried.

The council decided to adjourn the meeting until a reply had been received from the Ministry. The adjourned meeting to be called at short notice when the reply was received. Cheques were drawn and signed fffa: Mr Chamberlain & Son 14.9d., Hadden, Best Ltd 1s.9d. JHB.chm

An adjourned meet FPC Tuesday evening 24th September 1929. Present: Messrs Brothwell, Oliver, Dickerson, Patchett, Lamming, Gregory, Morris, Bettinson. pmrc. The clerk presented a letter which had been received from the Secretary to the Ministry of Health with reference to the Lighting of a section of the parish. The letter pointed out that subject to the approval of a parish meeting the parish council could adopt the act of 1833 and could install lights for a section of the parish only, the cost of the installation to be borne by that part of the parish only. It also stated that the council was the authority for executing the Act. After very considerable discussion in the course of which it was mentioned that several parishioners in Lutton Village were bearing the cost themselves for the erection of a limited number of lights and it was thought this course would be the cheapest and best plan to adopt by those who had applied for the installation in the comparatively small area involved.

Therefore Mr B Dickerson prop. and Mr Gregory sec. that the clerk interview Mr RL Merry (through whom the application came) pointing out to him how the Lutton parishioners proposed acting and that the council were of opinion that the applicants best and most economical method would be to adopt the same procedure as a section of Lutton Village were doing. The resolution was carried unan. sgd JHBrothwell, chmn.

A Special Meet. FPC Tuesday 15th October 1929. Present: Brothwell, Gregory, Dickerson, Morris, Charlton, Patchett. pmrc.

Lighting: The clerk stated that he had interviewed Mr M Merry re the aforesaid matter and had conveyed to him the council's recommendation as stated at their previous meeting. It transpired according to the clerk's report that Mr Merry was not favourable to the recommendation of the council and that he intended not to let the matter rest there.

A letter was presented and read from the clerk to the Moulton Parish Council in which he stated that at a parish meeting of Moulton inhabitants it was unan. decided to ask the various parish councils to co-operate with them in asking their County Councillor to oppose the proposed scheme of the Holland County Council to close Moulton Grammar School and in its stead to erect one at Long Sutton at a cost of roughly £30,000. The letter stated that this expenditure which was unnecessary would considerably augment the rates.

The council fully considered the matter and upon the prop. of Mr B Dickerson sec Mr Morris it was unan. decided that the clerk should write to Councillor J Banks asking him if he would oppose the motion when it came up for consideration at the County Council's Meeting and adding that the council hoped he would see his way clear to do so.

A copy of the council's resolution to be sent to the clerk of the Moulton Parish Council.

The clerk stated that the allotment rents became due in about a month's time and the council decided that the clerk should collect same at his house on or about the 11th March. It was also unan. decided that a return of 3s per man should be made to each tenant of Drings allotments, the clerk to distribute same.

A cheque was drawn and signed for the half-year's rent due to Mr R Dring amounting to £17.10. A cheque was also made payable to Mrs Ward for 7/6 for preparing room. JHB.chmn

p71 Ord.Meet.FPC Friday 3rd January 1930; present: Brothwell, Lamming, Charlton, Oliver, Dickerson, Bettinson. pmrc. Councillor J. Banks reply re closing of Moulton Grammar School was presented. He stated he should oppose the scheme.

A call was made upon the EERDC for £20. It was proposed by Mr Charlton sec by Mr Oliver that the clerk should make a protest to the Sewers Commissioners re their proposed unification of the present system of collection and Dykereeve rate.

The clerk was directed to write to the Road Surveyor (Mr Musk) in order to call his attention to the following items viz: The stoppage of a drain near the Rampart, this causing a considerable nuisance through a pool of water on the roadside.

The dilapidated state of the wing (?) rails attached to the plank of a foot path leading from the road from Sandy Gate to Leeds Bridge; also again to call his attention to the repairs which the footpath leading across the church yard required. Cheques were drawn and signed fffa: Holbeach UDC (use of Fire Engine) £15., Clerk, returns to allotment tenants 15s. JHB.chmn

p73Ord meet FPC Monday 24th Feb. 1930. Present: JH Brothwell JP, C.Lamming, Charlton, Dickerson, Bettinson. pmrc. The Clerk reported that he had not received a reply from Mr Musk (Surveyor) re the various repairs mentioned at the previous meeting of the council and it transpired that none of the repairs had been attended to. After some discussion the Chairman volunteered to see Mr Musk personally concerning the matters.

The council next proceeded to select 14 men suitable and liable to serve as Parish Constables for the ensuing year and upon the proposition of Mr Brothwell sec by Dickerson, it was unan. decided to re-elect the same names as last year. Cheques were drawn and signed for the: Clerk's salary £6.7.6. Stamps 6s.8d. Mrs Ward, preparing room 5s. The council decided not to collect the allotment rents at the annual meeting but to give the tenants a month's grace as usual. It was also decided that the rents should be paid at the clerk's house, thus saving a specially called meeting. sgd. JHB. chmn

p74 A Special Meet FPC Monday 24 March 1930. Present: Brothwell, Oliver, Morris, Patchett, Bettinson, Lamming, Charlton, Gregory, Dickerson. The meeting was called to consider a communication which had been received from the Secretary of the Bank of England in which the Council were informed that the interest on a sum of money amounting to £49.16.10 2% Consolidated Stock had been transferred from the Board of Guardians to Fleet Parish Council.

The council decided upon the prop of Mr Dickerson sec by Mr Morris that the dividends accruing from the said capital sum should be paid direct to the Treasurers of the Council viz. Messrs Barclay & Co Ltd, Bankers, Holbeach. JHB Chmn

p75 Margin has District Audit stamp dated 23 June 1930.

Annual meet.FPC Wed.16 April 1930. Cllrs: Brothwell JP Chamn, Oliver, Patchett, Dickerson, Charlton, Gregory, Morris. Cllr Gregory proposed Mr JHBrothwell as Chairman for the ensuing year Mr Oliver sec. C.U. Pmrc. Mr Charlton prop. Mr Oliver as V-Chmn Mr Bettinson sec. c.u. Mr Bettinson prop. Mr F Loweth as clerk, Mr Morris sec. Carried.

Forms for filling in re 2 1/2% interest on the Consolidated Stock capital (£49.16.10) which was in process of being transferred from the Holbeach Board of Guardians to FPC were presented by the Clerk and seeing there was some little difficulty as to the precise way of proceeding the Council recommended that Mr Mossop should be seen and his advice taken in the matter.

The Council decided to collect the allotment rents in about a month's time, tenants to pay at the clerk's house.

A cheque was signed for Mr Dring's half year's rent for £17.10, the date being left until the rents were collected.

Upon the prop. of Mr Dickinson sec by Mr Patchett the clerk was directed to write to the Ministry of Health asking from what source the £49.16.10 which had recently been transferred to the Council had been originally derived, carried. sgd JH Brothwell, chmn.

An ord.meet FPC Monday Oct. 13 1930. Cllrs: Brothwell, Bettinson, Gregory, Lamming, Charlton, Morris, Dickerson. pmrc.

The council decided to collect the Michaelmas rents on the 11th Nov. next and it was also arranged the tenants should pay their rents at the clerk's house and that a return of 5/- should be made to each tenant and that another 5/- each should be allotted to them at Ladyday.

A precept was issued upon the EERDC for £25.

A cheque was signed and made payable to the clerk for £2/5/- composed as follows for Audit Stamp £1, for Allotment Returns £1/5/- also a cheque for Mr R Dring £17/10 rent. sgd JCB

p 77 Annual Parish Meeting to elect councillors Monday March 9 1931 at 7 o/c.
The chairman of the council opened the meeting stating that 9 councillors were required and at once called upon the meeting to appoint a Chairman whereupon Mr F Loweth prop. Mr William English, duly sec and car.unan. Mr English thereupon took the chair and asked for nomination papers to be handed in and in due course 9 nomination forms were presented. The names of those proposed being as follows: Messrs JH Brothwell, CI Patchett, C Bettinson, A Gregory, B Dickerson, C Lamming, A Morris, A Charlton, & Doubleday.

No questions being asked and no withdrawals being forthcoming the Chairman declared the following 9 gentlemen duly Parish Councillors for the ensuing year: (as above).

A note of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Ord.meet.FPC Monday 23rd March 1931. Cllrs: Bettinson, Lamming, Morris. pmrc.
Cheques were drawn and signed for tfa: F Loweth £6.16.9. made up as follows: Clerk's salary £6.7s.6d. Stamps 4s/3d, Bond Premium 5s.

The clerk stated that he had posted a cheque of his own in payment of the Bond Premium which the council approved.

The clerk also stated that he had consulted the chairman of the council with regard to the payment of the Fire engine premium which became due on the 1st January and seeing there was no other business to transact it was decided to obtain the signature of three Cllrs for the cheque value £15 which was accordingly done. This procedure was approved by the council. Cheques were also signed as under: Mrs C Ward 12s.6d., Calthrop LL Harvey 15s.1.

Some stiles were reported as in a dilapidated condition and it was decided to call the County Council's attention to this matter.

The clerk stated that a special meeting had always been called for the election of Parish Constables but no notice having been received for the appointment this year it left the council in a somewhat peculiar position seeing that only 3 meetings had been held owing to the dearth of business. Another meeting might have been held for the collection of allotment rents but the council had decided that this was unnecessary and decided to let the tenants pay at the clerk's residence. It was the first time for a period of 33 years (the clerk's period of office) that this had occurred. It was hoped the auditor would be lenient in the matter. Sgd. JHBrothwell.

[p 80 District Audit Stamp left hand margin 1Dec.31.]

Annual meet. FPC Thursday April 16 1931. Cllrs: Brothwell, Bettinson, Gregory, Doubleday.

Cllrs present signed the usual declarations upon taking office. Mr Gregory was unan.appointed provisional Chairman and at once called upon the meeting to elect a chairman for the year and upon the prop, of Mr Gregory sec by Mr Doubleday Mr JH Brothwell was unan. elected to that post. Pmrc

Mr Doubleday prop Mr Bettinson as Vice-chmn, Mr Gregory sec. carr.unan. Mr Bettinson prop. Mr Loweth as Clerk, Mr Doubleday sec. carr. unan. Mr Brothwell prop. and Mr Gregory sec. that the clerk's salary should be £6 per annum for parochial work and 1/6 per acre for allotments. Carried.

Election of 2 school managers Mr Gregory prop. Mr CC Ingrey, Mr Doubleday sec., carried. Mr Gregory prop. Mr CJ Patchett, Mr Doubleday sec. Carried.

It was unan. decided that the whole council should act as the allotment Committee. The Clerk was instructed to write to the CC re the drain blockage on the Rampart end of Hocklesgate. The various charity accounts were presented and passed satisfactorily.

The council decided that the allotment rents should be paid to the clerk on or about 6th May. The remaining part of the balance on the working of the allotments viz. 5/- should be paid to the tenants on that occasion. sgd JCBettinson.Chmn.

Ord.Meet.FPC Thursday 23rd July 1931 Cllrs:Bettinson, Gregory, Doubleday, Charlton.pmrc

p82 There was practically no business to transact. The clerk reported that the allotment rents had been paid and that an interim return of 5/- had been paid to the 5 tenants of Drings allotment land. The clerk also stated that the road nuisances previously complained of had been remedied. A cheque for £1.5s. was drawn and signed for the clerk who had advanced that sum for the allotment returns. The Council sanctioned a cheque for £17/10s for Dring's rent. JHB.

p83 ord.meet.FPC Friday 13 October 1931 at 7 o/c. cllrs: Brothwell, Dickerson, Charlton, Bettinson, Morris, Doubleday, Gregory pmrc
A call was made to the EERDC for £12 and £5.

The council unan. decided that the allotment rents for 11th Nov. should be paid at the clerk's house on or about the 11th Nov.

The clerk reported that Daniel Coupland, occupier of Allotment No.1 on Dring's field wished to surrender same as from 11th October 1931. The council accepted his resignation and unan. agreed to accept Stanley Halgarth as tenant from 11th October at a yearly rental of £7.11s.

Mr B.Dickerson prop. and Mr Charlton sec. that cllrs J. Brothwell and A Gregory be appointed to inspect the foregoing allotment and if found satisfactory that the balance on the working of the allotments due to Coupland should be paid to him when the rents were collected, the part balance being 7/11. The council also decided that no returns should be made to the allotment holders this year. Cheques were signed for the following amounts: F.Loweth re Hadden Best 8/6d., Mossop & Mossop 5/-, Mrs Ward 7s.6d., R Dring £17.10., Hadden Best & Co. 4s.9d. sgd JHBrothwell, chman.

An ord.meet FPC Monday 1st February 1932; cllors: Brothwell, Lamming, Morris, Doubleday. pmrc.

The clerk reported to the council that the auditor would not allow any returns to be made to the allotment tenants but that the council might reduce the rents if the balance on the working of the allotment accumulated to any great extent. Mr Brothwell reported that Mr Gregory and himself had inspected the allotments and had found that matters were satisfactory.

A cheque value £3.15 was signed and made payable to the Holbeach Urban District Council for use of their Fire engine up to 31st March.

The clerk reported that one further payment would be required owing to the de-urbanisation scheme.

Stanley Halgarth, new tenant of Allotment No.1 on Dring's field duly signed his agreement.

The clerk reported that the allotment rents had been paid most punctually. sgd JHBrothwell.ch

An ord.meet.FPC Wednesday 23rd March 1932; cllrs: Brothwell, Dickerson, Gregory, Laming, Charlton, Morris, Doubleday. pmrc.

There being no business arising out of the Minutes, the council proceeded to sign three cheques as follows: F Loweth £6.9.2. inc. stamp 5/9 & allotment returns to D.Coupland. Mrs Ward 5s.0d. Calthrop LLHarvey undated cheque. There being no correspondence to consider, the chairman asked if any general business was forthcoming and Mr Doubleday mentioned that a stile leading from Hocklegate across Mr George Halgarth's field was suffering from serious delapidations also Mr Laming reported that the plank which should be attached to the stile (sic) near Leeds Gate Bridge and leading from the Coy Road had disappeared. The council instructed the clerk to write to the County Council asking them to kindly give these matters their attention. sgd. C Bettinson.

[p86 District Auditor stamp in margin states no.8 instead of 6, undated].

Annual Meet. FPC Monday 18 April 1932. Present: Bettinson, Dickerson, Doubleday, Charlton, Laming, Patchett. Mr Doubleday prop. Mr Patchett as provisional chairman Mr Laming sec. Carried unan. Mr Charlton prop. Mr JH Brothwell as Chairman for the year Mr Doubleday sec. carried unan. It was unan. decided to re-appoint Mr C Bettinson as vice-chairman. pmrc.

The Clerk reported that the stile leading off Hocklesgate had been repaired and it was understood that the plank which had been missing from a stile near Leeds Gate Bridge had been returned. Clerk's salary: Mr Patchett prop. that the clerk's salary should be £6 pa as before, Mr Doubleday sec., carried. Mr Dickerson prop. Mr F Loweth as Clerk, Mr Doubleday sec. carried.

The various charity acpts (sic) were presented and passed satisfactory. Mr Dickerson prop and it was carried unan. that the allotment rents should be paid at the clerk's residence on or about the 6th May. Mr Laming prop. and Mr Doubleday sec. that the Trustees to act on Guys Charity should be as follows: Messrs W Bennett, F Oliver, JHBrothwell, CSPatchett, LA Charlton, carried unan. A cheque

value £17/10/- was signed for the half-year allotment rent due to the late R Dring's Executors on 6 April. Sgd.JC Bettinson chman.

p88 An Ordinary meet FPC Monday 14 November 1932 at 7 o/c. Present: Brothwell, chman, Laming, Bettinson, Doubleday, Patchett, Morris, Dickerson. pmrc. Mr Dickerson prop and Mr Morris sec. that the clerk write to Messrs Calthorp, L Harvey, of Spalding, asking them if their clients the late Mr R Dring's Exrs could see their way clear to reduce the rent of the allotment field occupied by the council. The rent now stands at £35 pa and was hired when prices were more remunerative than at present are obtained.

The Michaelmas half-yearly allotment rents on Drings Land were collected. The clerk was directed to write to the Holland CC in order to call their attention to the following nuisances, viz:

[No 1] that the water stands to a considerable extent after heavy rain opposite to a house situated in Hocklesgate near the Rampart and occupied by Mr W King; it would appear that the water cannot get away owing to a drain being blocked nearby.

[No.2] that the water drains off the road on to the premises of Mr Beals, Fleet Bank; it is considered that this matter should be remedied forthwith.

[No 3] A pair of cottages owned by Messrs Brothwell Bros situated in Hocklesgate is subjected to considerable inconvenience through the water draining off the road on to the tenants' premises.

[No 4] That the Council's attention is called with regard to the unfinished state of the road known as Hazelwood Lane; the nuisance is near Mr Stubley ?'s house and premises where the road has been widened and left in a rough state so that it is very dangerous for cyclists especially at night time and that the Council consider this matter requires attention as early as possible. Cheques were signed as follow: Mr R Dring's Executors £17/10/- F Loweth, stamps & bond premium 10/-, 5/-, 15/-. sgd JH Brothwell, Chmn

p90 Ord.Meet. FPC Monday 13th Jan.33 (written 23).Present: Brothwell, Dickerson, Doubleday. pmrc. Arising out of minutes the Clerk stated that he had heard from the clerk to the HCC re several road improvements which the council considered required attention. The letter stated that the surveyor had been instructed to inspect the various grievances with the result that perhaps in two cases the matters had been attended to satisfactorily but others had been passed over. The clerk said he had received an answer to his letter to Messrs Calthrop, Mr Leopold Harvey, the late R Dring's solicitors, concerning the council's application for a reduction of rent of the allotment land. The letter stated that they would bring the matter forward at the next meeting of the executors.

The chairman then read a letter he had received from Mr F Loweth as Clerk to the council. The letter stated that he wished to resign his office as clerk on 31st March 33 (23 again); advancing years and difficult hearing were the causes of his resignation.

The Chairman made some very kind remarks concerning the clerk's capabilities and the long period he had served the council (35 years) observing that he was the only member of the council who was on that body 35 years since and he moved a proposition that as a mark of appreciation of his services a minute to that effect be

entered in the minutes; Mr Dickerson seconded in the same kindly manner and Mr Doubleday supported appreciatively.

The clerk thanked the council for the very kind manner in which they had spoken and also for the manner and indulgence they had shown to him in regard to his infirmity. A cheque was signed for 7/6 and made payable to Mrs Ward for preparing the room. sgd JH Brothwell, chmn

An Ord.meet. FPC Wed. 8th March 33; present: Brothwell, Doubleday, Dickerson, Patchett, Bettinson, Charlton, Gregory. pmrc. Appointment of School Manager in place of Mr Ingrey who had been appointed permanently by the Holland County Education Cttee. Mr Gregory prop and Mr Charlton sec. that Mr Bettinson be appointed for that office. Carried unan. The chairman presented three applications for the vacant clerkship, the names were: Mr Barratt, Accountant, Holbeach; Mr Proctor, part-time postman, Fleet Hargate; Mr Doubleday of Holbeach, railway clerk.

After considerable discussion Mr Bettinson prop. that the council appoint a clerk at their next meeting (Mar. 20th). Mr Dickerson sec. Carried unan.

Allotment rent reduction: The clerk reported that he had received no further news from the late Mr Dring's excrs concerning the above matter. The council therefore instructed the clerk to write to Messrs Calthrop & Leopold Harvey asking them whether they would inform the council of the excr's decision before the forthcoming rent-day. It was decided to call a special meeting of the council for Monday 20th inst. JH Brothwell chmn.

p93 A Special Meet. FPC Monday 20 March 1933. Present: Brothwell, Dickerson, Bettinson, Doubleday, Gregory, Morris, Patchett, Charlton, Laming. pmrc. The Clerk presented a letter which had been received from Messrs Calthrop & Leopold Harvey re Dring's allotment land proposed reduction of rent. The letter indicated that the excrs wished to know whether the council had any offer to make. The clerk had in the meantime asked the tenants at the field to attend the meeting and the matter as to how much reduction of the rent to ask for was fully debated by both the council and tenants. Eventually upon the prop. of Mr Dickerson sec by Mr Doubleday the Council decided to offer the Execrs £25 pa being a reduction of £10 pa. The clerk was instructed to ask for an early reply.

The council next proceeded to appoint a clerk in place of F Loweth (resigned). The chairman produced 3 letters which had previously been considered by the council. The candidates were as follows (see above). It was decided to vote by ballot, the result being as follows: Mr S Doubleday 7 votes, Mr Proctor 2. Upon the prop of Mr Charlton sec by Mr Morris Mr Doubleday was unan. elected Clerk.

The clerk was instructed to call another meeting of the council providing any matter of a debatable nature was received from the late Mr R Dring's excrs. No meeting was called, the clerk having received a letter from their solicitors indicating that they were prepared to accept the £10 reduction offer in rent and suggested that a fresh agreement should be drafted. This letter was shown to the chairman and upon his instructions the clerk wrote to Messrs Calthrop & Harvey asking them to prepare an agreement subject to a rental of £25 pa.

Cheques were drawn and signed for tfa: Mr F Loweth, clerk, for year ending 31st March £6.7.6, Stamps etc for the year 5s.4d. Total £6.12.10. Mrs Ward for preparing room 5s/-. Sgd Arthur Gregory.

[p95 District Audit 6 (stamp) 1 Nov.33.]

p96 Annual Meet FPC Thursday April 20 1933. Present: Gregory, Brothwell, Patchett, Bettinson, Doubleday Laming, Dickerson, Charlton. Mr Gregory was voted as provisional Chairman. pmrc. Mr Doubleday prop and Mr Laming sec that Mr Brothwell be appointed chairman for the year. Both suitably responded. Mr C Bettinson prop and Mr Laming sec that the clerk's salary be the same as previous years. All the above propositions were carried.

The clerk pointed out that a slight error had been found in the Dole [Trustees of the Poor] accounts and this was to be looked into. Mr Bettinson read the Fairfax charity accounts in the absence of Mr W English and the village hall accs were sent by the Rev Devitt. Both were passed. It was decided that the allotment committee should consist of the whole council. The clerk presented the new Dring's land agreement for signature but upon comparing it with the expired agreement it was found to be slightly different concerning 'the ?'. This clause was debated and the clerk was instructed to see Harveys and have the old clause inserted. With regard to fresh agreements for the tenants the clerk was asked to make certain enquiries hereon. The date for the collection of the half-year allotment rents was fixed for May 8th 1933. sgn J H Brothwell, chmn

p98 Ord meet FPC May 8 1933. Present: Brothwell, Doubleday, Charlton, Laming. pmrc. Dring's allotment rents were collected from: W Coupland, £3.15.6, F Jackson 3.15.6, L Halgarth 3.15.6,

J Wright £3.19.1, H Halgarth £3.15.6. The point of altering the new Dring's agreement was discussed and the clerk was asked to see Harveys. It was decided not to have new agreements for the tenants but to have a clause inserted in the Minutes thus: "That the Tenants of the Drings Allotment land received a rebate of £1.19.9 (Four tenants) & £3.1.0. (Wright) per acre commencing from April 1933 being the equivalent of the reduction of the chief rent by Dring's Exors." Cheque was drawn for Mrs Ward for 5/- and one signed for Dring's rent £17.10s. sgd J H Brothwell, chmn.

p99 meeting FPC Thursday September 14 1933. Mr J H Brothwell presided over Messrs Laming, Dickerson, Gregory, Doubleday, Bettinson, Charlton. pmrc.

A letter had been received from the Brewers concerning the transfer of the Rose & Crown Inn licence to Charles Oldfield. The council agreed.

Mr Bettinson prop. and Mr Doubleday sec. that the four members to serve on the Mary Deacon Trust should be Messrs Patchett, Dickerson, Gregory & Loweth. Should Mr Loweth not accept another member will be appointed. This was agreed to.

Concerning the holding of Messrs Drings Exors agreement it was proposed by Mr Dickerson and seconded by Mr Doubleday that the clerk should obtain it from Messrs Harveys. It was decided that the allotment rents should be collected as soon after Nov. 11 as possible.

Mr Charlton brought up a question concerning the footbridge over the Holland Drain at the 'Lambert', Fleet Fen, saying it was in a state of bad repair. Mr Charlton, after some discussion, proposed that the Holland CC be written asking them to make the necessary repairs and to take over the bridge. Mr Doubleday sec. This was carried although it was emphasised that this footbridge, serving the good purpose that it does, had been upheld privately as the Council were not and had not been concerned with its erection. sgd JH Brothwell, chmn.

p101 ord.meet FPC Monday Nov.13 1933. Present: Brothwell, Dickerson, Bettinson, Morris, Doubleday. pmrc. The clerk reported he had received a reply to the question of the Lambert Drain Footbridge. The Holland CC refused to take over this structure remarking that it was and had, been in the past, 'upheld privately'.

A letter was produced from the EERDC concerning Water Extensions in the parish and after discussion it was decided that the clerk should write and say that the council would decide later when they knew what grant would be given this scheme to the Fleet Parish.

The clerk produced printing which had been done locally and the price was highly satisfactory.

The various rents for October were collected and cheques signed for: Mrs Ward 5/-; SD Doubleday 15/-; Chamberlin 13/6; Drings Exors £13.10.0. sgd JC Bettinson chmn.

p102 Meeting for the election of Parish Councillors took place at the Wood Lane School Fleet on Monday March 5th 1934. There was a poor attendance of parishioners. The meeting elected Mr C Hesketh to the Chair and at 7.7pm the Chairman asked for Nomination Forms to be handed in. There were nine seats to be filled and at the end of the required 15 minutes the chairman informed the meeting of the elected ones, for only 9 papers were handed in. Those elected to serve for the next three years were: Brothwell, Patchett, Dickerson, Doubleday, Morris, Charlton, Laming, Bettinson, Gregory. A note of thanks was accorded the chairman for presiding and also to Mr Brothwell for his long term of office on the RDC.

After the meeting was over the old Parish Councillors met to discuss the Water Extensions which were required in the village and the Clerk was instructed to write the East Elloe Clerk to agree to the following extensions (these are of course in addition to where the water pipes are already laid): From Bensgate Road to Mill Bank; Mr AA Worth's to C Bettinsons; C Patchett's Cottage (Hocklesgate) to JH Brothwell's Cottages (Hocklesgate); Maisdyke Lane to Geo Smith's; and branch to Bennett's Buildings (Torrington Lane); Bensgate Rd to Fletcher's Farm (Balls Lane). sgd JC Bettinson, chman.

p104 Annual Meet. FPC 18 April 1934 . Present: Brothwell, Bettinson, Charlton, Doubleday, Gregory, Patchett. Councillor Patchett prop. & Coun. Doubleday sec. that Mr Bettinson be the provisional Chairman. As both the Village Hall and Deacon Fairfax accounts were ready to be read this was taken first. These accounts together

with the Poor Land Trustees dole statement were perused and passed. There was some discussion concerning the next agenda (sic) item. The Chairman, Coun. Charlton, said he thought the Chairmanship should, as on other councils, go round and give each Councillor a chance to occupy the position. Coun. Doubleday prop and Coun. Gregory sec. that J H Brothwell be Chairman. Coun. Charlton prop. & Coun. Morris sec. that Coun. Bettinson be Chairman.

The result of the voting elected Council Brothwell by 3 votes to 2. Council Brothwell returned thanks for his re-election.

Council Gregory asked whether the Clerk had received anything further re the Water Scheme Extensions. The clerk reported he had received nothing further to date. It was agreed that nothing could be done until the Council were advised what course to take.

Council Charlton prop. and Council Morris sec. that the Clerk's salary be the same as last year - carried. It was decided and agreed upon that the Clerk should gather the rents and if there was any difficulty he was to report. The whole Council were to act as the Allotment Committee. Cheques were signed for the following amounts: Holland CC 1/7; JW Chamberlin & Son 5/6; Harvey £12.10; SD Doubleday, Salary & Stamps £6.15.10. sgd JH Brothwell, chmn.

p106 Special meet FPC July 9 1934. Present: Brothwell, Dickerson, Bettinson, Doubleday, Patchett, Laming. pmrc. Council Patchett said he would have liked to have seen a full council present on account of the business of water extensions. The clerk read a letter which had been received from the East Elloe [RDC] pointing out that an estimate had been prepared for an extension from the village hall to Mr Geo Smith's house - a distance of 2000 yards - at a cost of £323.3.4 After Council Patchett had given figures and cost of the proposed extensions, discussion took place as to what and how many extensions were wanted. Council Dickerson proposed that each extension should be taken separately.

It was argued that one or two of the already proposed extensions entailed a lot of piping, and this would, it was feared, not be self-supporting where there was a great distance between houses where no connections were made. Council Patchett again quoted figures which, he said, would give a good idea of these. Since it was decided to take each one separately the Smith's Extension from the village hall was reviewed.

Council Laming asked whether the distance given included to Mr Boltons and the buildings belonging to Bennett down Torrington Lane. Council Patchett said if it was decided to go in that direction the distance would be increased by about 400 yards and the Clerk can make a note of this when replying to the East Elloe letter. After discussion it was voted by the whole council to agree to this extension.

The second extension from Mr Worth's to Mr Bettinson's along Fleet Bank was discussed. Council Bettinson intimated that Mr Carden Wright and M TW Garner were desirous of having water laid on to their farms and with the possibility of one or two cottages. Councillor Patchett said this particular stretch had been under review and there would be two separate ends, for there would be a distance where the

water was laid on from the Gedney end. The council decided and Mr Laming proposed, Mr Doubleday sec. that this extension be approved from Mr Worth's to Mr Bettinson's and from Mr Faulkner's to Mr Carden Wright's. The Clerk was instructed to add the following to his East Elloe reply: "My Council do not agree to the connection from Mr Bettinson's - C Wright's."

The Hocklesgate stretch which it was stated needs the water supply rather badly was next discussed and this particular stretch would be self-supporting. seeing this would be so, the council unan. approved from Mr Quantril's to the Railway Crossing.

Two other extensions which were provisionally discussed at an earlier meeting were not recommended owing to the cost to the parish.

The two representatives selected to served on the Rating Authority were Mr B. Dickerson and Mr W. Bennett. A cheque for 7/6 payable to Mrs Ward (cleaning) was signed. JH Brothwell.

p109 Meet.FPC on Monday Nov.12 1934. JHBrothwell presided over: Bettinson, Charlton,Dickerson,Doubleday,Gregory,Laming,Morris,Patchett. pmrc. Concerning the water extensions a discussion took place as to what other extensions, in addition to the ones already put forward, were wanted. The clerk was instructed to put forward to the East Elloe two further extensions. (1) C Bettinson prop. AB Charlton sec.,for the extension from the Bensgate Road council houses to Mr E Bollons with the branch down Mill Bank to Mr A Green's cottage. (2) A Gregory prop., A Morris sec., the extension from the Washway Crossroads at Mr A Halgarth's to Mr F Waldock's. Both were agreed.

It was pointed out that some little time must elapse before these propositions were carried out by the water people. Cheques were agreed for the following amounts:- Dring's exors £12.10.,Hadden Best, printing £1.0.9.,SD Doubleday, audit Sept. 10/-.

Upon the prop. of Mr A Charlton, sec. Mr A Morris, the clerk was to see Harveys re the drainage account for it was thought the figure charged should be reduced in accordance with the rent reduction by Messrs Dring's exors. The clerk also pointed out that he had attended the audit and was instructed to see Mossops re the 2 1/2 Consolidated and endeavour to obtain papers relating to them.

Counc. Patchett intimated that the gate leading into the churchyard from the Wilson's shop was in need of repair and the clerk was asked to write Mr Musk pointing out the need of repair.

Counc Patchett brought forward the question of the Electric Light at Church End and upon the prop. of Mr B Dickerson, sec by Mr C Bettinson, the clerk was instructed to write to the Boston & Dist. Electric Co. The half-yearly land rents were collected from the tenants. sgd.JHB.

p112 Meet.FPC Friday Feb.22 1935: Brothwell, Bettinson,Charlton, Dickerson, Doubleday, Morris. pmrc. Business arising out of the Minutes consisted of a reply from the Electric Coy [Company] re the Church End lighting. Dickerson prop.,

Charlton sec., that Messrs Patchett, Dickerson & Doubleday canvas the area . This was agreed to.

The clerk said the repairs put forward by the council had been carried out.

Some little discussion took place with regard to the forthcoming and it was agreed that the council should take the lead and arrange a Parish Meeting to obtain Parishioners' views. Counc. Dickerson prop., Counc. Bettinson sec. that the meeting be held at the School on March 7 at 7.15pm. The clerk was instructed to write the two ministers asking their attendance and co-operation.

The clerk reported he had been able to get the drainage figures reduced and the amount chargeable was now on £25 instead of £35.10.

With regard to the footpath leading over Waltham's field near his house it was reported that it had been left in a dangerous condition and upon the prop. of C Bettinson, sec.A Charlton, the clerk was instructed to write the County Council pointing out that this 'way' was frequently used, and really more than any other parish footpath.

Counc Dickerson prop. that a precept be issued for £15. This was sec by C Bettinson and carried Cheques were signed for: Harveys, drainage £1.15.6, Mossops & Bowser, Bond 5s.0d., Doubleday SD, Salary, stamps & sundries £6.14.2. sgd. JHBrothwell, Chman.

1935 p114 A meeting called by the PC to consider the forthcoming Jubilee celebration was held at the Wood Lane Schools (sic) on Thursday March 7th. Mr JH Brothwell, Chairman of the Parish Council occupied the chair when a letter was read by the clerk from the Ministry relating to expenditure for the Jubilee. The meeting was poorly attended. It was however decided to have a form of celebration and the meeting's wish was to adjourn this and have another when it was hoped to have the presence of the two clergy, and in the meantime to make it known locally. [the word 'more' double-underlined in margin to be inserted between 'it' and 'known']

The adjourned meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on April 5th. The Rector (Rev. TG Devitt) occupied the chair and there was (sic) about 45 parishioners present.

Since it was laid down 'that something should be done' he asked for suggestions. After various suggestions it was agreed to give the children a tea and sports - children of school age 5-14. It was thought younger children would hardly be capable of looking after themselves. A few children attended the St John and Gedney Hill Schools and if they cared to attend celebrations in those villages they could and a certain amount could be allocated to them. When it was stated that there were only about 20 old age pensioners in the village it was decided to also give them tea.

The Chairman next asked the ways & means of obtaining the money. There were two ways he believed: 1. House to house collection; 2. levy rate. A lengthy discussion ensued and it was finally agreed and passed that a 3d rate be levied which would bring in about £49. Mr C Hesketh was appointed Secretary and a committee of 22 persons, with power to add, was formed. It was unan. decided to

give a souvenir to all children i.e. 1-14 years. Numerous suggestions regarding the form, tea, sports and possibly a short service at the memorial, would take, was left to the committee. A committee meeting was arranged for April 12th at the School.

p116 Annual Meet.FPC Thursday April 18 1935. Present: Brothwell, Bettinson, Dickerson, Doubleday, Charlton, Laming, Morris, Patchett. pmrs. A letter was read from the Holland CC concerning the footpath over Waltham's field and Charlton prop., Laming sec., that in view of the reply given, Counc. Morris, Dickerson, Doubleday should inspect it. The accounts of the Village Hall, Deacon & Fairfax, and Poor Lands Trustees were passed.

Mr Charlton prop. Mr Bettinson be elected Chairman for the year but as no-one acted as seconder the prop was not carried. Counc Dickerson prop. Counc Doubleday sec. that the Chairman and Vice-Ch. should remain as at present. It was pointed out that there was no real need to change these positions.

Counc. Patchett prop. and Counc. Dickerson sec. that the clerk's salary also remain as at present. Both were agreed to.

The clerk read the minutes of the recent Jubilee meetings and after some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should fix the sum of money which had been agreed upon should be paid to the Fleet Fen and St John's schools as their portion. Mr Charlton prop., Counc Dickerson sec. that £3 be forwarded to Fleet Fen School and £2 to St John. This was agreed upon.

As in previous years the whole council was voted to serve as the Allotment Committee.

Cheques were signed for White (St Johns School) £2 and Johnson (Fleet Fen) £3. Mrs Ward, 3 parish meetings & four Jubilee meetings - 17s6d. A precept was signed for £49.10s., money required for Jubilee purposes.

Counc. Morris drew attention to the need for a signpost at the junction of Mill Bank - Bengate Rd and upon him making a proposition Counc. Dickerson sec. that the Clerk write the Holland CC. The allotment rents were fixed to be collected at the Council's next meeting on May 3rd. sgd JC Bettinson.

p118 Meeting held by FPC May 3 1935. Present: Bettinson, Dickerson, Doubleday, Charlton.pmrc.

The clerk said there was no quantity of business to put before the council. Counc. Dickerson said an inspection had been made of Waltham's footpath recently discussed and there was nothing out of order to which the council could raise any objection. It was decided to let the matter drop. It was stated, following the clerk's reply from Holland CC, that a signpost had been duly erected at the junction Mill Bank - Bengate Road. The half-yearly rents were collected from the tenants and cheques drawn for Harveys £12.10., T G Devitt £28.16.1, (Jubilee amounts). sgd. JH Brothwell, chman.

p119 A meeting FPC November 11 1935. Present: Brothwell, Counc. Bettinson, Charlton, Dickerson, Gregory, Morris, Patchett. pmrc. The clerk read three

applications (Shaw, Slipper & Coupland) for Allotments recently occupied by F Jackson. After discussion Counc. Charlton prop. Counc. Doubleday sec. that E Shaw be the new tenant. This was carried. Cheques were signed as follows: Harvey (Rents) £12.10, SD Doubleday 10/- (Audit Stamp). The half-yearly rents were collected. Counc. Patchett informed the council the position regarding the Electricity and Water schemes which have been put forward by the council.

Counc. Bettinson brought forward a matter concerning the signpost at the Four Cross Roads at the Hargate. The arm in the direction of the station is named 'Fleet'. This has been very misleading to strangers who by following this sign have been wrongly directed. Upon his prop, Counc Charlton sec., the clerk was instructed to write the Holland CC to rename 'Fleet Fen' on the arm.

Regarding a matter which has been discussed by the East Elloe Council regarding the Piggery at Fleet Church End. The clerk was instructed to write the EEC, saying that the promise made, when the matter was last discussed by the interested parties, had not been carried out and asked for their co-operation on the matter.

Mr Shaw's agreement was signed by 3 councillors. Sgd. JH Brothwell, chman.

p121 Annual Meet FPC Monday April 20 (1936). Present: Brothwell, Dickerson, Patchett, Doubleday, Laming, Bettinson, Morris, Charlton. The various accounts for the year ending March 31st 1936 relating to the following were read and passed:- Village Hall accounts presented by the Rector; Deacon & Fairfax by Mr C Hesketh; Dole by Mr Doubleday. Counc. Doubleday prop., Counc. Bettinson sec. that JH Brothwell be elected Chairman for the coming year. Counc. Morris prop, Counc Patchett sec. that Mr Bettinson be elected Vice-Ch. Both were passed by the council. pmrs.

The question arising out of the minutes re the Piggery at Church End: This was discussed at length and the position now was found to be in order.

Counc. Patchett prop., Counc. Dickerson sec. that the clerk's salary remain as at present. Carried. The financial position of the Council was satisfactory £35.9.11 being the bank balance at the end of the year. The whole council were elected to serve as the Allotment committee and after discussion B Dickerson prop., A Morris sec. that all the Council's land should be inspected in July and this was agreed to. Cheques were signed for the following amounts (sfa): Mossop & B (Bond Premium) 5/-, Calthrop & H (Rents) £12.10, Ditto (Drainage) £1.2.11, JW Chamberlin (printing) 3/-, S Doubleday (Salary, stamps) £6.13.10, 2/- (agg stamp).

After discussion the clerk was asked to report on the progress made in regard to the Poor Land Trustee 'Deeds', it being understood he had already written to the Charity Commissioners.

Counc Patchett brought up the matter as to when the Council re-appointed the Dole Trustees.

This was left for the Clerk to report at the next meeting to be held when the collection of rents took place on May 4th. sgd JC Bettinson, V-chmn.

p123 meet FPC May 4 1936. Present: Bettinson, Charlton, Doubleday, Patchett, Dickerson, Gregory. pmrcs. The clerk submitted a report received from the tax office concerning the land tax in connection with the Poor Lands - after discussion it was resolved to argue the matter further with the tax people. The clerk also stated that no reply had been received from the Charity Comm. but as soon as one was received the council would be notified.

Following the clerk's report on the election of trustees for both the Poor Lands and Deacon & Fairfax Trustees it was decided to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting. The half-yearly rents due April 6/36 were collected from the tenants and a cheque signed for Mrs Ward cleaner, 7/6, for meetings May 3/35, Nov.11/35, April 20/36. sgd JH Brothwell, chmn.

p124 Special meet FPC Tuesday June 2 1936. Pres: Brothwell, Bettinson, Patchett,, Morris, Laming, Doubleday, Charlton. pmrc. The Charity Comm. report concerning Land Tax was perused and it was left for the clerk to gain further information on the matter.

A petition signed by 15 parishioners concerning the 'Cherry Lane Bend' was put before the Council. It was argued that the majority of council members had visited the spot and were of the opinion that some alteration should be made. Counc. Patchett prop., Counc. Charlton sec. that the petition be forwarded to the Holland County Council strongly recommending some improvement. Carried.

JH Brothwell brought up a matter concerning his houses at Hocklesgate and pointed out that since the road had been repaired the water now drained into the houses and although Mr Musk had been approached nothing had been done. Counc Charlton prop. Morris sec. that the clerk put the matter before the Holland CC. Carried. The Bensgate Road corner was next discussed and it was unan. decided that the triangle of grass should be taken off in such manner as to allow the roads to be widened. Counc. Bettinson prop, Morris sec. When writing to the HCC the Clerk was instructed to ask for white lines to be inserted.

Messrs Patchett, Dickerson, Gregory, Morris were appointed to serve on Deacon Fairfax charity for 3 years. Messrs Patchett, Charlton, Oliver, Bennett, Brothwell, were appointed to act as Poor Land Trustees for a period of 4 years. Both were prop. by C Bettinson, sec. by D Doubleday. Carried.

Counc Charlton brought up the matter of the Lambert Drain Bridge at Fleet Fen. Since all the facts were known from previous discussions AB Charlton prop., CI Patchett sec. that the clerk write to the Holbeach Parish Council for their help - if obtained - then both parish councils write to the EERDC for their help. sgd C J Patchett, chmn.

p126 Meet FPC Tuesday Nov.10 1936. Present: Patchett, Laming, Doubleday, Dickerson, Morris, Charlton. Seeing that neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman were present, B Dickerson prop., A Morris sec, that CJ Patchett take the chair. pmrcs. Business arising out of the minutes included further news of the Land Tax which was debated. The repairs and alterations sought by the council: Cherry

Lane, Hocklesgate Road, Bensgate Corner, had been successfully carried out by the HCC.

Further discussion took place concerning the Lambert Bridge and after various views were exchanged the council as a body elected Messrs Laming and Charlton as reps to meet the Holbeach PC rep. with a view to having the necessary repairs to the bridge carried out. The clerk was instructed to write the Holbeach PC asking them to allow one of their members to do this. It was thought, in this way, that some favourable decision must be reached since the Holbeach Council had agreed to bear half costs.

B Dickerson commented favourably upon the allotments during his visit to them in July.

The Coronation was next discussed and it was agreed that the clerk have powers to call a parish meeting during January and to make the event as widely known as possible.

The half-yearly rents were collected from the tenants and cheques sfa: Calthrop & H £12.20 rents; Mossop & Mossop Bond Premium 5/-. sgd JC Bettinson.

p128 There was a crowded room on January 25/37 when a Parish meeting took place at Wood Lane Schools with a view of exchanging views and regarding the Coronation on May 12th 1937. The Rev Canon Hutchinson was voted to the chair. He explained the cause of the meeting and after a short introductory speech asked for suggestions.

During the course of the debate the following were the main items recorded: 1. Ham and meat tea for all either in the school or in tents which it was thought could possibly be obtained. 2. That there should be a band or other musical concern engaged - up to £8. 3. That a 3d rate should be levied on the parish and should the money thus obtained be insufficient to meet requirements, the Parish Council account to be drawn from, up to £25. 4. Sports for all to be arranged by a Sports Committee to be elected from the General Committee. 5. Mugs to be given to the children as souvenirs. 6. As far as possible money for provisions etc to be spent in the village. 7. That there should be a short religious service in the church during the day. 8 Mr Hesketh was appointed and a committee was formed to add. This General Committee then formed into various sub-committees as desired and necessary. sgd JC Bettinson

p129 A poorly attended meeting for the election of Parish Councillors took place at the School on March 15/37. Mr Tatam was voted to the Chair and at 7.5 p.m. he asked for nomination papers to be handed in. There were nine seats to be filled and at the end of the required 15 mins the Chairman read the elected ones, for there were only 9 papers handed in. Those elected to serve until 1940 were: Brothwell, Bettinson, Dickerson, Morris, Laming, Doubleday, Patchett, Charlton, CC Caban. A vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman for presiding. JCB.chm

After this election a meeting took place with Mr C Bettinson in the Chair; others present were: Dickerson, Charlton, Morris, Doubleday, Laming. pmrcs. Arising out of

the minutes was a reply concerning the Lambert Bridge repairs. Messrs B Laming and AB Charlton stated they had met the Holbeach PC reps and a plank had been provisionally purchased from Mr HW Farrow. They said other material would of course be necessary and the cost would be within the region of £5 to £6. Counc Dickerson prop. that the council should leave it to these two men to do the best possible, and Mr A Morris sec. Carried.

The clerk read out the recent Coronation meeting and this was passed and signed. At the Jubilee Fleet Fen and Holbeach St John's schoolchildren were given £3 and £2 respectively.

A Morris prop that the same amount should be allocated to them for the Coronation, Mr Dickerson sec and this was carried.

A matter was brought up by Mr Dickerson concerning the installation of a public phone at Fleet Church End and suggested that the clerk should make enquiries to the Post Office authorities for particulars. The council agreed. Cheques sfa: SD Doubleday, stamps at 1935 audit £1; JW Chamberlin, Notices, Coronation & leaflets 13/6; Hadden Best, council & audit forms 7/7; SD Doubleday, salary, postage, stationery £6.16.10; Harvey, drainage 18/9; Holland CC election register 1/7; Mrs Ward, meetings 12/6; precept £50.14; EERDC for Coronation payable after May 1/37 was also signed by the council. sgd JC Bettinson, chmn.

[Margin District 5 Audit Stamp 2 Sept. 1937]

p131 The Annual Meet.FPC April 16/37. Present: Bettinson, Charlton, Caban, Doubleday, Dickerson, Morris, Patchett. The whole council stood in silence as a token of respect of the passing beyond of Mr JH Brothwell, their chairman. AB Charlton was appointed prov. chairman. The Village Hall account for the year was presented by the Rector and the Deacon Fairfax accounts by C Hesketh. Both were passed. The clerk read the previous minutes which were perused and signed. B Dickerson prop., A Morris sec. that C Bettinson be elected Chairman for the year. Carried.

Business arising out of the minutes included a report by Counc Charlton on the Lambert Bridge and a discussion concerning the Fleet Church End public phone. With regard to the drainage allowance Counc Caban prop and Counc Patchett sec that the clerk should endeavour to get as many years payments back as was possible for the 'owner's rate'. Counc Patchett prop and Counc Doubleday sec that AB Charlton be Vice-Chairman for the year. Other names suggested for the post were Morris & Patchett but these declined to accept and Counc Charlton was duly elected.

That the clerk's salary should remain as at present was prop by Counc Charlton, sec. by Counc Morris - carried. The election of a councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of

JH Brothwell was as follows:- Mr L Tatam jnr prop by B Dickerson; sec by C Patchett;

CC Ingrey prop by A Charlton, sec. A Morris; L Tatam Snr prop. by CC Caban, sec.B Dickerson. Since it was found that L Tatam Jnr was not eligible for election a vote

was taken for the remaining two and resulted in CC Ingrey being elected by 4 votes to 3.

Vacancies on the Deacon Fairfax and Dole Trustees were filled as follows: Deacon Fairfax, Laming prop by ABCharlton, sec B Dickerson; Dole Trustees, CC Caban prop by ABCharlton, sec C Patchett. Counc Morris brought forward the question of a sign post near Hilton's corner but after discussion the matter was dropped. Mr CC Caban asked the council who were responsible for the Old Jail at the Hargate for slates etc needed attention and as the Parish Council were found to be responsible for its upkeep and repair. Counc Dickerson prop, Counc Morris sec. that Mr EW Coupland be asked to do the repairs necessary - carried.

Marginal note insertion: The clerk stated if there was no urgent business to bring before the council during the next month he would secure the LadyDay rents. This would save an assembly of the whole council and would not clash with the Coronation workings at this time.

Cheques were signed for Drewery F Fen £3; JW Mawby £2 representing money allocated to Fleet Fen and Holbeach St John's for the Coronation. It was decided upon the motion of

Mr Charlton for the clerk to send a letter of sympathy to Mr John Brothwell expressing the council's regret in the passing of his brother who had served the parish so long. JCB.chmn.

p133 A Meeting took place at the School, Fleet on Nov.12th 1937. Those present:- Councs: Bettinson, Charlton, Doubleday, Dickerson, Caban, Ingrey, Morris, Laming. Mr CC Ingrey was welcomed as a Councillor in place of the late Mr JH Brothwell and signed the usual declaration. pmrcs, the clerk stating he had collected the LadyDay rents from the Tenants and had also attended the Parish Council audit on Sept. 2nd 1937.

Business arising out of the minutes consisted of the following: 1. Counc Charlton reported on the Lambert Bridge and stated the water was too high at present to permit of the necessary proposed repairs being so carried out. 2. the clerk read the correspondence he had had regarding the Kiosk [public telephone] at Fleet Church End and upon the prop of Mr Ingrey, sec by Mr Charlton the clerk was instructed to again write the Postal authorities and ask whether it would be possible for a phone box to be installed free of charge. 3. The clerk reported he had satisfactorily reclaimed 17/- from Harveys respecting the 'Owner's rate' - Drainage.

Messrs Bettinson and Patchett were appointed School Managers to March 3rd 1940; Mr Ingrey prop, Mr Doubleday sec. The question of the very rough state of the footpath on the main Holbeach -Fleet road - particularly near the council houses - resulted in the proposition from Mr Dickerson, seconded by Mr Ingrey, asking the clerk to write a protesting letter to the Holland CC asking for their attention. The inquiry pointed out that the footpath running through the Hargate had been left in a dangerous state following the laying of the Post Office cables and finally made a prop, sec by Mr Charlton, that the clerk write to the HCC.

Trees and bushes at the corner of Mr Proctor's field at the Winslowgate road junctions were obscuring motorists' view when passing and approaching this spot and in the interests of all users Mr Bettinson prop., Mr Charlton sec., that the HCC be notified and ask to cut the trees and bushes down so that visibility was not hindered. Concerning the Bengate Rd corner and to Mr Musk's visit there, since nothing had been done, Mr Dickerson prop, Mr Caban sec. that the clerk take up the matter again with Mr Musk.

Mr C Hesketh (Headmaster of Fleet School) was then called to the meeting for the purpose of discussing the correspondence which had been received relating to the inauguration of a branch of the County Library at Fleet and finally it was decided to call a parish meeting the next week to hear views on the subject. October rents were collected from the tenants and a precept of £20 signed. Cheques signed as follows: Harvey, Drings Excors rent £12.10, Chamberlin a/c 2s.3d., EW Coupland, repairs to property £1.8.5., Doubleday (clerk) for 1937 Audit Stamp £1

p136 M JC Bettinson in the chair and supported by the clerk at the parish meeting held in the Schools, Fleet, Nov.19 1937 to discuss a branch of the County Library. The Chairman, stating that Mr Hesketh had been interviewed by the County Librarian, asked him to outline the scheme - this he did. After a certain amount of discussion Mr Ingrey prop and Mr JG Fisk sec that a Library should be formed and it was ultimately agreed upon that the most suitable place would be the Council Schools (sic). Mr Fisk prop, Mr Morris supported that Mr Hesketh be asked if he would take the job of librarian - this he kindly consented to do and the Rector was also made an assistant. It was decided to open on Thursday evenings each week, the hours being provisionally fixed as from 6pm-7.30pm.

A Committee consisting of the following was formed:- Mesdames Hesketh, Waterman, Hutchinson, Messrs Hesketh, Morris, Ingrey, Fisk, Waterman. Mr Hesketh was asked to forward the form which had been sent to him to the County Librarian and it was thought after that had been done the questions of books, shelves etc could be gone into by the Committee. sgd JCBettinson, chmn.

p137 Minutes of meeting held on March 28 1938. Those present: JC Bettinson (chmn), AB Charlton, CCCaban, D Doubleday, CIPatchett, CC Ingrey, C Laming. pmrcs, as were the minutes of the Parish Meeting of Nov.19 1937 concerning the County Library. Business arising: Counc Charlton reported that the Lambert Bridge repairs should be finished in about a fortnight's time. The account would then be sent and dealt with by this and the Holbeach PC. The clerk read correspondence upon the Fleet Church End Kiosk and in view of the last letter the matter was dropped for the time being. Regarding the footpaths on the Main Road and the Hargate, also the Bengate Road corners, these replies were considered favourable.

The repairs to the property near the Fleet Fen Chapel had been carried out and an account presented from Mr Howman. Cheques sfa: Harveys, drainage £1.8.1., Howman, repairs, £1.2.10, Mossop, bond premium 5s, Doubleday, clerk, year's salary £6.7.6., stamps 8s.5d. total £6.15.11.

The question of Air Raid precautions Act 1937 was debated and it was finally decided, upon the prop of CC Caban, sec CC Ingrey, that the clerk write to Capt. G

Armstrong for it was thought that by so doing he would be aware, that as far as Fleet was concerned, the Parish Council were alive to the situation. sgd. JC Bettinson, chmn.

[District 3 Audit stamp, undated.]

p139 Meeting April 21 1938, present: Bettinson, Patchett, Doubleday, Morris, Charlton and Clerk. Patchett prop Doubleday sec that JCB Bettinson be Chairman for the year. D Doubleday prop A Morris sec that AB Charlton be Vice-Ch.. Both carried. PmrCs. Business arising: Lambert Bridge which it was stated had been repaired at a cost of £4, the Fleet Council to pay £2 and the Holbeach Council £2 as previously arranged.

The clerk reported a reply from Mr G Armstrong on ARP and Mr Armstrong, realising the difficulties of such a large parish, suggested that until he was able to organise these districts the clerk to the EERDC would, upon application, keep the council posted up with any development.

Yearly a/cs of the Deacon & Fairfax charity, the Village Hall and the Fleet Poor Lands were passed satisfactorily. Mr AB Charlton prop A Morris sec that the Clerk's salary remain as at present - carried. The question concerning the Fleet Gaol was next discussed, the Clerk pointing out that adjacent property was being placed in the market and Messrs Harveys (the Solicitors concerned) were curious to know whether the Council wished to dispose of the Gaol at the same time. After the question had been very carefully perused D Doubleday prop AB Charlton sec that the Council should not entertain the idea of parting with this old landmark and this decision was unan. agreed on.

The financial position of the Council at the year's end was considered to be satisfactory.

The Clerk said that providing there was no urgent business to bring before the Council he would collect the Lady Day Allotment rents.

The Clerk asked the council if it could be arranged in future whereby the money he had hitherto laid out of his own pocket in the purchase of Audit Stamps could be advanced to obviate this. It was decided a cheque for £2 be signed to meet this year's demand. Other cheques signed were:- HW Farrow Lambert Bridge Repairs £2; Mrs Ward, Cleaner 10/-. The whole council were again elected to serve for the inspection of Dring's Allotments as and when required. Sgd. JCB chmn.

P141 Meeting held Nov. 10/38; present: Bettinson, AB Charlton, Doubleday, Ingrey, Morris. PmrCs, the clerk saying he had collected the Lady Day allotment rents.

A long discussion concerning ARP took place and in view of a communication from the East Elloe [Rural District Council] concerning 7 Auxiliary Firemen required for the village of Fleet various names were submitted. The Clerk was asked to see these people and it was left in his hands to report to the EE when the required number had been obtained.

The Clerk made mention of one or two facts in the Auditor's Report:

- 1) In respect of the cheques signed outside the assembly of the Council. The Auditors stated that whenever it was necessary to sign cheques outside a council meeting it could be done providing the Chairman or Vice-Chairman signed. When this was done it was to be the first minute at the next meeting, thereby confirming the Clerk's action.
- 2) Signing of cheques. The Auditor said it was usually the practice for the Clerk to append his signature on cheques and after discussing this Council. Ingrey prop and Council Charlton sec that this procedure be adopted in future.

Council Bettinson put forward that M Gilbert of Wood Lane desired to be connected with the water supply, which meant an extension from the Gatehouse. Council. Ingrey prop Council Doubleday sec that an extension be asked for from the Railway down to a Mr Welsh's bungalow. This was agreed to.

Council Charlton reported that a footpath structure across some pasture land in Mr G Hotchkin's field from Leeds Gate to Decoy Road was being removed. Council Charlton was asked to put in order again and if any further interference takes place he was to notify the Clerk who would then take up the matter with Mr Hotchkin.

During the evening the Nov. rents were collected and cheques signed as follows:-
Calthrop, Land rents £12.3.9 (£12.10 less 6/3 Dring's), Drainage to March 39 £1.17.6. the clerk's action was confirmed in getting signed Harvey's cheque £12.5.10 May 10/38. Sgn JCB chmn

p143 Meeting held Mar 29 1939. Present: Bettinson, Ingrey, Doubleday, Dickerson. Pmrcls. Concerning ARP the Clerk reported he had obtained the following to act as Auxiliary Firemen and the necessary signed forms had been sent to the East Elloe two months ago: G Bolton, RH Coupland, A Loweth, RM Marshall, Sidney Seth, L. Tatam and L I Tatam.

Regarding the water supply from the Gatehouse down Wood Lane, the Clerk read a reply from the East Elloe to the effect that this stretch was already included in that council's water extension programme.

The Clerk read a letter from the AA asking permission for that body to remove their telephone box from Gedney Chapelgate to the Bull Corner. Since the Holland CC agreed CC Ingrey prop and D Doubleday sec that they be allowed to erect. Agreed.

With regard to a communication the Clerk had received from the Board of Education re Old National School. As this proposed Draft Scheme was thought anything but clear and some doubt existed as to which school it referred to Council Dickerson agreed, after discussion, to see the Rector and find out whether he had had a similar letter. The Council at this stage did not want to commit themselves until it was perfectly clear exactly what was involved.

Other matters brought forward were :-

1. Slow sign Lowgate Road crossroads, Fleet Hargate and upon the prop of B Dickerson sec by CC Ingrey it was decided to ask the Holland CC to substitute an Halt Sign.

2. Hand gates at 88a Gatehouse were said to be very awkward and stiff and no doubt hampered schoolchildren as it did others. CC Ingrey prop B Dickerson sec that the Railway coy be written to ask whether they could make them easier to open. Agreed.
3. Kiosk, Fleet Church End. In view of the resiting of the AA Telephone Box and a kiosk near the Post Office this question of one at Fleet Church End was renewed. Taking into account previous correspondence and the fact that the Hargate people were better served in this respect the Clerk was asked to re-open the matter. This was prop by Dickerson, sec. Ingrey.
4. Counc. Dickerson asked what surplus the council were making on their allotments and whether the rents could be reduced and it was decided to enable the Clerk to go into the matter and that it be placed on the next agenda. Cheques were signed for: SO Doubleday £6.14.2, Salary 6.7.6. Stamps etc.6/8. Mrs Ward, Cleaner 7/6 Apl 21/38, Nov. 10/38 Mar 27/39, Mossop & B 5/- Bond Premium sgd JCB chmn

p145 Annual Meeting held April 20/39. Those present: JC Bettinson, AB Charlton, B Dickerson, D Doubleday, CC Caban, A Morris, C Lamming. D Doubleday prop, AB Charlton sec. That JCB be chairman for the ensuing year - agreed. Cllr Bettinson returned thanks. Pmrcs and items included the proposed Halt sign at Lowgate Rd, and a letter from the HCC was read.

The Kiosk at Fleet Church End. The Clerk said that a Mr Ford of the Post Office Telephone at Peterborough had called and the matter gone into in the interests of both parties and that the interview concluded in the same strain as previous letters had done 'that the postal authorities could only erect a kiosk at Church End providing the levy of £4 for 5 years was made.'

The council decided to close the matter saying that every effort on their part had been made but unfortunately no further move could be contemplated.

Much discussion took place as to whether the Council were anything to do with the 'old national School' question or not and B Dickerson stated that the Rector was attending a meeting at Lincoln the next day when it was understood the matter would be brought up. He therefore made a proposition seconded by AB Charlton that the council await his report and it would then be seen whether or not the Fleet council were in any way involved. D Doubleday prop and C Laming sec that AB Charlton be Vice-Chairman for the year. He returned thanks

That the Clerk's salary remain as at present was prop by A Morris sec by AB Charlton - both were carried.

The Clerk next presented figures in regard to the Allotment income over a period of years and it was seen that the Council were making a steady profit on their Allotments each year and the figure had amounted to about £15 during the last 5 years. It was decided that the surplus would enable the rents to be slightly reduced, for the time being at any rate, and if anything unforeseen came along they could be re-adjusted.

After discussion as to what amount the council could reduce them to, Counc C Caban prop, B Dickerson sec that each tenant's rental should be reduced by 3/3d

per year commencing with next October 1939 rents. The whole Council agreed. Cheques were signed for: Harvey Rents £12.10; Hadden Best 9/10d. The various Charity and Village Hall accounts were passed and rents collected. Sgd JCB chmn.

P147 Special Meeting of FPC Apl 29 1939. Present: Bettinson, Laming, Doubleday, and the Clerk. PmrCs. Business arising consisted of the only subject of the meeting: 'Old National School'. Rev Hutchinson attended for this as it was understood he had attended a recent meeting at Lincoln when this question had been discussed. The Rector's main point when outlining the history of the school was that the scheme offers benefits to the people of Fleet but offers no obligations. Under Mr Curtis (Holbeach St Johns) certain repairs were done to the buildings in question (£142). The bill was sent to Rev Boswell saying he and his wardens were responsible. This the Vicar denied since no order was given by them for the work. After discussion when it was definitely found out where the Parish Council of Fleet stood in the matter it was decided, proposed by C Laming, sec by D Doubleday that the Council consent to the scheme.

P148 Special meeting Aug. 21 1939. Bettinson in chair, Councils Charlton, Doubleday, Patchett. PmrCs The Clerk stated he had received notification from Mr JT Wright wishing to terminate his agreement with the Council in respect of Allotment no5 as from October 11 next. The Clerk pointed out that the agreement contained 6 months notice 'either side' but considering there were some 6 applicants for the land this point was waived. These applicants were 1) Mr EH Clark, Fleet Rd., 2) Messrs Tatam & Son, Hocklesgate Rd., 3) Mr B Ostler, The Rookery 4) Mr J Smith, Gedney, 5) G Morris, Fleet, 6) H Halgarth, Winslow Gate Rd, Fleet.

Each application was carefully considered and the case of Mr J Smith seeing he resides outside the parish the Council considered it their duty to consider applicants from Fleet. It was also stressed that Messrs Tatam & Son and Mr Halgarth were already tenants and under the Poor Land Trustees jurisdiction. The applications were thus shortlisted to 3. It was thus moved by D Doubleday sec by C Patchett that G Morris be offered the tenancy as it was understood he had no garden. The Clerk was thus instructed to write to Mr Morris telling him the terms and conditions of agreement and whether he was willing to accept these. In the event of his not accepting, the Clerk was instructed to write Mr Clark offering him the same terms of tenancy.

The Clerk pointed out at a meeting on Apl 21st last the tenants rents had each been reduced by 3s/3d. To make Mr Wright's rent correspondingly equal for collection it has been since ascertained that a reduction of 3s/2d in this case would bring his each half-year's rent equal, and upon the prop of Mr Charlton, sec by CI Patchett this separate deduction was agreed to. Cheque was signed for R Hunt, Repairs a/c 15/-. Sgd JC Bettinson chmn

p150 Meeting held Nov. 11 1939 (Sat. Afternoon). Ch. Bettinson, Councils Dickinson, Ingrey, Laming, Doubleday. PmrCs. The only business arising being agreement with GW Morris for no.5 allotment lately occupied by Mr JT Wright.

The Clerk reported that Mr Morris accepted tenancy after being told the conditions. It was decided that the Clerk should await Wright's claim for inventory and when

presented should confer with the Chairman as to its correctness. The sum amounting to 1/3rd shown then be recovered from the incoming tenant and forwarded to Mr Wright. Until this was done satisfactorily Morris should not sign the agreement.

B Dickerson brought up the question of rubbish being deposited in the dyke near a supposed tunnel adjacent to part of the Council's allotments and it was decided that an inspection should be made. The Clerk read a letter from the EERDC relating to the already submitted personnel in connection with auxiliary firemen, the letter requesting 7 new volunteers are required. Since no undertakings of service had been made from any of that number, in fact 4 had definitely resigned, after a long discussion the Chairman agreed to make an effort to get the required party. Surprise was expressed that people who had expressed willingness to serve had fallen out of the scheme when the EERDC was put into being. The Clerk was to write to EERDC that the Council were again taking the necessary steps to get the required personnel enrolled.

The October rents were collected and cheques signed as follows: Calthrops £12.10. rent., Holland Elloe Common Sewers £1.17.6, drainage. The Clerk's action in getting a cheque £1 for audit 1939 was confirmed. The October rents were also collected from the tenants. Sgd JCBettinson chmn

p152 Meeting at the Wood Lane School on Saturday March 30 1940: Present: Chmn Bettinson, Messrs Ingrey, Doubleday, Morris, Charlton, Laming and the Clerk. Pmrs. Business arising: the completion by the Clerk of No.5 allotment taken by Mr G Morris and settling the question of Inventory by Mr J Wright, the last tenant.

The question of rubbish deposited in a dyke near a supposed tunnel on the Council's land was left for a report at the next meeting. The Clerk gave details of the AFS for the village, saw that all the required personnel had now been obtained and that Mr CM Franks had been appointed Leading Fireman. Satisfaction was expressed by the Council that the scheme was now in working order and that the Circular setting out the various equipment etc from the East Elloe showing all that was required to be undertaken should the necessity arise. The Clerk remarked that credit was due to the Chairman for his hard work in getting the scheme completed. To this AB Charlton prop thanks and A Morris seconded.

The Chairman brought up the question of a hydrant near Mr Worth's corner and upon the matter the Clerk said he would make the necessary enquires. The following were then elected to serve on the following bodies: Deacon Fairfax until 1943 Messrs Patchett, Dickerson, Morris, Laming; Fleet Poor Lands Trustees until 1944 Messrs Bennett, Oliver, Patchett, Charlton, Caban. These were proposed by AB Charlton, sec by D Doubleday.

C Laming brought up a matter concerning obstruction of a footway in a Mr G Hotchkin's field at Fleet Fen and it was resolved that Mr AB Charlton see Mr Hotchkin and report to the Council the results of their conversation.

The Clerk read a Circular from the Rural District Council intimating that the election of Councillors which was to have taken place this year had been postponed. While

the Act is in force the constitution of the Council will remain as at present. A precept was signed for £15. Cheques signed were: Mrs Ward (Cleaner) Meetings (5) 12/6; Mossop & B (Bond premium) 5/-; JW Chamberlin (Printing) 7/-; SD Doubleday (Salary & Stamps) £6.15.10. (? Cost of agreement stamp No. 5 allotment) 1/-. Sgd JC Bettinson, chmn.

[Audit Stamp: District 2 27 Aug. 1940].

P154 Annual Meeting of FPC at the Fleet Wood Lane Schools on Apl 22/40. Councils present: Bettinson, Charlton, Morris, Doubleday, Caban and Laming. PmrCs. Business consisted of the Hydrant near Mr W Worth's house and the Clerk, after investigations, was able to report that there was a hydrant situated there. Concerning the footpath etc Council Charlton reported that the planks had now disappeared. Council Laming also protested against the wire obstruction and after much discussion the Clerk was asked to get into communication with Mr Hotchkin and open out the case. It was stressed that this footway had been and was being used fairly often and had been in existence a good many years.

The appointment of the Chairman and Vice-chairman was the same as the previous year. JC Bettinson and AB Charlton respectively; These were proposed by C Laming sec D Doubleday; prop D Doubleday, sec A Morris. Both returned thanks.

That the Clerk's salary for the year should remain as at present was prop by AB Charlton sec A Morris. Carried. The yearly accounts in connection with the Village Hall, Deacon Fairfax, Poor Lands were satisfactorily passed.

The question of the rubbish was debated and no action thought necessary. The yearly rents were collected from the Tenants and cheque £12.10 payable to Harvey signed. Sgd JCB chmn

p155 Special Meeting May 17. Bettinson presiding over Patchett, Ingrey, Doubleday, Dickerson, Charlton, Laming and the Clerk. The pmrCs. Business: Footpath question which had called for this meeting. Council Charlton was asked to explain the exact position which he did quite plainly. The Clerk also reported he had had several conversations with both Mr G Hotchkin and Mr F Musk. This stated he had also seen the revised OS map of 1904 and no right of way was shown thereon. Council Patchett also outlined the talks he had had with Mr Hotchkin. After much discussion and various propositions it was decided the Clerk should outline the position to the HCC and ask if they were willing to provide the necessary 2 styles required so as to come to some sort of agreement over this much debated question. This was prop by CC Ingrey, sec by B Dickerson.

The Clerk read a circular letter from Mr Hutchings from the EERDC concerning Sewage or waste materials and it was thought advisable to confer with Mr Hesketh, since some scheme was now being run at the School.

Mr Hesketh kindly gave particulars and the Council thought these to be satisfactory inasmuch as to decide that nothing else could at the moment be undertaken with the School as the centre and children bringing their collections along there was no need to duplicate the arrangements. The Clerk was instructed to reply.

The Clerk then pointed out that owing to the war situation further meetings would have to take place in the afternoon (daylight). He also had the Council consent to get any cheque signed in the meantime, in connection with the Chairman, thus avoiding a meeting for this purpose only. Sgd JCB chmn.

P157 At the request of the EERDC a Parish Meeting took place at the School on Thursday Sept. 12 1940. Present: Bettinson, but owing to the weather the attendance was no so good as anticipated. The cause of the meeting was for the Parish to enter into a scheme formulated by the County War Emergency Cttee known as 'Holland (lines) Spitfire Fund'. E Elloe was one of the 3 areas decided upon. The chairman explained how he had attended a meeting of councillors at Holbeach on 2nd inst. and by attending this meeting was able to give the present company details of what was required of the parish.

The persons elected to comprise the following positions were as follows: Parish rep for area council : JC Bettinson; Treasurer for the Parish: ES Cook; Secretary, Mrs JC Bettinson. Committee Messrs Bennett, Ingrey, Dickerson, Hutchinson, Morris, Doubleday, C Merrison, Halgarth, Hesketh, Mesdames Hutchinson, Hesketh, Bulas(?), Halgarth. Collectors: Mrs Freda Park, Mrs Bettinson, Mr & Mrs Halgarth, Mr & Mrs Dickerson, Miss Morris and Mr Frost.

The Parish was split up into districts and these were allocated to the collectors. It was pointed out that the collection books etc would be circulated to the collectors after the Clerk (Doubleday) had been in further communication with the EERDC. The Clerk was asked to press advertise what the Village was doing. Sgd Bettinson chmn

p158 A meeting on Saturday afternoon March 22 1941: Present Bettinson, Council Charlton, Patchett, Laming, Morris, Caban, and the Clerk. PmrCs. And the council confirmed the action of the Clerk in getting cheques signed as follows outside council meetings it being pointed out owing to the present situation the Council had not had so much business to transact to warrant calling the council together but the Clerk had been in touch with the Chairman and various members on various occasions.

July 1940 £1 Audit. Nov.14/40 £12.10 rents; Feb. 7/40 Mossop & B 5/- (Bond Premium); £2.14.2. Holland Court of Sewers, (drainage) 5/6 Spalding Free Press advert.

The Clerk saw as there was no urgent business to call a meeting in Nbr he had collected allotment rents sent from the tenants.

Business out of the minutes revealed the Footpath question again. It was stated that the planks were not yet in position and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Musk to ask for this work to be now undertaken. AB Charlton made the proposition and Mr Caban seconded. The Chairman's motion calling for Mr Hotchkin to be written compelling him to make good the right of way as was the case before he took the planks away, found no support since the HCC through Mr Musk had agreed to do the work.

Before the next item was debated about filling in a vacancy on the Council through the death of Mr Doubleday both the Chairman and Mr Charlton expressed sympathy at the death of Mr D who had been a most regular attendant at their meetings. Mr C Laming then asked for the Council to stand in silence as a tribute to his memory.

The Clerk was also asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs Doubleday from the whole Council. Mr Fred Halfyard was nominated as a likely man to fill the vacancy and this was agreed after a prop by Mr Caban, sec Mr Charlton.

The Clerk was so instructed to find out if Mr Halfyard would serve. Cheques signed for Doubleday, Clerk, salary & stamps £6.17.10; Mrs Ward, cleaner, meetings (4) 10/-.

Counc JC Bettinson head warden for the Village answered questions about the ARP services in the village and said that as far as Fleet was concerned all was of a satisfactory nature at present. Sgd JCBettinson chmn

p160 The Annual meeting Apl 19 1941. Pres. Bettinson, Ingrey, Laming, Caban, Morris. PmrCs Business revealed that Mr J Halgarth had expressed a desire to fill the vacancy on the Council. Regarding the footpath the work had not yet been undertaken but the Clerk said he had been in touch by letter and phone to Mr Musk as he was expected to do the necessary work.

Upon Prop of C Laming sec A Morris, J Bettinson was again elected to the chair for the ensuing year. Mr AB Charlton was also again elected V-Ch prop C Caban, sec C Laming

Yearly a/cs in connection with the Village Hall, D & F, Poor Land Trustees were passed.

That the Clerk's salary remain at the present for the ensuing year prop Laming sec Morris.

Mr Ingrey brought up a matter concerning the style on the Rectory field previously voiced by the late D Doubleday and after discussion it was agreed that Mr Howman get the necessary structure built up.

Referring to these styles and footpaths CC Caban prop CC Ingrey sec that both Mr Morris and Mr Bettinson should inspect them and report any defects to the Council

The Clerk said that he did not expect any important matters for the whole Council to meet for the collection of allotment rents and if no such question arose he would collect as previously.

The financial position at the Bank for the year ending was found to be satisfactory and no call would be made on the EERDC at present. Cheque for land rents to Drainage through Messrs Harvey £12.10.

p162 A Special Meeting on July 18 1941. Those present; Patchett, Ingrey, Morris, Halgarth, Bettinson. Since the chairman had not arrived at the start of the meeting CI Patchett was voted to the Chair. PmrCs. Business arising: the Clerk reporting that the necessary repairs had been completed over the right of way over Mr Hotchkin's

field and it was hoped no further trouble would occur. The Style leading from the rectory field to Mr Patchett's field had been erected by Mr E Coupland and his account was presented and proposed.

The Clerk reported that one of the chief objects of the meeting was for the purpose of electing a temporary clerk to act in his stead during the war since it was revealed Mr Doubleday was to be called up for the Forces. It was voiced by the Council that they hoped the Clerk would return to take up the position again. Mr Doubleday thanked them for their kind thoughts.

It was left to Mr Bettinson to see what road fence on the Council Allotments needed repair as it was mentioned some railings were in a condition to warrant attention. Cheques: E Coupland repairs £1.6.6. SE Doubleday Audit £1. Sgd Bettinson.

P164 Meeting May 22 1942: Bettinson, Patchett, Dickerson, Laming, Morris, Ingrey, Charlton. PmrCs. Allotment rents were collected. A Letter was received from Messrs Mossop and B regarding a Bond premium for £1.5. It was arranged that the Chairman should see Messrs M&B to ascertain what part belonged to the Council and what to Fleet Charity before paying the amount. The matter of the footpath between Kilby's Mill and Mr Patchett's was discussed and it was prop by Ingrey, sec by Dickerson that it should be left in abeyance. Sgd JCB chairman.

P165 Meeting Oct. 2 1943: Bettinson, Patchett, Caban, Halgarth, Charlton, Morris. PmrCs. Business: It was propo by Charlton sec Morris that Bettinson continue as Chmn. Mr A Morris prop sec F Halgarth Mr Charlton V-c. Precept set for £10. There several applications for Allotments and after discussion it was prop by Mr Caban sec Charlton that the Clerk should write Mossop & B to approach Mr HP Carter for 20 acres of the east end of his field abutting the High Rd in Fleet. Also that the Clerk write a similar letter to Mr H Waltham for 5 acres of his land. Mr Caban prop M Halgarth sec that Mr Wm Bennett be invited to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Mr Ingrey. Failing Mr Bennett's acceptance, Mr Waltham to be asked. Mr Patchett prop Morris sec that Mr Harold Waltham be elected School Manager. Sgd Bettinson chmn

p167 Meeting May 8 1944. Bettinson, Patchett, Caban, Morris, Charlton, Bennett. Council warmly welcomed Mr W Bennett Jr. Previous mrCs. Business: the reply to the Council's application for land from Mr H Carter for the allotments was read. On the prop of Mr Patchett, sec Mr Charlton, it was decided to leave the matter for a further date. Mr Morriss prop Charlton sec that Mr JC Bettinson continue as Chairman. Prop by Bettinson, Caban sec, Charlton V-C.

A letter was read from EERDC asking for the observation of the Council re the post-war water supply and particulars of any extensions they wished to put forward. The Clerk was instructed to write to EERDC requesting that water be extended from Bucket Hall 150 yards to Mr Morris and from there to Ravens' Clough Rd to Mr Bollons. This distance would supply 45 acres of grassland. A further extension is needed from Lambert Bank to a cottage some 100 yards distance. The Allotment rents were collected sgd JCB chmn

p169 Meet on Saturday 28 October (1944). Bettinson, Patchett, Laming, Caban, Morris, Bennett Jr, Halgarth, Charlton. Pmrcs. Allotment rents collected. The appointment of a School Manager was discussed Laming prop Morris sec Mr Parkinson of Fleet Fen be invited to act as Manager, failing Mr P's acceptance Mr Fisher of Fleet Fen to be asked. Re the appointment of the Jay's Charity Trustees it was prop by Morris, sec Laming that 4 of the present members Patchett, Caban, Charlton, Bennett Sr. remain on. It was prop by Charlton, sec Halgarth that Bennett Jr be appointed in place of Mr J Oliver. The Secretary to write to Mr Oliver and thank him for his many years of service.

It was prop by Morris, sec Charlton that the Clerk's salary remain at £6 pa. Cheques signed for £3.2.6. Drainage rate; £12.10 Drings rent.

Mr Caban prop Laming sec that the Clerk write to Bernard Dickerson asking him if it was his intention to attend any more parish meetings and if not would he please send in his resignation. Bettinson prop and Bennett seconded.

P171 Meet Sat. Apl 7 1945: Bettinson, Patchett, Laming, Morris, Bennett,, Halgarth, Charlton Caban. Pmrcs. Business: Chairman reported Mr Parkinson had accepted the position of Manager of Fleet Fen schools and Mr Dickerson had tendered his resignation from the Council. Patchett prop Halgarth sec that Harold Waltham be asked to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Dickerson. Charlton prop Morris sec that Mr E Proctor be asked to fill this vacancy. On being put to the meeting Mr H Waltham was appointed.

Prop by Caban, sec Laming, Mr A Morris be appointed to represent the Fleet branch of the British Legion Benevolent Fund. The Council discussed the lighting of the Village and the most suitable places to erect standards.

It was prop by Caban, sec Patchett that the road from the Holbeach boundary along the Main Rd through Fleet Hargate to the Gedney boundary be effectively lit up. Also that there should be 3 lights at Fleet Church End. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Pywell to this effect. Cheques signed for £11.2 Inland Rev; £6.7.6. Clerk's salary & postage; £1.8 Drings rent (Less income tax) 10/- cleaner, Mrs Coupland. Sgd Mr Bettinson and Waltham.

P173 A meeting Thursday May 31 1945. Patchett, Laming, Charlton, Bennet, Waltham, Caban, Bettinson. Pmrcs. A letter was read from Mr JC Pywell re the street lighting, stating the matter had been placed before EERDC and will be considered at a further meeting. The allotment rents amounted to £13.13. The appointment of the chairman Mr H Waltham prop, Laming sec that Mr Bettinson should continue in office. This was approved. Caban prop Waltham sec that Charlton be re-elected V-c. approved. The council cordially welcomed their new member Mr H Waltham.

Sgd Bettinson chmn

p174 A Special meeting Aug. 28 1945. Patchett Laming, Charlton, Bennett Waltham, Caban, Halgarth, Morris and Chairman Bettinson. Pmrcs. A letter was read from Mr JC Pywell re the street lighting stating that it had been suggested that lights should be provided at all bus stops along the main road and additional ones

along the Holbeach boundary to the Institution. 2 or 3 in Fleet Hargate and 2 in Church end.

Discussion took place with regard to peace celebrations. Prop HW Waltham, seconded Laming that a 3d rate be levied and a precept signed for £52. Cheques signed for EM Bettinson £3, Audit Stamps; Hadden Best stationery 10/-. Sgd Bettinson chmn

p175 Friday Nov. 9 1945. Present: Patchett, Bennet, Caban, Morris, Waltham, Halgarth, Charlton, Chmn Bettinson. Pmrcls. V-J celebration accounts were presented and approved. Cheques made to Mr Pedley, AS Pacey, N & GN Railway Assurance Ltd. On the prop of Walthm sec Halgarth the sum of £5.10 be sent to Fleet Fen and Holbeach St Johns for the children attending those schools. A letter was read from the tenants of the council houses at Holbeach St Johns requesting the Council to purchase land for the allotments. The council decided not to do anything for the present. The Allotment rents were collected, cheques signed for Drainage £3.15.6; Drings rent £12.10; Spalding Free Press, 9/9; Mr Parkinson £5.10 and Mr CR Bacon £5.10. JCB chmn.

P176 A meeting March 6 1946. Patchett, Morris, Laming Waltham, Bennett, Bettinson. Pmrcls. A letter complaining that the footpath from Damgate to Fleet Manor House had been partly ploughed up and requesting the Council to look into the matter. Mr Waltham prop Halgarth sec that the letter be laid on the table. Circular 44/46 from the Min of Health was read re Victory celebrations. Prop by Waltham, sec by Laming that the Council avail themselves of this offer. Cheques IR £11.11. Laming sgd Bettinson. chmn.

p177 meeting for election of parish councillors at Wood Lane School March 18 1946. There was a poor attendance and those present elected Mr C Hesketh as the Chairman for the meeting. At the required period the chairman called for the nomination papers for the 9 seats. The voting resulted in the below mentioned 9 being elected: Patchett, Laming, Morris, Caban, H Halgarth, Bennett and Proctor, B Halgarth. Bettinson and Charlton not elected. A vote of thanks was returned to the presiding Chairman.

P178 Annual Meeting Tues. Apl 12 1946 when all new members were present: Bennett, Caban, Halgarth, Halgarth, Laming, Proctor , Morris and Waltham. Mr JC Bettinson on behalf of E BM Bettinson (acting clerk) attended the meeting in order to hand over to the Clerk, Doubleday (who takes up his duties on being released from the Forces). He expressed pleasure that the Clerk had returned and to these remarks the Clerk responded.

Instead of the appointment of a provisional chairman the Clerk called for nominations for Chairman and V-chmn vacancies for the ensuing year. Several Councils were asked but did not wish to take office and upon the prop of Waltham sec by F Halgarth C Laming was appointed for the year and upon taking over the chair he suitably responded. F Halgarth was then appointed Vice-chairman on the prop of Caban, sec Morris. pmrcls.

The only business arising being that of the Victory Celebrations. After a lengthy discussion during which many difference views were expressed it was decided to leave it to a meeting to take place on Monday Apl 15 at which it was hoped some members of the Council would attend.

A letter from EERDC asking for 2 reps acting as members of the rating authority resulted in F Halgarth and Bettinson being appointed. The Allotment Cttee was to consist of the whole Council. At the conclusion of the reading of the Minutes Caban prop a vote of thanks to be recorded for the long term of office of the late Chairman JC Bettinson, H Waltham seconded and the Council associated themselves with these remarks.

The audit of the Deacon Fairfax, Village Hall and Dole accounts normally take place at the Annual Meeting and the Clerk was asked to have them presented at a future meeting. He was also asked to ascertain the length of term of office of Councils appointed to the Deacon Fairfax and Poor Land Trustees. C Laming brought up the matter of the dangerous state of the highway from Ravens Clough to Saturday Bridge during the recent widening of the Holland Drain. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to bring to the notice of the HCC.

The Clerk next brought up the question of his salary and asked the Council to consider an increase over the £6 for parish matters and 7/6 for rents. The Council decided to leave the matter until the next meeting and in the meantime the Clerk was to write to other parish clerks so that the salaries could be compared. To this the Clerk agreed and would ask for the necessary information. Cheques signed for Harveys Dring's rent £1.8; Coupland (Meetings 5) 12/6; EM Bettinson £6.14.6. sgd Laming chmn.

p181 A meeting May 13 1946. Chairman Laming presiding over Morris, Waltham, Patchett, Caban, Halgarth, Halgarth, Bennett, Proctor and Clerk. Pmracs. Business : taken into conjunction with the various agenda items with exception of the Holland Drain. Upon this the Clerk reported a reply from the HCC suggesting there was nothing they could do at the moment. The Clerk was instructed to again ask the CC for some sort of protection being erected along the drain side.

The first item on the agenda for necessary action was the Victory celebrations. It was pointed out that a Parish Meeting had been held and that the meeting asked the PC for a grant to meet the expense of the celebration. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to levy a 1d rate which would result in a figure of £17.10 and it was decided to issue a precept on the EERDC for that amount, (added in different ink: making from £12-£15 available for Fleet children).

Concerning the share due to the Fleet Fen and Holbeach St Johns area of the Parish, W Bennett prop, B Halgarth sec that £3 each be given, Mr Laming having said that no celebrations had been arranged at the moment but it was anticipated that some outing would be given to children during the summer. The Council agreed to hand over the agreed amount upon application.

The accounts of the Deacon Fairfax & Village Hall were presented, examined and passed as carried. The Clerk read various items re HCC association and the Council

decided not to take any action at present. The next business was the application from the Clerk for an increase in salary. Figures and comparisons were given by the Clerk and after much discussion the Clerk was asked to withdraw in order that the matter could be discussed. He was asked how much he wished to receive and the answer was £10 salary and £1 for rent collection.

The Clerk was recalled and told by the Chairman that the Council had agreed to pay him £8 pa and £1 for rent collecting with effect from 1/4/4/6. The Clerk pressed for a War Bonus since all the other clerks were getting one to make the figure up to £10 but the Council would agree to no more. Caban prop Waltham sec that the Clerk be given £1 for the work necessary to prepare the several books for the year ending 31 March 1946. The Council agreed. Sgd Laming, chmn.

P183 A meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Monday Dec. 2 1946 when Counc Laming presided over: Ald Patchett, Councs Bennet, B Halgarth, F Halgarth, Morris, Proctor, Waltham. The council confirmed the Clerk's action in paying cheques on July 19 FW Hutchinson £15 for VJ outing and Oct. 1st the Clerk, £3 for Audit Stamps 1945/6. Pmrcs.

Business out of the minutes consisted of a reply from the HCC in which they stated they were not in a position to erect the white posts as had been suggested by the Council along the Holland Drain. However the Council were not satisfied and H Waltham proposed , B Halgarth seconded that the Clerk write again and stress the need for posts along the stretch from Ravens Clough to Bloodsfold Farm. This part of the drain was where some protection ought to be given.

The Clerk next submitted a report on the recent Auditors observations and concerned the non production of receipts and other matters dealt with in the compilation of the financial statements for years 1945/46. It was found that an undercharge had occurred in the late acting clerk's stamp register and upon the prop of CI Patchett, sec by W Bennett, the o/s amount of £11/11s/2d which had to be taken into account in the 1946/47 year, should be added to the Clerk's current stamp etc expenditure. Agreed. Cheques were signed for the following amounts: Calthrop & L Harvey £12.10 Oct. 1946 Rent; Holland Drainage £3.15 drainage 31.3.47; Chamberlin & Son 19/- Printing.

The Clerk informed the Council that at the present time the Allotments were not exactly paying for themselves. The expenditure now exceeding the income by a £1 yearly. The paying of the drainage rate brought this about and it was pointed out that since 1939 the Drainage figure had doubled itself (£1.17.6.then £3.15.now). After various views had been expressed it was unanimously decided that some increase in the tenants rents would have to be made, if the Allotments were to be self-supporting. Agreement was reached whereby the tenants should be called to meet the Council in March when the matter could be debated and it was hoped a mutual settlement would accrue.

Counc Proctor brought up a matter a concerning the installation of Electric lighting in certain houses in Hocklesgate Rd and although the Council feared they could do nothing in such a private undertaking the Clerk was asked to make enquiries and let

Counc Proctor know the result so that he could pass on the information to the enquirers.

While on the matter of Electric lighting Counc Waltham prop and Counc Proctor seconded that the Clerk should press the ERRDC and Boston & District Electric. Coy for the installation of street lighting for the Hargate. The council thought 3 or 4 lights from Proctors corner to the Light Railway crossing would be an advantage. Embraced in the proposition was for a light at the Church corner.

Ald Patchett asked the Clerk to ascertain by the next meeting the Councillors' terms of office on the various charity bodies coming within the scope of the PC.

A question as to the whereabouts of the deeds for these various charities was raised by Counc Proctor and it was agreed that when the new Rector took up residence steps should be taken to confirm whether the deeds were actually held at the Church. Sgd C Laming, chmn.

P186 A Special meeting of the Council took place on Monday March 31st 1947 when Counc Laming presided over Ald Patchett, Councils Bennett, B Halgarth, F Halgarth, Morris, Proctor and Waltham. Pmrcs. Business arising out of the minutes consisted of a further reply from the HCC stating that the safety posts on the Ravens Clough-Saturday Bridge road had now been erected.

The clerk next read a letter from the EERDC concerning the street lamps and the selected positions they occupy in the village. These positions were debated and although it was argued lights would be of benefit at the Cross Roads and near the Police House no action was taken.

Regarding the question of Councillors serving on the Deacon Fairfax, Poor Lands and School Managers the Clerk was able to report with full details setting out the names and terms of office.

The next business was of a rather important character in as much as it affected the Council Allotment Lands. It had previously been pointed out that at the present time the rents from the Tenants was insufficient to meet expenditure on the Allotment Account, due in the main to the increasing Drainage Rates. A discussion ensued and the Clerk gave particulars of both the income and expenditure and it was finally decided upon the proposition of B Halgarth, seconded by E Proctor and supported by the whole Council that w.e.f. the April 1947 rents the yearly figure chargeable to the Tenants would have to be increased by 12/- each tenant. Four allotment holders will thus pay £6 pa and one £6.6.pa.

The Tenants, who had been summoned to meet the Council for this allotment discussion were then called into the room and the Chairman made known to them the Council's decision, at the same time explaining why it was necessary to increase their rents. After consideration the Tenants agreed to accept the council's decision and signed to this effect. One tenant asked if the high hedge of Mr GA Worth's could be lowered and the Clerk was instructed to write Mr Worth with a view to Counc F Halgarth, A Morris, H Waltham meeting him on the matter.

Counc Proctor asked that now the new Rector (Rev GA Beckett) had arrived in the village could he be approached in order to find out if the deeds of the various charities were held at the Church. The Clerk was asked to write the Rector. The Chairman next read a letter from Counc Caban intimating that he now having sold his property in the village he would have to resign his position on the Parish Council and Poor Lands Trustees. Two names were put forward to fill the PC vacancy, AB Charlton and C Hesketh. Voting resulted in AB Charlton being nominated by 5 votes to 3. Upon the proposition of A Morris seconded by F Halgarth, H Waltham was elected to serve on the Poor Land Trustees. Regarding Mr Caban's resignation the Clerk said he would send a letter of thanks for Mr Caban's services during the 10 years he had been Councillor. Sgd C Laming, chmn.

P189 The Annual Meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Apl 22nd 1947. Councils present were: WA Bennett, C Laming, A Morris, CI Patchett, H Waltham, E Proctor and AB Charlton. Counc Laming was elected provisional Chairman. Pmrcs. Business arising revealed that the 3 Councillors had interviewed Mr GA Worth the previous evening concerning the complaint made to the Council about the hedge adjacent to the Allotments. It was revealed that Mr Worth was willing to lower the hedge as requested. The Clerk said he had written to Mr Beckett concerning the whereabouts of the deeds and he had agreed to help in tracing them. Counc Bennett and Waltham were asked to meet Rev Beckett for this purpose.

The Clerk also stated that AB Charlton had accepted the vacancy caused by the resignation of CC Caban.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:- Chairman C Laming prop by H Waltham sec A Morris; V-Chairman F Halgarth propr by CD Patchett, sec by E Proctor. The Council agreed that the Clerk's salary remain at the revised figure.

Both the Deacon Fairfax and Poor Land yearly a/cs were presented and passed. Concerning the Village Hall a/cs the Clerk stated that since the Rector had only recently taken up residence he was not yet fully acquainted with the procedure. It was agreed that the statement be called for later.

The council proposed and agreed to the following serving on Deacon Fairfax Charity for 3 years (to 1949): CD Patchett, C Laming, A Morris, E Proctor. H Waltham was re-elected School Manager to 1949. The Council's credit balance at the year end March 31/47 was £27.17.9.

Concerning a plank at the Lambert end of the South Holland [drain] brought up by Counc Charlton it was agreed after some discussion that Counc Charlton find out more about the question.

Counc Waltham next referred to the alleged dangerous position of the Bus Stop near Crosbys Shop and thought that the Council should take action in an endeavour for it to be moved to a safer position. It was at present on a slight bend of the road and there was a great deal of car traffic congregated near the petrol pumps. The Council agreed that the Clerk write to the appropriate authorities with a view to its position being moved somewhere near the Hargate room [Reading Room now Fleurettes gym]

Cheques were signed for the following amounts: Harvey Apl rents £2.9.9; Inland Revenue £10.0.3; Coupland - Cleaner (May 13, DEC 2) 5/-; Almey, cleaner, (March 31, Apl 22) 5/-; Clerk - salary £8, Allotment collection £1. Granted for 1946 Audit compilation £1. Stamps brought forward previous year 11/1/2, current 14/41/2, total £11.5.6.; Hadden Best - stationery £1.12.1. sgd C Laming, chmn.

P192 A meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Sept 22/1947. C Laming presiding over Councils: Morris, Charlton, F Halgarth, Proctor, B Halgarth, Waltham, Bennett, Ald Patchett. Previous minutes read confirmed, signed. Business out of the Minutes concerned the visit that had been made to the Rectory in order to trace whatever papers there were available concerning the various Charities deeds. Three documents were produced but they bore no relation to the ones required and it was decided to return them to the Rev Beckitt.

The Clerk reported he had heard nothing further from the authorities concerned re the proposed shifting of the Hargate Bus Stop and the meeting moved that another letter should be sent to the Lincs Road Car Coy. The Deacon Fairfax Clerk asked for another Councillor to be elected to make up the Council's quota for that body. Council Charlton proposed and Council Morris seconded that WA Bennett be appointed - carried.

The main business of the evening consisted of the application from Mr JR Hilton to be allowed to purchase the Fleet Jail which was adjacent to his property 'Linden House' which he had recently purchased. The Clerk produced correspondence and plans he had obtained regarding this parish property. After much discussion the council were unanimous - with the exception of Council Charlton - that the Council dispose of the property for it was pointed out that it did not serve the Parish in any way now and expense would have to be granted for repairs from time to time by the Council for its necessary upkeep.

Regarding the amount the Council would be prepared to accept was also fully discussed and it was ultimately decided - upon the proposition of Council Waltham, seconded by G Bennett that a figure of £12 be asked. This was agreed to. Council Charlton voiced an opinion as to whether other permission from any Local Authority or Ministry of Health was necessary before disposing of the property and the Clerk said he would ascertain the exact position before proceeding with the disposal. It was argued that various legal aspects were probable, also the transferring of the property, together with any charges which were likely to be made. Even though the Council formally gave consent to its sale the permission of a Parish Meeting would have to be sought.

The state of the Hop Hole road was brought up by Cllr B Halgarth and it was stated that this matter came under the Highways Depot of the HCC and that body would probably be unable to have the necessary repairs executed owing to the economic state of the country. The matter was not proceeded with.

Regarding the constitution of the Schools Managers the Clerk was instructed to write to the Clerk of the Managers (Mr Penny) requesting what numbers were required so

far as the Parish Council were concerned to serve. Cheque £1.3.4. signed (Hadden Best), £1 Audit stamp.
(Sgd) C Laming Chmn.

p195 A well attended Parish meeting took place at the Wood Lane School, Fleet on Tuesday evening at 7.30 on January 13th 1948. Mr C Laming, Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair and informed those present that the meeting had been called concerning the Fleet Jail and that the Clerk would be glad to answer any questions anyone would like to ask before he put the proposition before them.

The Clerk was asked if it was true an offer had been made for the Jail and if the Council as a whole were themselves in favour of its being sold. The Clerk replied that an offer had been made but as a Council they were not in a position to sell Parish property before the consent of the Parish was obtained. The sole object of the meeting was for the Parish to give consent or otherwise to the selling and the Ministry of Health would instruct further. After further questions, when it was made perfectly clear what was expected of the meeting that night, the Chairman then put before the meeting the following: "That the meeting do consent to the sale of the following property viz Fleet Jail, situate at Fleet Hargate, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1933, and of any other statutes in that behalf, subject to such order as the Ministry of Health shall issue touching such sale and the application of the produce thereof."

He called for a proposer and a Mr L Tatam proposed the adoption. The Chairman asked for a seconder and a Mr B Halgarth seconded.

Immediately Mr AB Charlton rose to propose an amendment that the resolution should not be adopted. Mr Charles Proctor seconded. Both spoke against the resolution and then the Chairman put the amendment before the meeting. Six persons voted in support of this amendment. Next the Chairman put the proposition before the meeting and eighteen voted for the adoption of the resolution. Twelve persons did not vote.

The Chairman then declared the resolution to sell the Jail carried and said that the meeting had now terminated and thanked them for their attendance. Signed C Laming, Chairman of the Parish Meeting.

P197 A Council Meeting took place at the Wood Lane School on January 13 1948, Councillor Laming presiding over: F Halgarth, Alderman Patchett, WA Bennett, H Waltham, E Proctor, AB Charlton, B Halgarth and A Morris. Two parishioners were also present. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. The Council gave their confirmation of the Clerk's action in getting the following cheques signed outside a meeting, the Clerk pointing out there was not sufficient business to warrant the whole Council assembling to authorise payment: C & L Harvey £12.10 October Allotment rents; £3.8.9. Drainage (since cancelled).

Business arising out of the Minutes consisted of a reply from the Lincs Road Car Coy expressing their apology that they had overlooked the matter of the re-siting of the Hargate Bus Stop. Action had been taken with the Eastern Traffic authorities but unfortunately the correspondence had been filed away in their office before the

necessary arrangements had been made. They very much regretted the omission but the stopping place had now been altered.

Another item out of the previous Minutes was the Jail and the Clerk said all were aware of the position following the Parish meeting and now the Ministry of Health would advise further procedure.

A letter was read from the Clerk to the School Managers of Fleet following a request from the Council, giving the names of representatives now serving. This revealed Messrs W Bennett, C Patchett, H Waltham and W Waltham were the four County Council representatives appointed to serve for three years ending 31.3.49. The two Parish Councillors Messrs JC Bettinson and AW Parkinson. No term of office was given for the last named and the Clerk was asked to ascertain the period.

The Clerk next reported that the Drainage cheque for £3.8.9. representing the Occupier's rate had been returned with a request that the full amount of £5.12.6. be forwarded and a claim made for repayment of £2.3.9. representing the Owner's portion. It was pointed out that although this was a new procedure it was legally correct and the Clerk was to comply with their request. A notice setting out the transfer of licence of the Rose & Crown from a Mr Barlow to Mr Donald Blythe was produced and the Council agreed.

Counc Charlton again brought forward the question of the foot bridge over the Lambert Drain and pointed out that the Drainage people had not erected it again following the widening undertaken by them some time ago. After discussion the Council agreed that as previously the Drainage people be approached and asked to make good and failing this the Fleet Council were to take up the matter with the Holbeach Parish Council with a view to each Council sharing the cost of erection etc. This had been agreed on the last occasion such work was undertaken in April 1938 when a plank was purchased from Mr HW Farrow.

Cheques were signed for the following amounts: HCC 1/9, Electoral Roll; Inland Revenue £10.0.3. Land Tax; Hadden Best 13/10 Notices, stationery; Drainage Board £5.12.6, Drainage. Sgd C Laming chmn.

P200 A Special Council meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Tuesday Feb. 17 1948, Counc Laming presiding over: Ald Patchett, Couns WA Bennett, E Proctor, H Waltham, F Halgarth, A Morris, B Halgarth and AB Charlton. Pmrchs. Business consisted of a reply from the Clerk to the Fleet School Managers regarding the term of office of Messrs Bettinson and HW Parkinson. The information revealed that these two gentlemen's term of office expired on March 31 1949.

The question of the Council's claim for repayment of the owner's portion of the current drainage rate (£2.3.9.) was discussed at length in view of the reply given to the application. Messrs Harveys (the Collectors) drew attention to the clause in the agreement with Dring's Executors which stated under 2(b) that the Council agrees to defray all existing and future outgoings payable by law with the exception of Landlord's Property Tax and Tithe Rent charge. In view of this undertaking it was agreed that the Council will now have to pay the gross figure. The Clerk was asked

for a statement as to whether the rents from the Tenants would cover this extra unforeseen cost, and he promised to supply full details at the next meeting.

Concerning the Lambert Drain bridge a reply was read from the Resident Engineer stating the plank will be restored. In addition to this Counc Waltham proposed, Counc Proctor seconded that Mr AB Charlton should interview Mr Fortune on the matter - agreed.

The main business of the meeting was next presented - the reply that had been received from the Ministry of Health regarding the Fleet Jail. After reading the letter the Clerk stated he had written to Mr Chas Proctor regarding his offer of £40 - made at the Parish meeting - and whether he still wished to purchase. Mr Proctor's reply had not been received by the Clerk but had been handed to him that night. It stated that he was willing to purchase at the 'Ministry of Health's valuation, subject of satisfactory conveyance of the title deed'. Mr JR Hilton - who had been asked to attend the meeting - was next made aware of the Ministry's findings and he agreed to accept the price of £30. After discussion H Waltham proposed, E Proctor seconded that the only way now for the Council was for the Jail to be sold at Public Auction providing of course the Ministry's figure of £30 was reached. The Council agreed unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to see Mr JG Hix and arrange for the sale in about a month's time preferably at the 'Bull Inn' one evening.

Regarding the John Walton Charity - the change of Trustees having been announced through the press - it was thought that so far as Fleet was concerned it referred to a sum of money hitherto distributed by the Fleet Baptist Chapel to the poor and needy cases. Councils F Halgarth and AB Charlton explained what their knowledge was on the matter. However the Clerk was asked to write Counc CR Thompson of Spalding for further particulars, it having been pointed out in the press that that gentleman was aware of the Charity business and could possibly furnish some light as to how the funds were distributed. Cheque for 5/- (Mossop & B) for Parish Clerk Bond was signed. Sgd C Laming, chmn.

P203 The Annual Meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Tuesday Apl 20 1948. Councils present were: Ald Patchett, C Laming, A Morris, H Waltham, AB Charlton, E Proctor, F Halgarth. C Laming was voted provisional Chairman. The pmrcs. Business consisted of the signing of the Jail agreement after the Clerk had read over particulars of conveyance and the Ministry of Health's last letter. In that letter they asked the Council how the money from the sale of the Jail to Mr JR Hilton was to be used. This brought a suggestion from Counc Waltham who thought the money should be used for some specific purpose. He later proposed, and Counc Proctor seconded, that a Bus shelter should be erected adjacent to the Hargate Room subject to the consent of the Parish Church authorities upon whose ground the proposed structure shall stand.

Cllr Charlton proposed and A Morris seconded that both Counc Waltham and Counc Bennett should arrange to interview the Rev Beckitt as to the likelihood of getting the authority of the Church.

Another item from previous Minutes was a reply the Clerk had received from Counc CR Thompson's solicitors in reply to a request from the council regarding the matter

of the J Walton Charity. After discussion Council Waltham proposed and Council Charlton seconded that the Clerk ask for the required information from the Charity Commissioners.

The final item from the Minutes was that of the allotment account which had been provisionally dealt with at a previous meeting.

The Clerk was able to reveal that with the Council now having to pay both portions of the Drainage Rates the expenditure exceeded income. This would become more pronounced in future should the Drainage Rates again increase which was indeed likely. It was generally accepted by the whole Council that the only solution was to further increase the Tenants' rents. The figure of increase was eventually agreed upon in a proposition by Council Waltham seconded by Council A Morris that each tenant be asked to pay an additional sum of 5/- per year. The Clerk was instructed to write the Tenants accordingly.

The next business consisted of the election of a chairman and vice-chairman for the ensuing year. Chairman: H Waltham proposed, A Morris seconded that C Laming be chairman - carried. Vice-Chairman: AB Charlton proposed, E Proctor seconded that F Halgarth be Vice-Chairman - carried.

The Village Hall and Deacon Fairfax accounts for the past year were presented, debated upon and passed. In the absence of the Dole Account Council Patchett said they were satisfactory. The council agreed that the Clerk's salary remain as at present - carried. Cheques were signed for: Harvey Apl rents (less tax) £2.9.9; Almey, cleaner, 3 meetings 8/6; SW Doubleday, Salary & Stamps (10.6) £10.0.6. Balance at bank as at 31.3.48 was £2.14.2. sgd C Laming, chmn

p206 A meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Tuesday October 26 1948, Council Laming presiding over Councils Waltham, Charlton, Morris, Halgarth, Bennett, B Halgarth and Proctor. Pmrccs, the Clerk reporting that no immediate business had transpired to call the Council together earlier. Several matters had been agreed upon between him and the Chairman since the last Council meeting. Audit £1 cheque signed. Council Waltham reported he had been in touch with Rev Beckett concerning the proposed Bus Shelter at the Hargate, and had been informed that it was not Church property as was thought. The Rector suggested that the Charity Commissioners were the responsible body to whom application should be made.

After discussion it was resolved upon a proposition from AB Charlton, seconded by A Morris, that both Council Waltham and Bennett should again get into contact with the Rev Beckett with a view to an application by him to the Commissioners. Later it would probably be necessary for the Council to apply, but it was thought the Rev Beckett should be first approached.

The Clerk read a letter from the Charity Commissioners re the Walton Charity and the reply given by that body did show that a proportion of the income did come to the Baptist Poor of the village through the minister of the Fleet Baptist Church.

The Clerk next read a letter which had been sent to the allotment holders re increased rents, as was previously agreed should be done and the contents were

favourably commented upon, since it laid down the exact position why the Council had to take a course of raising their rents.

The statement regarding the Sale of the Jail was presented and commented upon, the Clerk saying he had expressed his views to Mr Waters upon the amount of expenses claimed for conveyance, and thought the expenditure figure very high (£11.16.10). The Council too agreed.

The Election of a Parish Council Representative Manager in place of the late W Bennett revealed WA Bennett being appointed upon the proposition of H Waltham, seconded by B Halgarth. He would thus take the place of Mr JC Bettinson who had taken over the position as occupied by the late Wm Bennett.

No action was taken regarding the Local Government Members Allowances Regulation of 1948. Cheques were signed for Harvey, October Rents £12.10; Hadden Best stationery etc £1.17.9. sgd C Laming.

P208 Meeting on Tuesday January 18 1949, Counc Laming presiding over Councils Bennett, Charlton F Halgarth, Patchett, B Halgarth, Waltham, Morris. Pmrcs and the Clerk's action in drawing cheques for National Council of Social Service 3/6d and Mossop & Bowser 5/- on Dec. 1st outside a council meeting was given confirmation by those present. Business out of the minutes consisted only of the matter of the Jail sale proceeds and would be dealt with under a separate Agenda item later.

Much discussion ensued on the appointment of a representative from the Council to serve on the Village Hall Committee. The Clerk outlined very briefly the need for this Committee saying that a Parish gathering had decided that a committee be formed of the various village organisations to go into the question of the future of the Village Hall. On the proposition of B Halgarth seconded by A Morris Council AB Charlton was elected. The Clerk brought up a matter of the National Association of Parish Councils saying he had been approached recently by Major North Coats asking if the Council would affiliate themselves to the association. Several councillors argued that no immediate benefit would be derived from membership and it was ultimately agreed by the whole council that this question be held over, for it was quite possible that a change of Councillors would take place next March and during their three year term of office they could give due consideration to the matter.

The next business concerned the Ministry's desire to know what application of the proceeds of the sale of the 'Fleet Jail' had been made and as to how the Council are to use the money. Counc Waltham stated he had seen Rev Beckitt and had been informed the site where it was proposed a Bus Shelter be erected did now belong to the Church authorities. The Rev Beckitt had no objection to its erection providing a nominal fee of a shilling or so per annum was paid. The Council was unanimous that we should accept this offer and after Counc Waltham had outlined the form of shelter desired, Counc Patchett proposed and Counc F Halgarth seconded that a sub-committee consisting of Councils Waltham, Laming and Morris should proceed with the necessary preliminaries.

After the various permission and plans had been agreed the Clerk was instructed to ask for Tenders for its erection from two local builders, Messrs Raisboro and

Coupland. This resolution was agreed to by the whole Council after the proposition by AB Charlton seconded by W Bennett. It was hoped that the money which had accrued from the Sale (of some £33) would cover the cost of the shelter but the Tenders would reveal that , and if they were in excess of the amount to be spent other arrangements would have to be made.

Counc Charlton asked if the Council could do anything in providing electric light for Hocklesgate Rd and Counc Patchett pointed out that when the New Housing Estate had been completed it was quite possible that this Hocklesgate Rd would be so served.

Cheques were signed for:-Inland Revenue Land Tax £10.0.3;Holland Drainage £5.sgd C.Laming.

p211 A meeting took place on March 29 1949 Counc C Laming presiding over Councs B Halgarth, Waltham, F Halgarth, Proctor, Charlton, Bennett. Pmracs. There was no business arising, for the next agenda item covered the question of the Jail 'proceeds'.

Upon this matter the Clerk presented the exchange of letters that had taken place with the Ministry of Health regarding the application of the proceeds. Previously the Council were unanimous that a Bus Shelter should be erected and this information had been passed on to the Ministry of Health. The Clerk wrote the MoH on 24th Feb. and asked whether the sum of £33.3.2. could not be placed to the General Account, thereby relieving the Council of making application to the Rural Council for money. The Ministry had agreed to the Clerk's suggestion. Much discussion then took place by all Councillors as to why the Shelter could not still be erected, there being no mention that such a thing could not be done and the Minister stating that he was not aware of any power which would authorise a Parish Council to erect.

The Clerk pointed out that he had stated, in his letter to the MoH, that 'the erection of a shelter is not now to be proceeded with'. Much more discussion took place and finally

B Halgarth proposed, the Chairman seconded, that the Council proceed with the erection of the Shelter as previously agreed upon. All the Councillors voted in favour.

Next the Clerk read out various circular letters relating to the various Parish Council elections in May and members were made aware of the exact procedure to be followed in the event of any one of them wishing to stand again. The method by which councillors had been elected in the past had been done away with and Parish Council elections put on the same basis as County Council elections. Precept for £17 signed and also cheque for Clerk's salary £9.18.3. and J Baker 7/6 cleaner (3 meetings). Sgn CI Patchett Chmn.

P213 The newly elected Council met for the Annual Meeting on Monday May 30/49. All were present: Mrs JM Worth, AB Chalrton, WA Bennett, F. Halgarth, B Halgarth, C Hesketh, CI Patchett, H Raisboro, H Waltham. All Councillors signed the usual 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'. In extending welcome to the new councillors the Clerk specially stressed that it was the first time in the history of the Council that a lady Councillor had been elected to serve on the Fleet Parish Council. Reference was to Mrs JM Worth. The Clerk then called for nominations for position of Chairman

and upon the proposition of C Hesketh, seconded by WA Bennett, CI Patchett was voted to the Chair for the ensuing year. He suitably responded and thanked the members. Upon a proposition by AB Charlton, seconded by WA Bennett, F Halgarth was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Council confirmed the Clerk's action in getting cheque signed outside a Council Meeting to Harvey £2.9.9. for Rents April 1949. The previous minutes were read, confirmed and signed and the only business arising being the 'Jail proceeds'. The Clerk stated that although it had been agreed at the last meeting to go ahead with the erection of a Bus Shelter, he had not done so. He had made enquiries from various sources and people with Council procedure knowledge as to whether it was in order to ignore Ministry instructions. Much discussion ensued and various views expressed and although it was indeed the wish of the Council that a Shelter would be serving the people of the Parish, the MoH had stated quite plainly that this could not be done. In order to clarify the position it was ultimately agreed, upon a proposition by H Waltham seconded by B Halgarth that the local Member of Parliament be written on the subject. Agreed.

That the Clerk's salary remain as at present was agreed by the whole Council.

Fleet School Managers to 1952: Messrs Bennett and Parkinson re-elected, proposed by H Waltham, seconded by F Halgarth. Deacon & Fairfax to 1952: Mrs JM Worth, prop Charlton sec B Halgarth; Patchett, Prop Hesketh, sec Waltham; F Halgarth, P Bennet, S Raisboro; B Halgarth, P Charlton, S Bennett.

Fleet Poor Land Trustees: Messrs Waltham, Patchett, Bennett, F Halgarth, Charlton re-elected, prop C Hesketh, sec H Raisboro.

The Village Hall, Deacon & Fairfax Charity yearly accounts were next presented and passed. In the absence of the Fleet Poor Land accounts Counc Patchett gave a report. Counc Hesketh proposed that since no useful purpose was being served in the presentation of these accounts that they be discontinued. No-one seconded and the motion was dropped.

The Clerk again brought before the Council the matter of the National Assoc. of Parish Councils and after one or two strong views had been expressed H Waltham proposed and F Halgarth seconded that the Fleet Council should not associate themselves with the Association.

Only one item in General Business was discussed. This was in the form of a proposition by Mrs JM Worth later seconded by H Waltham that this Council protest to the EERDC saying that in uncontested elections much time and unnecessary wastage of paper is caused by the filling up of the 'Declaration of Expenses' form when no such expenses occur. It was argued that if all Councils did this expense forms would not be used in uncontested Parish Council Elections. Sgd CIPatchett chmn.

P216 A meeting took place at the Wood Lane Schools on Sept 17th 1949, Ald Patchett presided over Councs Worth, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Hesketh, Raisboro,

Waltham, Charlton, Bennett. PmrCs. The Council confirmed the Clerk's action in getting a cheque signed for £4.6.4. being the Council Election Expense a/c.

In reply to the Council's protest concerning the 'Declaration of Expenses' a/c in cases of uncontested elections the Clerk read a reply from EERDC. This reply revealed that the EERDC were in complete agreement with the protest and steps had already been taken by various affiliated organisations in an endeavour to get the present system modified or altered.

Discussion then centred around the Bus Shelter question. The Clerk reported on his interview with the local MP and read a letter subsequently received through Mr Butcher from the Private Secretary to the Ministry of Health. It was stated in this letter that the proposed action by the Council would be contrary to law and would result in a surcharge by the Auditors. Bitter disappointment was expressed at the outcome of this matter and upon the proposition of C Hesketh seconded by W Bennett the matter of proceeding with the project was dropped.

H Waltham brought up a matter of the Post Office Box at Church end. It was reported that no disc was inserted which would advise people when the next collection would be made. He therefore proposed and C Hesketh seconded that the Postal authorities be written and asked to provide such announcement that will enable people to be made aware of the times of collections.

Next business consisted of a complaint, later made into a proposition by AB Charlton, seconded by B Halgarth, on the surface condition of the Railway crossing at the Station. The Clerk was instructed to approach the authorities with a view to an improvement being made at the Crossing. Other Councillors made protests in a similar vein and thought some levelling ought to be made.

B Halgarth next reported on the state of a hedge in Bengate Road which did not permit of a clear vision to anyone proceeding along the highway. It was thought that the tenant, Mr D Coupland, was responsible for its condition and that he be asked to trim the hedge, thereby reducing the risk of accidents. AB Charlton seconded the motion when moved by B Halgarth.

The Clerk made mention to the Festival of Britain in 1951 and said more information would be forthcoming at a later date. Sgd CI Patchett, chmn.

[Audit Stamp 2 Jul. 1950]

p219 A Council meeting took place on Tuesday Apl 25 1949 Counc Patchett presiding over Councils Worth, Hesketh, Waltham, Halgarth, Raisboro, F Halgarth and Charlton. The clerk's action was confirmed in getting cheques signed for the following amounts: Nov. 22 Harvey Rents £12.10; Nov. 29 Mossop & B Bond 5/-; Feb. 2 Holland drainage £5.4.2; Inland Revenue £9.15.9.

A meeting was provisionally arranged for January but the General Election matters outruled this. The Clerk and Chairman had dealt with matters as they had arisen. PmrCs.

The matters arising out of those minutes concerned the Church End post box which had had attention from the Postal Authorities. The Railway Crossing at the Station

which had been substantially levelled. And the hedge near Mr Coupland" had now been trimmed/cut down somewhat.

The agenda item concerning the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 was slightly confused with the County Development Plan in which the Clerk had given various particulars to a Mr Raw, acting for the County Planning Officer, Mr Whiston, of Holland CC, Boston. Counc Waltham thought that the Clerk should have asked the Council before he gave any such particulars. The Clerk pointed out that many local councils had given like information and hoped his action would be confirmed by the Council. Agreed.

Reverting to the National Parks Act the Clerk said he had ascertained that it was possible that the HCC would have to appoint a full-time official to get out all the information required in the Memorandum of Open Spaces, Footpaths etc. He understood a meeting was arranged for Apl 26 and he hoped at the next Council meeting to be in a position to pass on views he would no doubt receive.

A letter was read as received from EERDC concerning Sewage and Sewerage disposal so far as it affected the Parish of Fleet . The scheme as prepared by the Consulting Engineer provides for the provision of Sewers in the following roads and streets: Albion St, Union St, Princes St, Branches Lane (Main Rd to Railway Crossing), and the Main Rd from Holbeach boundary eastward of approx. 900 yards.

Much discussion took place as to the cost and maintenance of such a Scheme and the consequent increase in the local rates, when and if, the scheme is eventually adopted. The Council were divided as to whether they should support the scheme. However, a proposition that the Fleet Council should support the scheme was moved by Mrs JM Worth and seconded by Mr C Hesketh. An amendment moved by F Halgarth seconded by B Halgarth that the Council do NOT support the Scheme followed. The Chairman announced the voting (resulted) as follows:- For the Amendment 3, for Proposition 2., Amendment carried. 2 Councillors did not vote.

Concerning the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund a letter was read from the Chairman of EERDC setting out the good work which had been done in the form of food parcels received in his area from July 1946 and asking for the Council's help in fund raising within the Parish. The Council were not prepared to initiate any house to house collections but would give support to the scheme. This was moved by JM Worth and later seconded by AB Charlton.

The Clerk mentioned the 1951 Festival of Britain and said information as received would be passed on.

After discussion the Council decided to take no action about the application from a Mr Taylor - through Messrs C & L Harvey - for the Council's sanction to sell the old Pit at Fleet Hargate.

The item of the Village Hall meetings which had been held to consider the advisability or a new Hall or renovating the existing one was placed before the Council and it was revealed that an account for over £22 had to be met. The account represented the Architect's Fees in the course of his survey on May 8 1949. Mr GH

Worth had loaned the money and the Village Hall Committee had had 8 representatives on that body from the various Village organisations. The Council had one representative. The Village meeting asked whether 'each organisation could contribute a share towards this expense'. On the proposition of F Halgarth seconded by H Raisboro it was agreed to a figure of £3 be paid by the Council together with the Free Press account of 8/- advertising the last Hall meeting. It was also agreed to meet the Clerk's expenses amounting to 18/3d. The Council agreed. Cheques were signed for the following amounts:-
GA Worth £3 Hall share; C&L Harvey £2.14.3. Apl rents; Free Press 8/- Hall advert.
Sgd F Halgarth, chmn

p223 The annual meeting took place on Tuesday May 23rd 1950. Those present were Cl Patchett, F Halgarth, H Waltham, C Hesketh, W Bennett, AB Charlton, H Raisboro.

Letter of apology for her absence was received from Mrs JM Worth.

The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chairman for the ensuing year. After Mr Patchett said he did not wish to stand H Waltham then proposed F Halgarth and this was seconded by H Raisboro. No further names were put forward and F Halgarth was voted to the chair. H Raisboro later proposed and H Waltham seconded that Mr C Hesketh be Vice-Chairman. No further names were put forward and Mr Hesketh was so elected. The previous minutes were read, confirmed and signed. There was no business arising, the clerk saying he had not yet received any information from the HCC respecting the Footpath survey. Counc Charlton said he had inspected the allotments and he thought, that apart from No 3 (who had taken a piece out of the roadway) all were satisfactory. After discussion it was agreed that no action be taken against this tenant it being left to the remaining tenants to raise any objection.

Counc Patchett asked that the minute regarding the application for the Hargate Pit be read again. This was done and quite a discussion took place as to whether the Council would agree to the sale of the pit. It was put forward that this Mr Taylor only required a garage erecting, but the original and only application was for the sale of the pit.

It was agreed that the Councillors view the site and submit a report for the next meeting.

The balance at the bank at the year end (31.3.50) was £30.4.2. The council agreed that the Clerk's salary remain as at present.

The state of the Railway Crossing at the Station was brought up by Counc Waltham who said that although the Railway people had improved the crossing, where the repairs met the road was slightly irregular. It was left that Mr Waltham could perhaps have a word with the HCC when attending one of their meetings.

H Raisboro put forward that a corner on Decoy Rd about ¼ mile east of Coy Bridge was very dangerous to traffic and the Clerk was instructed to write to the HCC and ask that some red reflector posts be erected. Carried. Cheques were signed for: Clerk £10.13; Cleaner 4 meetings and 3 village hall meetings £1.0.6. sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P225 A meeting took place on Monday Sept 18/50. Counc F Halgarth presiding over Councils Hesketh, Worth, Charlton, Bennett, Raisboro, Waltham, Patchett, B Halgarth. PmrCs and the Clerk's action was confirmed in getting cheque signed for Audit stamps 1948/49 £3.

Business arising consisted of improvements being effected at the Railway Station crossing and the posts at Decoy Rd. The Hargate Pit had been inspected by Councillors and after one or two views H Waltham proposed and B Halgarth seconded that the Council do not sell the Pit. It was argued that the Pit served as a kind of drainage and if it was sold and filled in the Council's action might have far-reaching effects. In conjunction with the Pit question Mr Hesketh asked the Chairman if item 4 on the Agenda be taken before item 3. This was agreed to and item 3 was proceeded with when the Clerk read an application on behalf of a Miss Ostler for a site on this Pit for the erection of a Saloon 10'x12' made of Sheet Asbestos sides with corrugated Asbestos Roof in which to carry on her business as a hairdresser.

The Council as a whole gave careful consideration to this application and rather emphasised that the application was of a very different nature than that of Mr Taylor's- earlier discussed - inasmuch as only a site was asked for. Ultimately Mrs Worth proposed, C Hesketh seconded, that applicant be granted a site. The Council agreed. Quite a lot of discussion then ensued regarding the rental and incidental charges. One or two Councillors thought the question of rent could be left over and if acceptable by the applicant the necessary agreement be proceeded with. Council Charlton thought the charge should be £1 pa and Council Patchett thought it should be £3 p.a.

However a proposition voiced by H Raisboro seconded by B Halgarth that the rental should be £10 pa was eventually carried. Earlier an amendment proposed by AB Charlton that £5 be the figure found no seconder. The Clerk was then instructed to write to the applicant quoting the Council's findings and adding that all other outgoings such as rates, drainage, development charges, to be borne by him. Upon receipt of an acceptance or otherwise the agreement could then be compiled.

A letter from Mr Shaw, Tenant of No.3 Allotment was read as also was an application for same from WA Mastin. Since there had been a list compiled of people desirous of an allotment it was agreed that the better method would be to advertise it. After discussing this C Hesketh prop and B Halgarth seconded that this be done and the whole Council agreed.

In general business, C Hesketh prop and WA Bennett seconded that to commemorate the Festival of Britain next year the Council ask that they be allowed to erect the Hargate Bus Shelter. Agreed. Concerning Bus Stops the Clerk was instructed to write the Lincs Road Coy and suggest that some bus stop signs be placed in the village.

Council Waltham reported on the Sewage and Sewerage meeting he attended on Aug. 25 when a special meeting heard the EE consulting Engineer's remarks. Sgd F Halgarth, chmn.

P228 A special meeting took place on Tuesday October 10 1950. Council F Halgarth presided over Councils Raisboro, Charlton, Hesketh, Bennett, B Halgarth, Waltham and Patchett. The Clerk reported that Mr Ostler had accepted the council's terms regarding the erection on the Bull Pit site and said he was seeing the EERDC concerning the necessary plans etc. It was also reported that the E Elloe Sanitary Inspector required the provision of a 'soak away' before proceeding with the plans. The Council agreed to this request. A letter was read from the Lincs Road Car Coy re the Council's request for Bus Stop signs in the Village. It stated that they were not in a position to erect such signs along their 3000 mile route in the various counties and the matter was thus considered closed.

The chief business consisted of the production of applications for the No.3 Allotment vacant. The Clerk gave the names of the 12 applicants. 3 were outside Fleet village and were at once not considered. 5 others were not considered eligible. The Council then discussed the four applicants as shortlisted: WH Mastin, W Parker, D Gay, A Forman. After each one had been commented upon H Raisboro proposed and B Halgarth seconded that the four names be placed in a hat and drawn for. This was done and the Clerk drew the name of WH Mastin and this applicant was therefore classed as the new Tenant of Allotment 3 consequent upon his acceptance of the conditions of letting etc w.e.f. 11/10/1950.

There was no other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed, the Clerk remarking that upon the receipt of developments in the Ostler case a meeting would be called.

Sgd F Halgarth, chmn

p230 Mr F Halgarth presided over Councils Bennett, Waltham, Hesketh, Worth, Raisboro, Charlton on Feb. 19 1951. The Clerk stating no development had taken place regarding the erection of the hut for Mr Ostler. The agreement for the new tenant, WH Mastin, had been completed. Owing to much illness to the Clerk and councillors it had not been possible to call the Council together earlier. The Council, however, gave their consent to the signing of the following cheques undertaken between meetings: Harvey £12.10; Free Press 4/-; Hadden Best £1.7.3; Inland Revenue £9.15.9; Mossop & B 5/-; Holland Court of Sewers £5.2.1.; Shaw 19/5.

Mrs Worth raised a point about the provision of Bus signs and after the Clerk had read the reply from the Lincs Road Car Coy Council Waltham said the HCC had the work in hand regarding some indication being placed on posts or standards already erected.

The clerk dealt with the Festival of Britain correspondence and thought the Council might agree to ask for the provision of a Bus Shelter being the village's contribution for the Festival. Council Waltham stated that he understood that no restriction was put in the way if the site was off the Highway.

The Clerk's salary to remain as at present. The Clerk brought forward an important item concerning a proposal of the Holbeach Parish Council to alter the Parish boundaries both on the western and southern portions of the Parish. After various comments had been made it was decided that the Clerk write to both the HCC and the EERDC protesting in the strongest possible terms to any suggestions of

annexing any part of the Fleet Parish. In fact should it be necessary the Fleet Council would consider extending their parish boundary at the Holbeach area.

A precept was signed for £25, after being agreed to by the Council. Cheque signed for Clerk's salary and postage £10.15.8., and cleaner 10/- (4 meetings). Sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P234A meeting took place at the Schools on Tuesday Nov. 27 1951. F Halgarth presided over Councils Hesketh, Raisboro, Waltham, Charlton, Bennett, Halgarth. The Clerk's action was confirmed in getting the following cheques signed outside meetings: For Audit £1; Harvey Oct. Rents £12.10. pmrcs. Business arising was that of reading a draft agreement in connection with the Council's letting of a plot on the Bull Pit for Ostler's building. The Council were unanimously agreed on all the conditions and clauses in the agreement which could now go forward. C Hesketh proposing and AB Charlton supporting. The decision of the HCC in not proceeding with the proposal of the Holbeach PC to annex part of the Fleet Parish was favourably commented upon after letters were read.

The other business arising, that of the Bus shelter, took up considerable time and much discussion took place on the revised plan submitted. The council were told of a visit - in an advisory capacity - of a qualified architect from the Festival Office on Sept 20th when he met Councils F Halgarth, Waltham, Raisboro and the Clerk. It was on the ideas put forward by this gentleman that it was decided to somewhat alter the original plan, although it was borne in mind that both the space available and the money could be spent might restrict the quality of the building.

All Councillors put forward constructive ideas and a slight difference of opinion existed as to whether the wall should be of 4 1/2" or 9". Ultimately the following proposition was agreed upon that the Council ask for two tenders submitting full specifications, both a 4 1/2" wall and a 9" wall. Upon receipt of these tenders the Council would then proceed as agreed. This proposition was formally moved by AB Charlton seconded by H Waltham.

The Clerk submitted Ordnance Maps of the Footpaths of the Parish, saying he had attended a meeting at Spalding which had called for information in this question of 'Surveying Rights of Way'. The Clerk was asked to complete as necessary.

A letter from Mr H Halgarth asking to terminate his tenancy of No 4 Allotment was next presented. Since the letter was dated 12 Nov. 1951 the existing Tenant would have to pay the April 1952 demand but it was decided that Mr F Halgarth should see Mr H Halgarth and ascertain the exact position for it was thought that by the wording of the resignation that the Tenant wanted to be relieved of the land forthwith.

It was reported that Mr Herbert Morris had died. Mr Morris had held a tenancy with the Council since Sept 1924 for a Boot & Shoe shop on the Bull Pit site. It was thought that Mrs Morris was to sell the business and effects and after some discussion it was left to Mr Waltham to see Mr Morris's son and explain that the Council would be prepared to enter into a fresh tenancy with a suitable tenant but the rent would of necessity be much more than that paid by the late Mr Morris and would be subject to the Council's decision. Cheques were signed for Mossop & B Bond Premium 5/-; Holland Elloe Drainage £5.11.6. sgd C Hesketh. Chmn.

P237 A meeting of the council took place on Monday Feb. 18th 1952. Counc Hesketh presiding over Couns Worth, Waltham, Raisboro, Bennett, Charlton, B Halgarth. Pmrcs and business arising H Waltham said there had been no development concerning Mr H Morris's shop. On this point a letter was read from a Mr Smith of Tydd for permission to start a Fish Business. His application stated that the Shop could be converted. After discussion Mrs Worth proposed and H Raisboro seconded permission be granted Mr Smith since it was thought other authorities and Ministries would also have to give him permission to sell to the public.

The no.4 allotment occupied by Mr H Halgarth was next reported on and as Mr Fred Halgarth was not present the Clerk was asked to ascertain what progress had been made. In addition an application for the allotment from a Mr Gay was produced but no action taken. It was unanimously agreed the Council give permission for Miss Ostler to erect a few bushes around the shop on the Bull site.

Two tenders for the erection of the Bus Shelter were next produced and since one councillor was concerned with one of the tenders he was asked to temporarily leave the meeting during discussion. Tenders were read by the Chairman: 1) H Raisboro 4 1/2" brickwork £37.17. 9" £49.17.6. 2) EW Coupland 4 1/2" £35.5, 9" £39.18.

The Clerk said the balance in the Bank at that moment was £27.3.1. and after discussion H Waltham proposed and W Bennet seconded that a precept equal to 1d rate be made out. Agreed. This would then permit the money accrued from the Jail being spent on the Shelter as originally planned. After careful consideration it was unanimously agreed on the proposition of JM Worth sec by W Bennett that the Tender of £35.5 be accepted subject to it including the provision of a concrete floor. The Clerk was to approach Mr Coupland for this information and report back.

Ostler's agreement had been completed and the tenancy commenced on 29 Oct. 1951.

Mr Hesketh agreed to take over the Flag Day for Cancer Research on behalf of the village as he had kindly done last year.

The Clerk reported on the Footpaths and said a Parish Meeting was now necessary for the production of the compiled information and this meeting was fixed for March 10/52 at 7.30pm. Cheques were signed for: Hadden Best £1.9.2; Inland Revenue £10.6.7. sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P239 The Parish meeting on Monday March 10 1952 was preceded by a Council Assembly to discuss the Footpath question and at this meeting Mr Tero from the HCC Planning Dept was present to give a complete picture of the whole set up. His remarks were very well received and the information he gave enabled the Council to put forward their proposals at the Parish Meeting that followed. Mr F Halgarth occupied the Chair and called upon Mr Tero to outline the proposals to the meeting which incidentally was very well attended.

The meeting agreed to the following list of footpaths being kept in use in the village and this list would now be dealt with by the HCC Planning Dept. 1) Main Road (Hargate) to Hocklesgate; 2) Fleet Lodge Branches Lane to Near Damgate Mill; 3)

Hallgate to Gedney Boundary; 4) Methodist Chapel Mill Bank to Elder Lodge; 5) Bengate Road to Gedney Parish Boundary, No 5 being a Bridlepath.

Following this question of Footpaths the other business was that regarding the Fleet Village Hall. The two trustees Rev Beckitt and C Hesketh in turn addressed the meeting and answered the various questions.

P240 Meeting took place on Monday April 7/52. Counc F Halgarth presided over Councils Hesketh, Waltham, B Halgarth, Raisboro, Charlton, Bennett, Patchett. Pmrcs as were the Parish Meeting minutes of March 10th. Arising out of the Minutes Council Charlton queried the omission of two Footpaths 1) Lambert Drain 2) Leedsgate Bridge to Langary Gate. It was pointed out that he could still raise an official objection to the HCC but in the meantime the Clerk said he would contact Mr Tero on the matter. A letter was read from a Mr Smith of Tydd in conjunction with the Shop of the late H Morris and H Waltham proposed, C Hesketh seconded, that the Council do not move in the matter any further until officially approached.

The other item arising was that of the allotment of H Halgarth and a letter for tenancy was produced and read from a Mr HE Hammond of Fleet. It was later decided that the Clerk write to the Tenant and ascertain whether the notice to give up the allotment which the Council already held from him referred to next October. For it was felt that Mr H Halgarth was no doubt of that impression and would of course not submit another notice.

Concerning the Bus Shelter the Clerk said he wrote to Mr Coupland on the 19 Feb. and was seen on Feb. 21 explaining that the Council required him to state whether his tender did actually include the provision of a concrete floor. A revised Tender had that afternoon been received as follows: 4 1/2" brickwork £37.15; 9" £42.8.

A good deal of discussion took place and certain views expressed on the second tender and also the fact that over six weeks had gone by before an answer had been received. Previous tenders were compared and finally WA Bennett proposed and C Hesketh seconded that the Tender of HF Raisboro for 4 1/2" brickwork amounting to £37.17 be accepted. This was carried two councillors abstaining. The Clerk said the Plans are being submitted to the Local Authority. A letter was read from the EERDC concerning the provision of additional street lights in the village and although it was agreed, at the moment, no more lights were at present required it was thought the time was opportune to reply and state the various parts of the village that were in need of electricity. One or two had been before the Local Authority a time ago but no harm would be done in submitting again:- 1) Bengate Rd - Mill Bank - Penningtons 2) Fleet Rookery 3) Fleet Fen from Gedney Hill 4) Eastgate Houses - Station Rd - Church end 5) Fleet Wood Lane - Grays (Sudbury Lodge).

The Clerk's action in getting cheque signed £10.13.3. Salary 31/3/52 stamps etc was confirmed to enable the account to be dealt with currently. Election papers were placed on the table in connection with the forthcoming elections in May. Cheque was signed for £2.3.5. Harveys Rent to Apl 1952. Sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P243 The newly elected Councillors met on Monday May 26 1952 - only Council Patchett being absent. The first item consisted of the Clerk calling for nominations

for the post of Chairman for the coming year. Two names were proposed and seconded: F Halgarth prop by JM Worth sec H Waltham; C Hesketh prop by H Raisboro, sec F Halgarth; The voting revealed Mr F Halgarth duly elected. Pmrcs. Business arising was that of the allotment. H Halgarth intimated he wished to give up and the Council's letter to him asking whether he would now notify the Council of his intentions. After discussion it was left to the Tenant to make the next official move. The Clerk said plans had been approved by the EERDC in so far as the plans had been submitted to the HCC at Spalding and they in turn would deal with it at their June meeting. Any other developments would be notified to the Council should any arise in the meantime.

The election of Vice-chairman resulted in C Hesketh being elected. Prop H Waltham, sec H Raisboro. The Councillors present then signed their usual Declaration of Office.

The representatives to serve on the various bodies as elected by the Council were: Fleet School Managers to 1955: Messrs Bennett, Parkinson re-elected. Prop C Hesketh sec AB Charlton. Deacon Fairfax charity to 1955: Mrs Worth, Messrs Patchett, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, re-elected, prop H Waltham, sec AB Charlton. Fleet Poor Land Trustees to 1955: Messrs H Waltham, Patchett, Bennett, F Halgarth, Charlton re-elected. Prop C Hesketh sec HF Raisboro.

That the Clerk's salary remain as at present was agreed by the Council.

In any other business B Halgarth reported the condition of some bushes adjacent to the Hocklesgate Road and it was agreed that Mr H Waltham our HCC representative should see what could be arranged in the form of trimming with the responsible body.

C Hesketh brought forward the condition of the local station Rail crossing and said the surface had been responsible very recently for a young kiddy falling off its cycle and he later made a proposition seconded by JM Worth that the Council contact the HCC who would in turn no doubt contact the Rail authorities.

An important question - later prop by H Waltham sec by C Hesketh and agreed - was that of the sign near the Bull Corner intimating the turn to the right for Boston, Sleaford etc. It was rightly argued that there was not sufficient warning of the immediate turn given to motorists from the Long Sutton and Gedney direction. Advance warning of the turn should be given by placing the direction sign, say, nearer the Cross Roads. Ample time would then prepare the travelling public for this important right hand turn. At the same time it was agreed that the word 'FLEET' should also be displayed prominently near or on the direction sign. Traffic from the Norfolk coast etc see on the Road Map the turn at Fleet Hargate but hardly realise when the village of Fleet has been reached. The Clerk was instructed to write the appropriate authority on this question. SgdFHalgarth, chmn.

P246 A meeting took place on Monday July 14 1952 Counc F Halgarth presiding over Councils Patchett, Hesketh, Charlton, Raisboro, Bennett, B Halgarth.pmrcs. Business arising consisted of the Hocklesgate Rd hedges but since H Waltham was not present this was left over. Counc Hesketh brought forward the question as to who was responsible for appointing the Clerk to the Dole Trustees. He thought the Council should do this in the same manner as they appointed the Trustees to serve.

It was pointed out that the Dole Trustees themselves appointed their last Clerk, after the resignation of Mr Doubleday re Salary. Mr Hesketh said he was only seeking information at this juncture. Concerning the rail crossing it was agreed and upon the proposition of Mr Hesketh seconded by Charlton that the Railway authorities be approached since the Clerk had received no answer to his letter to Mr Holt of the HCC.

The Clerk read correspondence regarding the suggested alteration of the advance sign in Fleet Hargate discussed at length at the Council's last meeting and it was hoped the council's application would be successful.

The next item on the Agenda was that of the Bus Shelter, the Clerk saying permission had been received from the authorities regarding its erection and the necessary papers had been handed over to the Contractor. The Clerk was now awaiting official confirmation from the Church Council in connection with the site. It was pointed out that Mr Wright had been seen regarding the taking down or trimming of the hedge but he would not agree to the Hedge being interfered with in any way. It was argued that this rather complicated matter and the Shelter window would be useless. The Clerk had been successful in obtaining extracts from the conveyance dated 20 Jan.1877 and the area for the School and House was 28 perch. East to West (frontage) 72 1/2' back 73', north to south (east side) 115' (west side) 97'.

After 3/4 hour's debate it was decided to measure the site to confirm the conveyance figures and then the Council would meet again for future action. Counc Bennett prop, sec by AB Charlton, this procedure that the Clerk, Chairman and Mr Raisboro should arrange for the proposition to be so carried out - agreed.

Letters were next read from Mr G Morris for tenancy of the shop of the late H Morris for his daughter. A letter from Mr Morris of Long Sutton said he wanted to terminate tenancy as soon as possible. It was pointed out that the Food Office had turned down an application for a Sweets [candy] licence. A proposition from the Chair that the Council let the site to applicant at a rental of £10pa was seconded by H Raisboro and agreed by the Council the tenant being responsible for rates conveyance and agreement charges etc. The Clerk was instructed to so advise Mr Morris. The tenancy could start from October and C Hesketh prop and H Raisboro sec that the late tenant's son should pay 5/- rent to October. Agreed. Cheques were signed for: Chamberlin notices £1.6; JC Pipwell election expenses £3.12.9.

Counc F Halgarth put forward a suggestion that the Bull Pit be filled in. He later made this a proposition which was seconded by H Raisboro and agreed to. It was argued that the pit was much smaller now than even a few years ago and some sort of boundary marks should be erected. The Clerk was asked to find out the size and other matters concerning the pit for the EERDC would be able to deposit material to fill it in. sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P249 A meeting of the Council took place on Monday Sept 15 1952 when Councs Halgarth presided over Councs Hesketh, Raisboro, Waltham, Bennett, Worth,. Apologies being from Counc B Halgarth and Charlton. The Clerk reported he had had the Audit Stamp cheque signed outside the last meeting - agreed. Pmrcs.

Business arising consisted of the Hocklesgate Hedge which Council Waltham said had been attended to. The Clerk reported a letter from the Railway Authorities saying they proposed to carry out the necessary repairs to the crossing in question.

The Clerk read a letter from the HCC in which they had decided to move the three armed signpost opposite the Bull a little nearer Long Sutton. It also stated name plates would appear in Fleet or Fleet Hargate in due course. C Hesketh prop, W Bennett sec, that the plate be Fleet Hargate. Referring to the Bull Pit the Clerk reported that this had been staked out by Mr Holt the Div. Surveyor and a plan - produced - had been received from the HCC. It was decided that before any steps were taken re filling in the Pit Council Hesketh prop and H Raisboro sec that Mr WB Hitchings of the EERDC be approached in connection with the drainage since it was pointed out two drains emptied into the pit. These would have to be properly attended to. Mr Holt would be asked to assist in this direction. The Clerk said that Mr Morris had agreed to the Council's figure of £10pa rent plus the agreement costs and paying of the rates and an agreement was to be prepared for the Council's approval.

The next item was further news of the Bus Shelter and it was reported that the Church Council had had a meeting at which the Parish Council's letter was submitted asking for confirmation of their willingness for a shelter to be erected. Mr C Hesketh explained the views of the Church Council in which he said that that body were perfectly willing for the council to erect a shelter providing Mr Wright's hedge is not interfered with without his permission. To try and get an agreement with Mr Wright the Rev Beckitt had called upon him and his reception was rather hostile for Mr Wright flatly turned down any question of interference with the hedge.

Council Raisboro and the Clerk had measured the frontage and it was thought the hedge was on the Church Council property. In the end Council Worth agreed to have Mr Wright seen by various members of the Church Council in an endeavour to come to some agreement so that the shelter could be erected as planned. Mrs Worth also thought the Church Council should confirm their action in writing.

The next item was that of the Coronation next June and it was generally accepted that the Parish Council should take the lead and call a Parish Meeting and various views were put forward. It was thought, for example, that something should be arranged to be of a permanent nature, rather than having such things as a tea, sports and the like. The Clerk put forward an observation on the procedure usually adopted at these Parish Meetings at which Parishioners are allowed to voice their views and the various committees duly formed. Council Waltham protested that the Clerk had no right to voice his opinion because he was not a member of the council and simply 'did as he was told'.

The clerk replied, through the Chair, that other Council Clerks make observations to their respective councils and also tender advice. However, later, Mrs Worth prop and Council Waltham sec that a Parish Meeting be called for Monday October 20 at 7 p.m. and notices to this effect be exhibited in the Church, Chapel and advertised in the local press on the previous Tuesday.

In any other Business Council Hesketh reported on the bad state of the churchyard footpath and gate and upon his proposition seconded by WA Bennett the Clerk was instructed to contact the HCC in an endeavour to get the necessary work done. Sgd F Halgarth chmn.

P252 A meeting took place on Monday Feb. 23 1953. Council F Halgarth presided over Councils Charlton, Hesketh, Raisboro, Waltham, Bennett, B Halgarth.pmrccs The clerk's action in getting the following cheques signed was confirmed: 3/11/12 Harvey; £2/14/3Nov.12 Free Press 11/6;Inland Revenue £10.6.7.Holland D.£5.11.6.Mossop 5/-. Business arising consisted of the Hargate signpost and correspondence from the HCC and after discussion Council Hesketh prop, H Waltham sec. that Major Rogerson be asked to meet a deputation from the Council on the spot to discuss the matter further.

The next item was that of the Bus Shelter the Clerk saying nothing had been heard from Mr G Worth on behalf of the Church Council and the position was the same as last July. The council then proceeded to give full discussion to this matter and they were eventually unanimous in a desire to go ahead with the scheme as earlier planned. The Clerk told the Council that £37.0.3.was at that moment in hand at the Bank and if it was decided to go ahead with the Shelter a precept would have to be issued on the EERDC.

Previously the PC could ask for money at each half year but a directive from the EERDC now requires precepts to be submitted yearly . In this way the Council had to budget for money to March 31 1954. The tender already accepted by the Council was for £37.17 and this was liable to adjustment. However W Bennett proposed and B Halgarth seconded that the Council build the Shelter as arranged. This was unanimous. Regarding the Tender a figure of £39.7. was agreed upon This caused for a precept to be signed for £18.

The other item arising consisted of a reply the Council had received from the HCC regarding the Church footpath and fences and after the Clerk had read the letter Mr Waltham prop and C Hesketh sec that the Clerk notify the Church Council of the contents of the letter from Major Rogerson.

A letter from the Chairman of EERDC was read by the Clerk concerning the National Flood Appeal. Although the whole Council were absolutely behind such an appeal many things had been started in the Village for this worthy Cause. However Mr Hesketh said that his children had collected some £12.12. recently and he would, with the Council's permission, propose the Clerk reply to the EERDC saying this amount had been remitted on behalf of the appeal. Mr Hesketh was thanked for his effort. The Bull Pit question was next debated the Clerk producing correspondence he had had from both the EERDC and HCC and inspections he had carried out with Mr Hitchings of the EERDC and Mr Holt (Dv. Surveyor).

It was pointed out that the EERDC are willing to fill the Pit in providing the necessary permission is obtained from all the interested parties . They would prefer to start in the late summer when more heavy refuse would be available. Mr Waltham proposed and Mr Halgarth seconded that the Pit be filled in as suggested provided there is no cost to the PC. Agreed. In A.O.B. the Clerk was instructed to contact Mr

G Morris to say his tenancy of the shop on the Bull site starts from April 6 1953 and that he was really responsible for rent as from October 1952. The Clerk was to report back.

Concerning lighting in the village it was agreed that the EERDC be asked to provide a light on the existing post adjacent to the Village Hall. A light there was desirable and would add use and safety to this part of the village.

It was also reported that the light opposite Mr Seth's Bungalow Church End had been smashed and the Clerk was asked to approach the authorities concerned for its repair. Sgd F Halgarth chmn.

End of book

Fleet Parish Council Minutes: Volume 2 May 21st 1953 – Sept 13th 1976
handwritten by Clerk Stan Doubleday in Hadden-Best hard back Minute Book having rules printed (as in previous book) for *Procedure as to Parish Meetings* and *Procedure as to Meetings of Parish Councils* at the front of the book. These were amended in legislation intended to increase the autonomy of the parish in 1972.

As in previous years, reflecting the nature of rural Fleet, the Council comprised mainly farmers and smallholders with additional figures like the schoolmaster and a builder from time to time. The decades of the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies saw the closure of the railway and Fleet Fen school, the introduction of decimal coinage and local government reorganisation. The formerly rare event of setting a precept became a yearly ritual in the Fifties. The Local Government Act 1972 gave Parish Councillors the power to make observations on local planning applications submitted to the new South Holland District Council. For this purpose meetings became almost a monthly event incurring greater expense of time and money, especially in view of the newly imposed fee for room hire. Eventually such meetings were found to be counter-productive and it was decided that only major building works warranted the trouble. Ironically, the one building plan “*strongly*” condemned by the Parish Council and rejected by unanimous vote was approved by the District Council and built, regardless. So much for local autonomy!

In its accustomed, unhurried, and frugal, mode, Fleet Parish Council left the decaying state of the War Memorial undecided for many months until a higher power, i.e. the Ministry of Transport, sealed its fate and arranged serendipitous removal to its present site over the Bull Pit, conveniently filling it in first. Henson’s Pit, on the other hand, was left, unwanted and unclaimed, a source of vermin and yawns up to 2002. Other subjects of perennial concern such as roads, dykes and vandalism of the new bus shelter were occasionally leavened by the excitement of big new projects such as the new A17 by-pass, new housing developments on Eastgate, and the final cliff-hanger, the unanimous Council decision to bid for Allotment land as a playing field.

All meetings were at Fleet Wood Lane School unless otherwise stated. Minutes of previous meetings were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman at each following meeting and stamped by District Auditor on annual inspection. Cheques were normally signed at the end of meetings and not always mentioned in this text; often cheques were signed between meetings and approved at the beginning of the next. Often the Clerk exercised initiative in making enquiries or arranging meetings outside the Council chamber; on rare occasions he successfully negotiated terms between parties and was commended for his actions. Council decisions were generally reached by having proposals made and seconded prior to a vote; details of these have been reduced to the decisions alone in most cases. To save space and time, many regular, recurring, items are condensed or omitted: direct quotes are in italics. As before, mistakes are mostly mine.

Joan Woolard, Fleet, Lincs 2003
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Annual Meeting May 21st 1953 Took place at Fleet Wood Lane School. Present: Messrs F Halgarth, C Hesketh, H Waltham, B Halgarth, H F Rainsboro, W A Bennett, C Patchett, A B Charlton. Mrs J Worth was the absentee.

The Clerk called for nominations for the post of Chairman for the ensuing year. There were two nominations: F Halgarth proposed by H Waltham and seconded by CD Patchett; C Hesketh proposed by HF Rainsboro, seconded by HF Bennett. Mr Halgarth was elected by 3 votes to 2. Mr Hesketh was appointed to the Vice-Chair upon the proposition of H Waltham, seconded by H Rainsboro.

The previous minutes were read, confirmed and signed. Business arising [from the minutes] consisted of the Hargate sign and it was reported that Mr WA Bennett was the only representative to meet Mr Jordan, the HCC [Holland County Council] delegate, but that the sign was now erected. The other item was the reply from the EERDC [East Elloe Rural District Council] re the Village Hall light and despite the reply that nothing could be done Mr Patchett proposed & Mr Hesketh seconded that the Clerk write the EERDC asking for this light to be provided and also that the Hocklesgate one –previously applied for – be done at the same time.

Clerk reported completion of the new bus shelter on the Hargate and the Council expressed their pleasure and thanks to the builder: "*A credit to the village*". A suggestion was made that some commemorative mark be added, like "*ER*". Permission would have to be sought as it was built under a Festival of Britain scheme. Filling in the Bull Pit was discussed and agreed it must be all done "*in order*".

Overhanging hedges on Bensgate a problem to be raised with Parochial Church Council [PCC].

Oct 28th 1953 Apologies from Cllr Patchett and Mrs Worth

Item 2: Bus Shelter agreed mark "*ERII 1953 – 19 ERII 53*". Price quoted for 6" lettering by Mr Rainsboro, then "*a great deal of exchange took place*" after the Clerk said they should ascertain if such expenditure would be legal and not subject to a surcharge by District Auditor. Cllr Hesketh agreed, Cllr Waltham disagreed, saying they should do it anyway.

Bull Pit: prices to be contested for filling in

No action on Bensgate hedges yet, another letter to be sent.

Church council replied to earlier enquiry about water supply for graves, that a pump was in the churchyard.

Tenants on Hocklesgate had been sent a letter from Mr Pywell asking them to stop putting rubbish in the dyke.

Agreement between Mr Morris and PC read out concerning his tenancy of a plot on Bull Pit ground. Possible compensation claim in event of council giving him notice to quit in future to be investigated.

Allotment tenants' request for posts to mark their plots agreed. Concrete posts 4"x4"x3' cost about £1.16s. Mr Raisboro to provide, tenants to erect.

Mrs Worth had complained about late notice of the meeting. Clerk explained he had been indisposed and this was the first time in 20 years they had been late (one day). Cheques signed for: Fensom £1.8s6d. Drainage £5.15.8. Calthrop & Harvey Hadden Best £3.11.8. Rents £12.10s. Signed F Halgarth 29.3.54

Monday March 29th 1953 5 present 4 absent, no apologies recorded

Village Hall Light – now erected

Bus Shelter Mark – District Auditor thought permission was required to use suggested monogram

Bull Pit – following lack of enthusiasm by East Elloe [EERDC] the matter would be left until October meeting (probably due to “*awkward position just off main road*”)

Hedges/Bensgate Corner – work now done

Morris agreement – Clerk had been legally informed no compensation clause was necessary. Agreement signed.

Allotment posts – Mr Raisboro had been promised a supply at the end of the week by Jepsons of Spalding. Mr F Halgarth had not yet seen tenants to arrange their erection

Chairman said Mr A H Clark had filled in part of dyke alongside the Allotments to max width 15 yards. Councillors thought it harmless and no action to be taken unless the tenants complained.

Letter from Mr Raisboro saying he was moving to Sussex and would have to resign. Vacancy would be left until annual meeting in May.

Letter from EE about further lighting requests. Only one came for outside school. Mr Hesketh said £300 had been allocated for added lighting in the area. Gedney had asked for 15, causing “much discussion” and comments that Fleet would be paying for all the others.

The Clerk was asked for information about absences of councillors from meetings and he read out the instructions.

Bensgate Road corner dyke in need of attention and a letter to be written, also Station Road dyke.

Annual Meeting May 24 1954 Present: Messrs H Waltham, C Hesketh, W A Bennett, F Halgarth, A B Charlton, B Halgarth, Mrs J Worth

Chairman elected: F Halgarth VCh: C Hesketh

Clerk's action in obtaining signatures and sending cheque to Harveys for £2.14.3 rent approved

Allotment posts not delivered by Jepsons, Clerk to investigate
Mr Hesketh was thanked for giving information on additional lighting

Council attendance raised with "much helpful discussion" about dates and suggestion of 2nd Mondays in July, October and February.

Vacancy not to be filled until next Election in May

Permission asked by Village Hall Committee to put notices in the Hargate Bus Shelter and agreed provided no cost incurred by council.

Mr Morris asked permission to erect an extension to the rear of his shop, rented for £10 pa. Agreed a higher rent and new agreement, to his cost.

October 11th 1954 Present: Messrs F Halgarth, H Waltham, C Hesketh, A B Charlton, W A Bennett, B Halgarth. Apologies from Mrs Worth.

Allotment posts – no replies received to Clerk's enquiries and he had been authorised by Chairman to order 8 from Messrs Warricks at 4s each, now delivered.

Bull Pit – Mr Morris was interviewed July 1st by Chairman and VC and agreed on an extension 4' x 6' at rear of his shed at increase of £3pa from October 1954.

Bus Shelter – a plaque with monogram **EIIR 1953** had been approved by the Ministry. Clerk to produce samples of different materials.

Bull Pit discussion about filling in, EERDC preferring to leave it to Fleet to decide. Motion "*That no action be taken for the filling in of the Pit*" carried.

B Halgarth raised question of extra light on approach to Lowgate Road near A Halgarth's house because "it was a really dark spot". Agreed. Mr Hesketh said he would ask for 3 lights on Hocklesgate at EE next meeting on Thursday, being one extra to PC request.

Clerk reported his 22nd audit without "*adverse criticism*".

Cheques signed for Calthrop & Harvey £12.10 Rents; Warricks Concrete £1.12s

February 14th 1955 Present: Messrs C Hesketh (acting ch), H Waltham, B Halgarth
Mrs Worth

Absence of former Baptist Chapel noticeboard caused “*no hardship*”, matter left.

Additional light at Lowgate disregarded by EERDC.

Bus Shelter plaque – bronze to be fixed to front of shelter.

Letter from Holland Association of Parish Councils asking for a rep to attend PC left till next meeting.

Bus shelter – third party insurance to be discussed next time.

Annual Meeting May 23rd 1955 Present: newly elected Councillors W A Bennet, A B Charlton, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, C Hesketh, C S Patchett, Miss E H Patchett, Mrs J M Worth, H Waltham

Chairman elected: F Halgarth, VC C Hesketh

Declaration of Acceptance of office signed by all

Bus shelter plaque now erected to the satisfaction of all

Discussion of insurance to be continued at next meeting after offer of £50,000 for 30s [shillings] pa premium

Various reps elected:

Fleet School Managers: W A Bennett, A W Parkinson

Deacon and Fairfax Charity: C Patchett, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Mrs J M Worth

Fleet Poor Land Trustees: C Patchett, W A Bennett, H Waltham, F Halgarth, A B Charlton

Holland Assn of PCs affiliation caused “prolonged discussions” and decision to “leave the matter on the table”.

Clerk’s salary to remain same

Cllr Patchett resigned having served since April 30 1922. Thanks to be recorded as “*a matter of respect*”. WA Bennett to replace him on D&F charity. Patchett wished to stay on Fleet Poor Land Trust. He put forward C R Hilton as councillor in his place.

Bull Pit: Mr Charlton again suggested filling in but majority against.

Miss Patchett suggested bus shelter near “*the Fleet Road Institution*”. It was pointed out that the Hargate shelter was erected through the Festival of Britain arrangements and although the Council now had the power to approach the Ministry for shelters, they had to be paid for out of Council funds.

Bank Balance at March 31 1955 £10.13s.9d. Cheques: plaque £3.3s., J C Pywell election account £3.8s.11d.

October 10 1955 Present: Messrs Halgarth, Bennet, Waltham, Charlton, Halgarth, Hesketh, Hilton. Apologies from Miss Patchett.

New Councillor Hilton welcomed, signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Bus Shelter Insurance – quote for £2500 for 10s.6d pa. Much discussion ended with proposal that a figure of £15-20,000 should be sought. Chairman and Clerk given power to arrange before next meeting.

Lowgate light asked for in October 1954 in hands of the EERDC.

Village War memorial in need of attention. Clerk was asked to contact Major Entwhistle of the Royal British Legion about it.

Cheques signed.

February 13 1956 Present: Messrs Halgarth, Waltham, Hilton, Bennett, Halgarth, Miss Patchett. Apologies from Hesketh and Charlton.

War Memorial: Work had now been done.

Insurance: Arranged to pay 30s pa for £50,000 cover in view of number of liabilities such as Bus Shelter, footbridge, village hall and various other risks.

Miss Patchett again brought up Bus Shelter near Branches Lane. “*Much constructive criticism took place*” before a proposition was made and seconded to approach EERDC about the use of part of their building there.

Highway matters raised, agreed to raise with Divisional Surveyor, Mr Holt.

Lowgate Road light reportedly not in correct position. A meeting to be arranged.

Cheques: H Sheppard £1.10s. Insurance: G M Fensom 7s.6d. Cleaner of room.

Annual Meeting May 28th 1956 Present: Messrs Halgarth, Bennett, Charlton, Hilton, Patchett. Apologies from Worth and Hesketh.

Chairman Halgarth, VC Hesketh re-elected.

Confirmation of interim cheques paid by clerk: Salary £10.13s to 31.3.56 C Harvey April rents (less tax) £3.5.2.

Business arising from Minutes: Bus shelter proposal – a letter was read from EERD Council's Water Engineer whose building was in question. A number of sluice valves connected with branches from the trunk main on the space between the wall and the footpath should not be obstructed. Miss P still maintained the desirability of a shelter at that end of the village. The subject was left open.

Highway matters and allotments apparently in hand.

Litter bin near the war memorial should be shifted to Rose & Crown, and another one asked for opposite the "*Bull Hotel*" for the "*bus loads of people*" who visited The Bull and Mr Morris' shop, clerk to write.

A bush on Eastgate almost opposite Eastgate House garden considered dangerous and letter to be written to Holland CC to trim it.

Bank balance at 31.3.56 £12.16.3.

October 8 1956 with Messrs Halgarth, Hesketh, Hilton, , Charlton, Bennett, Halgarth, Waltham, Miss Patchett. Audit stamp cheque signed in interim: £2.

Holland Elloe Internal Drainage Board to be approached for repairs to Battle Bridge dyke, previously reported under Highways.

Eastgate bushes not cut enough and another approach to be made to Holland CC.

Litter bins – "*A good deal of discussion took place*" The Clerk pointed out that the British Council had no power to do this, but the Rural Council had. Hesketh responded that requests for litter bins would be followed by too many other requests from other villages for bins, apart from the problem of emptying them. Patchett felt the EE should provide bins where "many bus loads of people stayed" on the Hargate. Proposal to approach EE for bins at the Bull and at Hargate bus shelter.

Lighting - PC Chairman and the "Boardman of the Electricity Board" had visited "Lowgate Road" light. It could not be moved to the opposite side of the road because the pole belonged to the GPO (General Post Office). Councillors suggested visits at night to various sites and Friday October 12th was agreed, meeting in the Hargate.

Clerk reported receipt of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the Parish of Fleet resulting from the survey begun several years ago. The footpaths and bridleways numbered 9. The council considered them, being advised to record them for review in 1961.

Cheque for Holland Drainage £6.15.5.

February 11 1957 with Messrs Hallgarth, Bennett, Hesketh, Charlton, Hilton, Waltham, Halgarth.

Battle Bridge repairs not done. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk had paid cheques: Caltrhops & Harvey Rent £12.10., Mossop & Bowser 5s.

Lighting – EERDC letter stating application to be considered next financial year.

Litter baskets – letter from EE stating action to be taken when next year's rate estimates are discussed. If denied, Mr Morris would be asked to supply one.

EE Local Road Safety Committee asked for parish rep; Mr Hilton seconded.

Vacancy due to Mrs Worth leaving the district; "it was pointed out her attendance had not been good" but Mr Pywell to be consulted.

Annual Meeting May 22 1957 with Messrs Halgarth, Hesketh, Waltham, Bennett, Charlton, Halgarth, Hilton, Miss Patchett.

Although pressed, F Halgarth preferred someone else take over Chair. Hesketh elected and thanks recorded to Halgarth, now VC.

Interim cheques: Inland Revenue £9.4.10; Doubleday salary £10.13.10; Calthrop £3.5.2.

Battlebridge work done.

Lights – agreed by EERDC.

Litter baskets, "*not so favourably received*" as other villages might follow demand, as with the lighting

Vacancy due to "*repeated non-appearance of Mrs J M Worth*" who had now left the village. Mr Pywell had the matter in hand.

Miss Ostler wished to terminate her agreement as quickly as possible, *causing "a good deal of discussion"*. As she was probably going abroad they would help her as much as possible and agreed to accept notice as at April 6 1957 and agree to a new tenant providing they were acceptable. Miss O would sell her business and rent would be paid to October 11 1957.

Additional postal delivery – there was no second delivery although a postal van travelled to Fleet every afternoon. Clerk to write to EE.

Mr Hilton reported on the Road Safety Committee meeting he attended. The Police spoke "*very highly indeed*" of Fleet School who won the Juvenile Section of the EE Road Safety Quiz. He gave credit to them through the Head, Mr Hesketh.

Miss Patchett asked about the sending out of notices of council meetings and was given the official times.

Cheque: JW Chambers stationery £1.6.7.

October 14 1957 with Messs Hesketh, Hilton, Waltham, Bennett, Halgarth, Halgarth. No apologies for absence received.

Second post – postal authorities said volume did not permit; letters could be collected at Fleet PO after 12.30 so the service could not be given.

Miss Ostler – Clerk gave a “*comprehensive report*”. All councillors had received notice of application by a Miss MacKinder of Long Sutton for the tenancy, to operate from October 11 1957. Agreed. Rent £10 pa. Clerk to see Mr Waters about using the old agreement but if new one required, new tenant to bear cost.

Drings allotments – ever increasing drainage rate a concern. Income £31.11., Expenditure £34.6.8. An increase of 15s.pa to be asked for: 4 tenants paying £7 pa, one £7.6s, from April 1958. Clerk to arrange.

Lighting and Litter baskets agreed by EERDC. Lights already supplied. A light on Holbeach Road needed to be moved as it was among the trees.

Bensgate and Church junction dangerous due to leaves, no regular roadman being employed there.

February 10 1958 with Messrs Hesketh, Bennett, Waltham, Halgarth, Hilton, Halgarth, Charlton.

Business arising: Clerk’s letter to tenants about 15s rent increase brought no replies.

Highway matters all in order.

Litter Baskets: Four were now in place at Morris’s shop, Rose & Crown, Bus Shelter and the Chapel

Rights of Way review: letter read from Holland County Council Planning Officer and discussed with no further action deemed necessary.

Insurance of Councillors when on parish business: Cover offered by H Sheppard & Co at 4s per annum. It was suggested the Clerk should also be covered. Cllrs Hesketh and Waltham said they would discuss the matter with Mr Pywell at a meeting of EERDC.

The Clerk read out a letter from Miss Patchett informing them of her resignation due to her forthcoming marriage. It was mentioned that she had been “*a valuable member....always very interested in her work in the interests of the Parish.*” The Clerk was asked to convey best wishes from the Council.

The Chairman referred to a visit from the Rector (Rev Beckett) intimating that the Council should take over the Churchyard but that he had resisted. The Clerk read an instruction on churchyards which stated only closed churchyards could be taken over by a parish council, with a certificate from the Rural District Council.

Street Lighting at Princes Street, Fleet Road raised by Mr Hilton. 3 lights had been turning on and off irregularly. Mr Hesketh said he would raise it with EERDC.

The Clerk said that on May 7th the triennial elections would take place; upon receipt of the nomination papers he would, as usual, distribute to the Council.

Annual Meeting Tuesday May 20th 1958 Elected Chair: Hesketh welcomed Cllrs Bennet, Hilton, Waltham, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Charlton, specially new Cllrs JG (George) Johnson and L Redden. All signed the Declaration. Cheques confirmed.

Business arising from previous minutes: Bus shelter litter basket had been dented and it was decided it should be put inside the shelter, the clerk to write to EERDC. Accident insurance was discussed a great deal with letters read out by the Clerk and a decision made to accept Sheppard's cover for the Clerk on similar conditions as the councillors from Midland Employers Mutual Assurance Ltd. This was recorded in the Minutes specially. A cheque for £1.14.6 was signed for cover to 11.01.1959.

Fleet School Managers: Bennett, Parkinson.

Deacon & Fairfax: Bennett, Halgarth, Halgarth, Johnson

Fleet Poor Law Trustees: C Patchett, Bennett, Waltham, Halgarth, Charlton

Best Kept Village competition: Clerk produced various papers and discussion took place "*at great length*" but the proposition was found to be "*very difficult to operate*". The Clerk had been questioned by a member of the local Women's Institute but a unanimous decision was made not to participate and the matter would be left on the table.

Any other business: B Halgarth described "*a bad smell*" on Hocklesgate also reported about a year ago, Clerk to write to EERDC.

Fleet School again in Final of Junior Road Safety Quiz to be held next day at Long Sutton, all invited by Cllr Hesketh.

Light at Coy/Hensons Corner: Cllr Johnson said 4 buses unloaded at this dangerous spot on the main Spalding-Wisbech road. A light could be put on a pole already there. Clerk to write to EERDC but was reminded it would be in next year's estimates.

Allotments at Fleet Fen: Mr Redden said many would be pleased to have one. It was pointed out that the PC had no money to buy land but could hire if it were available.

Holland Association of Parish Councils: letters and circulars read and discussed but after a vote was taken, no participation decided, as before, against an amendment by Cllr Charlton in favour.

Cheque for insurance as above.

October 20 1958 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Waltham, F Halgarth, Bennett, Charlton, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, B Halgarth

Business arising:

Hocklesgate, Fleet Drain Clerk read out correspondence and Cllr Waltham was asked to report on the matter as discussed at EERDC and did so "*very fully indeed*". It would be an expensive matter to deal with the smell. The Sanitary Inspector estimated about £1000. Many homes and sites were similarly inflicted in the area. The progress of the Public Health Inspector would be watched and reported to the Parish Council.

Lights – Fleet Coy. The Clerk read correspondence on this and stated that a letter dated 22 July 1958 from EE stated an application had been made to the Electricity Board. It was pointed out that the two members of the EE had been largely responsible for "*pushing the matter along*".

Safety Quiz. The Chairman reported that Fleet School had again won the cup. Cllr Waltham thanked the Chairman on behalf of the council for his work enabling "*his boys to be so successful*".

The Clerk produced a letter from Holland CC Planning Dept on the Review of Public Rights of Way. A public meeting was necessary, even if no changes were to be made. The Clerk agreed to speak to the responsible officer about having a meeting before the next Parish Council meeting.

Fleet School Managers: Mr Bennet was now a Holland County Councillor, leaving a vacancy. Mr Hilton voted on.

Any other business:

Closure of Railway Two representatives and the Clerk had attended a protest meeting at Spalding.

Fleet Coy: Cllr Johnson reported an old structure on the corner. This had to be referred to EE Road Safety Committee as PC had no power to act.

Parish Stone: Cllr Charlton reported the stone was down on the Fleet/Holbeach border. Cllr Waltham to investigate and report at next meeting.

Clerk asked for salary adjustment to be considered in view of "*relevant facts*". He was asked to leave the meeting. On his return the Chairman told *him* "*his work was very satisfactory*" and they had agreed an increase to £10 plus £1 for the allotments. This was to be reviewed from time to time, and the Clerk to apply accordingly.

As Cllr Charlton was approaching his 50th year on the Council, the Clerk would check and some form of recognition would be made.

Cheques signed: Holland & Elloe Drainage £8.6.9; Hadden Best Stationery £3.0.
Calthrop Rents £12.10s.

Parish meeting January 12th 1959 (as advertised) to discuss Public Rights of Way.

The Clerk read the letter from Holland CC and list of 9 Rights of Way agreed five years ago. Letter to be sent confirming no alterations.

Council meeting followed: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, F Halgarth, H Waltham, Hilton, B Halgarth, Redden, Johnson.

Business arising: Fleet Coy corner, Cllr Charlton's length of office, Hocklesgate drain.

Neither the Road Safety Cttee nor Police saw any need for action.

Cllr Charlton started service March 13 1910 and it would be 50 years in 1960. He was absent through indisposition and the clerk would write to him.

Cllr Waltham reported on Hocklesgate drain item at EE meeting, progress was being made and a pipe and land drain were to be installed, £300 being given by Holland CC towards cost.

"The most important business" was the review of Government and District Boundaries. Very thorough discussion took place over maps of the Fleet boundaries, too many ideas to record them all, but the following alteration was agreed on the Holbeach side: from the northern end of the parish from Hurn Road to White Ladies Corner, thence westerly along Hurn Road via Laurel Lodge to Malting Lane Corner, down Malting Lane over the railway crossing along Damgate Road to join Strongs Bank, thence in a southerly direction in a straight line to join the existing boundary, cutting out the irregular triangle as shown on the survey map.

Revised maps and other data would be supplied at the appropriate time. A suggestion by Cllr Waltham was unanimously agreed upon that the Fleet Council be legally represented in their future discussions, as it was thought other councils would be so represented.

The Clerk was asked to put this scheme before the EE and to mention that they be asked to send a representative in support of their case. Cllr Hilton said there were about 300 people in his area that the press had suggested should be annexed to Holbeach and he agreed to promote a petition to protest against this if the suggestion went through. 19 people were also in receipt of the Fleet Dole.

Cheques signed.

Annual Meeting Wednesday May 29th 1959

Elected Chairman: Cllr Hesketh, VC F Halgarth. Present: Bennett, Hilton, Charlton, Halgarth, Waltham, Johnson.

Business arising from previous minutes: Mr Charlton's length of service confirmed by Clerk from March 13 1910. Mr Charlton thought he had been elected a year earlier

but the Clerk said the information was recorded in the Minute Book and "*thought this signed evidence confirmed what he had already said.*"

Hocklesgate Drain: Cllr Waltham said the estimate was about £800 for this work.

Review of Boundaries: The Clerk produced various correspondence on the matter and Mr Hesketh explained that he and the clerk had met Mr Waters as agreed. A petition had been formulated and a list of names recorded in a register taken round that part of the village it was understood Holland CC wished to take from Fleet Parish. It was prefixed: "*We, the undersigned Parishioners of Fleet, being aware of the proposal to incorporate our properties into the Parish of Holbeach hereby record our objection to the proposal and signify our desire to remain in Fleet Parish.*"

The response to this appeal was that 100% of the Council wished to record their congratulations to Cllr Hilton on his hard work. It was no easy task to go round and visit householders for this purpose and his achievement would be of immense value when the time came for this Review of Local Districts to be discussed. The list would remain with the Clerk until required.

It was mentioned that Holbeach Parish Council had put forward a suggestion that they annexe the four council houses at [unreadable] Road at Fleet Fen. A little while ago it was raised that some of these householders wanted allotments and Fleet Council could not supply, whereas possibly Holbeach could.

The boundary stone near Laurel Lodge was to be seen by Cllrs Waltham and Charlton and their findings reported at the next meeting.

National Assn of Parish Councils had written about the Boundary Review. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk was considering "*the withdrawal of his telephone on account of the cost*". A great deal of council business was done on the telephone. The Clerk said he had used his telephone for 12 years for the Council and other councils helped pay costs for their clerks. He asked for £4 a year being one third of the rental. The Clerk left the room. When recalled, he was informed the council did not agree to pay part of the rental but would increase his salary to £14 pa with effect from April 1958. The Clerk said he would consider their findings, to which he later agreed.

Friday March 11th 1960 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Hilton, Bennett, F Halgarth, Charlton, B Halgarth, Redden, Johnson, Waltham.

It was pointed out that it was some time since the last meeting but contact had been made with the Chairman and Councillors on a number of points and cheques agreed as: Doubleday £2; Holland Court of Sewers £8.19.2, Calthrop & Harvey Rent £12.10; Mossop & Bowser Bond Premium 5s. H Sheppard Insurances £3.16s. Inland Revenue Land Tax £8.8.6d

Business arising: Cllr Charlton – "*the meeting was pleased to see him present that evening and hoped his health would improve for of late he had been subject to slight*

indisposition.” The Chairman made special mention of the fact that it was almost identical to the day 50 years ago that Cllr Charlton became a parish councillor “a terrific achievement” and he was unaware of any other EE councillor who had achieved “that distinction”. “The meeting would be very happy indeed to make special mention to this in their minutes and the Council would like to mark the occasion in some way. This unique record would be given the publicity it richly deserved.....” Discussion followed and it was decided Cllr Charlton should be given a dinner at The Bull Hotel, Fleet, on March 24 1960 and certain guests invited: Mr Pywell, Clerk to EERDC, Mr Patchett, Rev Beckett, and Editor of the Free Press, Mr Franks. The Clerk to arrange.

Hocklesgate drain: Cllr Waltham said the work had been done.

Parish Boundaries: No further developments.

Boundary Stone: Not yet visited, and not yet established that the stone was in fact a boundary stone.

Nat Assn of Parish Councillors: Clerk had obtained details and much discussion followed. Agreed no action to take place.

World Refugee Year: Clerk produced details and a meeting was held by EERDC attended by Chairman. All parish councils to report to EE. Considered a “very deserving cause indeed”. Various villagers had given and the Boy Scouts had been round collecting. There seemed to be no more action required by the council.

B Halgarth reported overhanging bushes on Hocklesgate/Charles Road dangerous.

Cllr Johnson asked for additional lighting at Fleet Fen. EE members Hesketh and Waltham said this was possible if the poles were there. Clerk to ask for one for Fleet Fen and five more, 3 for council houses at Eastgate and 2 on Station Road to Church End. This could be discussed at next EE meeting.

Annual Meeting Monday May 23rd 1960 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Waltham, Bennett, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, B Halgarth, F Halgarth. Cllr Hesketh re-elected as Chairman, F Halgarth VC.

Business arising from previous Minutes:

Chairman reported Cllr Charlton’s poor health would prevent the celebratory dinner and perhaps an article in the Spalding Free Press would be more appropriate, Clerk to arrange.

Boundary Stone: Cllr F Halgarth reported nothing had been done

National Assn of PCs: Clerk produced literature and much discussion followed. Decision made to leave in abeyance till winter meeting.

World Refugee Fund: EERDC letter asking about monies collected. Clerk instructed to write and explain some money was given by individuals. Cllr Johnson said £7 was collected by Fleet Fen School.

Bushes on Hocklesgate: satisfactorily attended to

Lighting in the village: Letter had been written. Two more lights required at Holbeach Drove near that proposed at Lambert Bridge.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme correspondence, begun in 1950 when cost was just over £183,000, now £587,000. A letter from EERDC asked Fleet PC to accept revised proposal. Clerk instructed to write "*that the Fleet Council could not give support to the Scheme since it only served a very small portion of the village*".

Drings Exrs Agent letter asking rents to be referred to arbitration. Decided to leave it on the table for later discussion.

Fen representatives voiced a complaint about a road outlet near Lambert Bridge. Clerk instructed to contact Mr Holt of Holland CC to arrange a meeting with two councillors.

Bus Shelter painting decided upon and Chairman given power to arrange with Mr Bollons.

Financial position considered "*sound*", balance at March 31st 1960 £33.15s.3d, standing at present at £59.2s.11d.

Tuesday September 27th 1960 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, Waltham

Prior to previous minutes, Chairman reported Mr Charlton's death on September 18th and made brief eulogy including "*He was always forcible in debate and always presented his case as his conscious dictated.*" A wreath from the Council was sent and many Cllrs attended his funeral, acting as a guard of honour when the coffin entered the Chapel. Cllr Waltham associated himself with the sentiments and wished this to be minuted.

Business arising:

Nat Assn of Councillors – left for decision at next meeting

World Refugee Fund – considered dealt with

Sewage – Fleet could not support scheme

Bus Shelter – No reply from Mr Bollons

Allotments – letter from Hix & Son urging £10 per acre to be paid by PC rather than going to arbitration. Negotiation with Mr Hix had agreed £8, as paid by other councils. Allotment Tenants would have to pay more, especially as this year's rate was 35s more than last year. After much discussion £7 was decided upon and the Clerk authorised to agree £8 if £7 were not acceptable. It was noted that the agreement with Drings Exrs was dated in October, not April as suggested in the arbitration documents.

Any other business: Fleet and Fleet Fen lights not yet installed. Cllr Hilton wanted better lighting at Parker's garage but the road being a trunk road, nothing could be done at present.

Cllr Waltham pointed out a vacancy was now caused by the death of Cllr Charlton and the council agreed to wait until the triannual elections next year to fill it.

Cheque for £10.14.7 for drainage.

Friday March 3rd 1961 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, B Halgarth, F Halgarth, Hilton, Johnson, Waltham

Business arising:

Bus shelter – not yet done due to bad weather

Fleet Fen lights installed. Cllrs Hesketh and Waltham reported their lighting discussions at EERDC meetings

Parish Council Assn – it was hoped a final decision would be made at last. After much discussion it was decided not to affiliate.

Allotments – The £7 had been rejected and £8 provisionally accepted. The council would have to pay out about £52 and tenants would have to pay more. It was decided that four would have to pay £11 pa, Mr Morris £11.11s. *“The margin spread over three years at least would allow for any additional increase in the Drainage rates.”* It was agreed that the best method would be to call all the tenants together and place the full facts before them for them to debate as they thought fit. A meeting would be held Friday March 10th 1961 at 7.30 at the school, tenants and councillors to be notified accordingly.

King George Jubilee Fund: Clerk read at length correspondence on this. Chairman and Cllr Hilton and Clerk had attended EERDC meeting, along with Mrs Auben, also a Fleet representative invited by EERDC. An Area Draw was proposed to be held with tickets allocated to parishes according to population, to be distributed if council agreed. Chairman, who also chaired the EERDC meetings, asked if the council approved of their actions. Unanimous approval given. Tickets had to be in by June for the draw. Chairman held them and hoped all Cllrs would help sell them.

Holland CC letter read about making Cherry Lane a one-way street, travelling from the *“housing estate to Proctors Corner”*. Welcomed and agreed by Fleet PC.

March 10th 1961 Allotment Tenants met the full Council to discuss rents. Chairman stated the case. Various tenants answered questions from Councillors. The Clerk gave the various figures *“and it was also pointed out that the Clerk’s action in conversation with Calthrop and Harvey had resulted in the increase”*, proposed from April 6th 1961, being operative from October 11th 1961.

The actual amounts proposed were: 4 tenants £11 per annum; one tenant (Mr Morris) £11.11. pa. The Chairman asked them to notify the Clerk if they accepted or not, as early as possible. Meeting closed. After a little time the Tenants returned to say they accepted the Council figures.

Annual Meeting Tuesday May 30th 1961 Present and signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Cllrs Bennett, B Halgarth, F Halgarth, C Hesketh, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, J Richardson Elected Chairman: Cllr Hesketh, VC F Halgarth. Chairman welcomed J Richardson.

Bus shelter: Now opportune for Mr Bollons to paint it. Chairman arranged to see him.

Allotments: Clerk reported his signing new agreement for increased rental to Drings Exrs for £40 pa, the first new payment to be made on April 6th 1962. Hitherto this payment was planned to commence on October 11 1961. In addition Mr Forvargue of Calthrop Ltd had originally asked for £45 pa but the Clerk pointed out that the 2 rood 21 perches were always reckoned to consist of dykes etc and the Fleet Council were basing their tenants' rents on a figure of £40 pa.

The Chairman said *"the Clerk had indeed done a good turn to the tenants in postponing the increase a further six months"* and it was agreed that the tenant be asked to pay the Stamp Duty on each of the new agreements.

King George Jubilee Trust Fund: Chairman reported tickets were *"being disposed of successfully."* The Draw would be on June 30th.

Representatives until 1964: Fleet School Managers Messrs Hilton, A W Parkinson
Deacon & Fairfax Charity: W A Bennett, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, J G Johnson
Fleet Poor Land Trustees: C S Patchett, W A Bennett, H Waltham, F Halgarth, W H Bingham

"Quite a lot of discussion took place" when Cllr Bennett accounced Trustees had appointed a Mr W H Bingham in place of the late Mr Charlton. The Chairman said the Trustees were appointed by the Council. Mr Patchett had been appointed by the PC although not a councillor himself. They should have been consulted about Mr Bingham. *"The Council was concerned in the operation of both the Fleet Poor Land Trustees and the Deacon & Fairfax Charity, for until a few years ago, annual statements of income and expenditure were submitted to the PC AGM for confirmation. The Village Hall accounts were also produced by the Rector."*

The council bank balance as at March 31 1961 was £42.4s.

Any other business: letter from Cancer Research read by Clerk. B Halgarth agreed to act on it re the flag day in East Elloe.

Cllr Johnson raised question of condition of Coy Road to Langary Gate in the Fen, quarter mile from Decoy Bridge, to notify Holland CC. They were also to be notified about two corners in Hazelwood Lane by Mr Hilton.

A report about bricks stacked near Station Road being dangerous with children seen throwing them on the road. Clerk to ask local authority to shift them.

Thursday October 19th 1961 present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, Waltham, Richardson.

Business arising:

Fleet Coy and Hazlewood Lane work had been done by HCC but the bricks were still a danger in Station Road although it was thought some had been used. Ultimately it was decided the Police should be notified by the Clerk.

It was reported that the Women's Institute had raised £7 for the Cancer Research appeal.

Bust Shelter: Painting and repairs to the seat had been done by Mr Bollons and the account presented. However, complaints had been made about the interior. The Chairman said he would contact the local Policeman to stop the nuisance to other users. The roof had been damaged. It was decided to contact Mr Bollons for repairs.

Notice Board in Church porch: The Rector had seen the Chairman about the Council board which was in bad condition and in need of repair or replacement. The Clerk mentioned that the PC notice board was missing from the entrance to the Baptist Chapel. After "*much discussion*" it was decided that the Council should examine the Church notice board "*to ascertain exactly what was required*". F Halgarth agreed to see the Chapel Trustees about that board. Mr Bollons would be given the work to do.

Any other business: Cllr Richardson asked who was responsible for the War Memorial. The Clerk informed the Council that reasonable costs could be borne by the Council for maintenance if required, regardless of ultimate responsibility. It was suggested that the Royal British Legion might be approached, which Cllr Richardson agreed to do.

Footpath No 1 on survey map– no action to be taken at this stage despite complaints

Cheques: Calthrop & Harvey Oct Rent £12.10s; Holland Court of Sewers Drainage £11.5s; A Bollons, repairs and painting shelter £1.19s.

March 24th 1962 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, Hilton, Waltham, Richardson, F Halgarth, J Johnson, H Redden, B Halgarth

Business arising:

Bricks on Station Road – reported now cleared

Notice boards – Chairman and Clerk examined the Church board as "*the Rector had mentioned that it was perhaps not quite in keeping with the other Notice Board in the Church porch*". It was decided that Mr Bollons should be asked to provide one at the Baptist Chapel and a little one at the Church.

Bus shelter – the roof in need of repair and Mr Bollons to be employed to do it.

War Memorial – much discussion on this. Cllr Richardson said about £50 would have to be spent on repairs and inscribing names of the fallen in 1939-1945 War. This was thought to be "*a little high*" but nobody wanted the Memorial to fall into decay. A letter was read from the British Legion Women's section. The Clerk was asked to reply to Mrs Loweth and ask if the Legion would contribute towards the cost, and how much. It was decided a quote should be obtained for cleaning the Memorial and inserting 6 or 8 names from the 1939-45 War dead, from the following monumental masons:

1. C Warrick & Sons, Market Street, Long Sutton
2. G R Dickens, 79 Eastfield Road, Peterborough

3. Davis & Co, Lynn Road, Wisbech

The Clerk was instructed to determine how many names were to be added “*and if necessary also include any that died in the Fleet Fen*”.

Any other business:

Bull pit: rubbish was being thrown around and people who had adjacent ground were encroaching a little where the pit had been filled in. The Clerk mentioned his efforts some years ago to ascertain the exact area of what was called the “Bull Pit” but no record could be found. He was asked to approach the EERDC again and any drainage authority which might help. Some staking could be done to mark out the Council’s area.

Fleet Road Lighting beyond Parker’s garage reported by Cllr Hilton as “*very poor*” towards Fleet in contrast with the “*powerful Ministry lights*” from the Holbeach end. The EERDC members present pointed out that this lighting job was ‘very expensive’ and there was no money in the current year’s estimate for extra lights. Cllr Hilton said the existing lights were too far apart and another two should be provided. No action.

Cllr Hilton then mentioned white-painted stones at a Mr Capes in Branches Lane being dangerous, too near the road on the corner. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the local surveyor. Cllr Halgarth said that opposite Grays’ bungalow on Hazlewood Lane, the road was dangerous to traffic and red reflectors should be provided. The Clerk was asked to contact the HCC surveyor about this also.

The Clerk said he had that day attended the Parish Council audit at the Council Mattimore House and the accounts and records were found to be in order.

Annual Meeting Tuesday May 22nd 1962 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Waltham, Hilton, F Halgarth, J Richardson, Johnson, Redden, Bennett. Apology from B Halgarth. Re-elected Chairman and VC as before.

Business arising:

Notice boards – Clerk reported agreement with Mr Bollons on the type of board required for the Baptist Chapel. The Church board would be left for the time being, painted if necessary.

Bus shelter roof was examined and Mr Bollons explained how the repair would be done.

Bull pit – Clerk reported OS Maps of 1887 and 1904 “*shewing (sic) the pit*” , 1887 area was 24 perch, 1904 18 perch. Cllr F Halgarth said it had been Council property for 70 years although there seemed to be no deeds. Earlier someone mentioned that it had been assumed to be in order to fill in the pit. Decided that Mr Waters should be seen and also to write, if necessary, to those encroaching on it. “*This matter should be dealt with specially and the Council advised of the result.*”

War memorial: another “*special matter*” with “*a very full discussion*” about its repair etc. Clerk had not asked for quotes because closer inspection revealed no space for extra names added to the 17 who died in WW1 and 81 who served. The council agreed the Clerk’s action and decided to view the Memorial when a reply had been received from the British Legion; this could coincide with a visit to the Bull Pit.

Cllr Hilton again mentioned the need for more lighting on the Fleet Road. After both Cllr Waltham and Cllr Hesketh had given their knowledge of lighting and costs as far as East Elloe was concerned, it was decided to view the spot to confirm whether two or three lights be provided.

Cllr Johnson said that the signpost near Snowdrop House at Fleet Fen had lost an arm, the Clerk to write.

It was decided that if necessary the Council would be called together for reports on the War memorial and the Bull Pit to consider further action.

The Council confirmed the Clerk’s action in collaborating with the Chairman in getting the following cheques signed outside their meetings:

Mossop & Bowser Bond premium 5s; Sheppard Bond Premium £3.16s; S Doubleday Audit Slip £8, Salary plus postages etc £16.6s.10d. Before the meeting closed a cheque for £20 for rent to Calthrop & Harvey was signed.

Special Meeting Friday July 29th 1962 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, Johnson, F Halgarth, B Halgarth, Hilton, Richardson, Waltham. Apology from L Redden.

Minutes of previous meeting read, confirmed and signed by Chairman. Although signed, it was pointed out that the Clerk had overlooked that it was duly passed that the parish notice board in the church porch should be painted and re-lettered.

Business arising:

Baptist Chapel Notice board: The Clerk reported that Mr Bollons had made it and it just required fixing.

Bus Shelter Roof: had been repaired by Mr Bollons

Lights: Several Cllrs had visited Fleet Road, Holbeach and considered that only one light was required opposite Mr Ladbrook’s bungalow, Clerk to contact EERDC.

Direction sign arm near Snowdrop House, Fleet Fen: Cllr Johnson thought this had been done.

Protruding Stones at Branches Lane: Cllr Hilton said these had now been placed back about a foot which was better

Hazlewood Lane opposite Grays Bungalow: Cllr B Halgarth was to check this.

Bull Pit: Clerk reported some encroachment noted after survey. Present owner Mr L Ward had planted plants on a portion of Council land. Although they could justly

fence it, it would be better to discuss with Mr Ward and fence from the bottom across some 43 feet, squared off towards the dyke at the Main Road. The Chairman, VC and Clerk would see Mr Ward. Later, Mr Bollons to be approached for fixing three concrete posts to mark boundaries, about 2' – 2'6" above ground.

War memorial: Clerk reported read out the only tender received, having sent out 3. Mr G R Dickens quoted £45.10s.9d to cover insertion of 1939-45 names and including £37.10s for cleaning. "*A good discussion took place*" and final decision made that Clerk should ask the two other firms for tenders by August 7th 1962 and ask Mrs Loweth how much her branch would contribute. A meeting would be held in September to discuss these matters.

Railway Crossings: Clerk produced letters via the EERDC about the British Transport Commission proposal to deal with three level crossings in the parish at No 88 Hocklesgate, 89 Little Marsh Lane and 9 Branches Lane. Also attached was a copy of the original from the District Estates Surveyor, Peterborough, to the Clerk of the County Council, Boston, outlining the proposals made to the Minister of Transport. There were to be speed restrictions, various Stop & Whistle boards, road crossing signs, illuminated boards, etc. It was mentioned that some danger existed as two crossings were used by children going to school but it was thought that the five trains daily would not necessarily coincide with the times the children crossed the gates.

It was agreed after discussion to accept the proposals as they would have to be adopted in any case if the Ministry sanctioned them.

Any other business:

Clerk said Rector reported the gate broken leading from the churchyard to The Crooked Billet and asked for an ordinary type to be substituted. Council agreed to take no action. Cllr Waltham reported hedge from the Nut Walk gate to the Seven Acre gate along Bengate Road needed attention, Clerk to write to the Rector. Clerk reported he had attended Council audit at EE that week.

Cheques signed for: Pocklington Fees £1.5s.; S Doubleday Audit £2.

April 3rd 1963 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, F Halgarth, Johnson, Hilton, Richardson, Redden, B Halgarth, Waltham. Apology from Cllr Bennett.

Business arising:

Lights – Chairman reported on EE meeting that "*a certain parish had from time to time asked for rather excessive lights andFleet had withdrawn their application*"

Hazlewood Lane: Clerk to write to Highways Dept and ask if red studs had been installed as asked for

Bull Pit: Various Cllrs had viewed the site and agreement had been reached. The concrete posts had been ordered.

War Memorial: Clerk reported meeting of Council and Mr Davis and read correspondence. Mr Davis urged the greatest care in cleaning and suggested meeting the Council to discuss methods used. It was decided to offer the work to two local builders, Mr Bollons and Mr F W Coupland, Clerk to write.

Rectory site: Cllr Waltham said since the HCC repaired paths in the churchyard, Council should do gate repairs, Clerk to ask local surveyor.

Parish Boundaries: Various letters were read. EE suggested meetings with adjoining parishes. Maps again produced and decision that their plan should stand relating to Holbeach; Gedney should be left for time being. Clerk to arrange meeting with Holbeach PC and Mr Mossop for advice on Gedney claim. Mr Waters should also be asked to attend.

Fleet Fen: Cllr Johnson reported Coy Road in bad condition after the very severe weather; Clerk to report to HCC.

Bus Shelter: Damage reported and police to be informed. Mr Bollons also.

Additional note (p101): The following members of the Council met Holbeach PC at Mattimore House on Tuesday April 23rd to discuss parish boundaries: Hesketh, F Halgarth, Hilton, Bennett, Waltham, B Halgarth, Johnson, Richardson and Clerk. Holbeach PC had 10 cllrs and Mr J Mossop and Mr R Sharp, assistant clerk.

Press were excluded. After several Fleet cllrs had expressed their views Mr Mossop read various letters for the benefit of his councillors who apparently were not fully conversant with the matter. After much debate a revised plan was agreed with a boundary along the dyke from the SE corner of OS no 1059, northward to the Main Road, thence between Caister House and Mrs Stubley, northwards in a direct line until it joins the old boundary on the north side of OS 1102. North of the Washway it was suggested the boundary run north east along the east side of OS 1057 to NE corner and then directly to western corner of OS 979.

Fleet councillors to cede to Holbeach the six houses on Church site adjoining Holbeach St Johns (Part OS 513).

This Minute conveyed to EERDC.

Annual Meeting May 28th 1963

Present: Cllr Hesketh unanimously elected as Chairman. *"The Chairman then called the meeting to stand in silence in memory of Mr Fred Halgarth who they were sorry to have lost since their last assembly. Mr Halgarth had served the parish for a great number of years and was the oldest serving councillor. Mention of his yeoman service was to be recorded in the Minutes. The Clerk said a letter of sympathy had been sent to Mrs Halgarth and family and the Council had good representation at the funeral, when a wreath was also sent."*

"Nomination of Vice-Chairman was then called for and Mr Waltham proposed and seconded, but he withdrew and proposed W A Bennett, C Hilton seconded, and Mr Bennett was appointed."

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 3rd were signed and also the meeting between Fleet and Holbeach PC.

Business arising:

Hazlewood Lane: Studs still required though some work done by HCC. Clerk to write.

Bull Pit: Stakes now erected by Mr Bollons and all in order.

Rectory gate: Clerk reported Highways Dept refusal to take responsibility. It was pointed out that HCC had repaired path and gate for 30/40 years and this should be made clear to them. Clerk to write again.

War memorial: No reply from two builders, only from Mr Bollons stating the difficulty of quoting in view of the delicate nature of the work. He had told the Clerk he would need to engage a stonemason (Warricks of Long Sutton) and the work could cost from £60 to £120. Decision made to call a Parish meeting on Friday June 14th, to be advertised in usual places and in Spalding Free Press of June 11th.

Clerk's salary: Clerk stated only two increases in 30 years and left the room but was recalled to answer more questions. Salary increased to £30 pa forthwith. Clerk thanked them.

Fleet Church Council letter read asking for help with churchyard maintenance and that Gedney Church received help from their Parish Council. Cllr Waltham said Church and Chapel should be treated the same. Clerk said he had no specific information on this.

Agreed not to fill council vacancy until 1964 elections.

Fleet Poor Land Trustees appointed: Mr Hilton to replace Mr C Patchett; Mr B Halgarth Mr F Halgarth;

Mr Bollons account £15.11s.10d.

Parish Meeting June 14th 1963 Present: C Hesketh (Ch), Mrs Seth, Rev Beckett, Hilton, Bennett, Waltham, Richardson and Clerk.

Chairman stated the object of the meeting was to consider a request from the Womens Section of the Royal British legion of 14th ? 1961 asking if something could be done in the cleaning down of the War Memorial. Costs had been quoted to the PC from £50 to £120. A rate would need to be levied on the parish for this work and the consent of the village was required before going ahead. The British Legion had offered £20. The Chairman asked for the views of those present. Despite advertising in the local press, "*there seemed to be no interest*" apart from councillors, only two others attended. The Chairman summed up by saying that with so little interest a

rate could not be asked for: *"It is pretty obvious that there is no interest in the Memorial"*.

The Clerk was asked to make suitable reference in the local press to the lack of interest.

A cheque was authorised to be signed for the Free Press advert payment.

October 30th 1963 Present: Cllrs Hesketh, Bennett, Waltham, Hilton, Johnson, Redden, Halgarth, Richardson.

Business arising:

Hazlewood Lane: studs now installed

Rectory Gate: Clerk reported contacts with Boston Surveyor Dept proved unfruitful, no trace being found on OS maps of the gate's position. Earlier it had been reported that the Roadman had maintained the pathway through the churchyard for many years. It was decided the Clerk should write again and the gate made secure to prevent its being taken away.

Maintenance of Church Burial Ground: PCC application for assistance discussed. Clerk produced information from the Parish Council Act of 1957 Section 10 giving power to contribute. Decided some help should be given to both Church and Chapel. Member of the PCC, Jack Richardson, was asked how much should be given but did not know. It was decided to give £10 to the Church for 1964 and £5 to Chapel, for annual review.

Boundaries: Nothing to report.

(Bull Pit) *"Having heard rumours of the marriage of a Miss Morris the Clerk was asked about the agreement and if he had been informed of any change of ownership."* If so, he was to contact Mr G Morris and report to the Council.

Cheque £1.16s.9d Hadden Best (stationery)

Friday January 31st 1964 Present: Hesketh, Hilton, Halgarth, Redden, Richardson, Johnson. Apologies from W A Bennett. Cheques approved.

Business arising:

Churchyard Gate: Clerk reported letter from Highways Dept that they were unable to provide maintenance. Clerk instructed to investigate the pathway and who was responsible for it.

Bull pit: Termination of Morris agreement thought likely since his daughter's marriage, Clerk to investigate terms.

A main Agenda item was the precept and whether the Council would issue on the EE. Clerk gave full account of finances and reported that the Council could hold their own, and apart from special items like the Bollons account (£15.11.10) and £15

Burial grants, the Council's balance would be almost the same at year end March 31st 1964 as in 1962 & 1963 (£40.5.9. 1962, £43.11.10 1963).

Examples were in 1949 owing to an architect's fees of £22 a precept was issued; in 1952, (the last time one was issued) when the sale of the old Jail did not quite meet the price of the proposed Bus Shelter. *"Since nowadays a precept can only be asked for yearly, if the Council decided not to issue one on the East Elloe for year ending 1965, it would be 1966."* Since the Burial grants are to be reviewed annually, they could only be increased if a precept were issued. Again, if any ground rent tenants terminated their agreements we would be unable to balance our accounts without a precept. Our allotment account was self-supporting at present despite an increase of nearly £2 in the Drainage rate for the current year.

"A good deal of discussion took place" and B Halgarth was not too happy about a precept although it was mentioned that a penny rate brings in some £96 which would probably last several years. The Council had been fortunate in not wanting any extra money for the last 12 years but additional money could be needed to balance the General Account in the next year. A proposal was unanimously agreed that a precept be issued on the EERDC representing a penny rate. A precept was signed.

Grant to Parish Church: letter from PCC read accepting £10 for 1964 but they understood Sutton Bridge secured £80 and Gedney £40. Cllr Richardson informed Council of surprise over such a small amount compared with others. It was pointed out that the sum was under annual review and would be discussed later on.

Lincoln Cathedral Appeal: Cllrs Richardson and Bennett had attended a meeting at Long Sutton on behalf of the Council. Decision to alert local clergy to form a committee to get the appeal going.

Any other business:

Long Lane, Fleet Fen: Cllr Johnson reported condition of the footpath passing the Fleet Fen School. Clerk to inform Highways authority.

Chairman Hesketh reported a meeting with doctors to discuss closure of Holbeach Hospital. No doubt Council would be asked to assemble petitions against closure.

Cheques signed.

No action on Gedney PC to alter bus time at Gedney Drove End.

Annual Meeting May 27th 1964 H Waltham elected Chairman, W Bennett VC. Mr Paul was welcomed as a new member, apology from Mr Waters.

Business arising:

Churchyard Gate and path: still to be taken up with HCC to ascertain responsibility

Bull Pit: Mr Morris to be seen by Clerk and his agreement examined in light of the closure of the shop

Burial Ground Grants: Clerk informed Council that District Auditors held no obligation by Council to contribute to maintenance costs and the loan should not be regarded as automatic. The Council could ask to see accounts and decide accordingly.

Lincoln Cathedral Appeal: some effort from the parish was in progress

Officers for 1964-69 School managers: Messrs Parkinson, Hilton
Deacon & Fairfax: Bennett, Halgarth, Johnson, Paul
Poor Land Trustees: Bennett, Waltham, Hilton, Halgarth,
Bingham

Any other business: Clerk reported his attendance at Council Audit, all in order.

Cllr Redden reported some improvement to road signs at the Holland Drain end of Nealsgate was needed. In bad and foggy weather the three posts could not be seen, being painted red at the top only, until a vehicle was near. Red reflectors needed. Highways Dept to be notified.

Fleet Fen: Cllr Johnson reported that HCC had scoured the drain and widened the road at Langarygate from Coy Bridge to the corner and it was left in dangerous condition. He thought red reflectors should be placed at the side of the road. Clerk to notify HCC.

Cllr Bennett stated that former Chairman C Hesketh was leaving the district and appreciation of his services to the Council should be made in the Minutes. This was endorsed by the Chairman, Clerk to send letter to Mr H accordingly.

Monday January 25th 1965 Present: Waltham, Bennett, Johnson, Redden, Halgarth, Hilton, Richardson, Waters, Paul. Chairman welcomed Cllr Waters who signed the Declaration of Office.

Business arising:

Langary Gate posts done. Cllr Johnson not happy with state of road as reported before and requested three more reflectors. Council agreed.

Churchyard footpath and Gate: Clerk produced letters from HCC who agreed to accept responsibility but wanted letter from the Parochial Church Council saying they accepted it was a right of way and they had never prevented public usage. Cllr Richardson agreed to pursue this. The Gate was debated and although the old gate had been removed, the Council decided to press HCC for a replacement.

Church finance: Letter from PCC was read asking for donation for 1965 to help maintain the graveyard. The Clerk read the Minute from the previous meeting on this and Council asked various questions of Cllr Richardson. He said about £60 would be very acceptable. Many views were expressed and it was ascertained that the Baptist Chapel had not asked for a donation. Further debate took place "*at very great length*" and it was decided to contribute money in the form of a grant. If a rate was

levied the whole parish would pay, and Cllrs Johnson and Redden stressed that it was a facility “*nobody their end of the parish*” could enjoy. On the other hand, if the Parish acquired adjacent land and took over responsibility for the graveyard upkeep, a rate would be justified. Finally it was decided to double the grants to the Church and Chapel made in 1964, £20 and £10. Carried unanimously.

Any other business:

Extra lighting had been requested in various parts of the village. Chairman said £5000 was spent annually in E Elloe. The Council decided to go round the village and see how many were needed.

Cllr Hilton complained of bushes fouling the pavement on the north side of Holbeach road. Clerk to notify HCC.

Traffic: Cllrs Richardson and Paul asked if speed restriction could be made on the Main Road in Fleet village and from Holbeach to Jubilee Cottages. It was pointed out that restricted areas were being squeezed rather than enlarged. It was decided to ask the authority for a 40mph limit at both places.

Council were invited to a memorial service for the late Sir Winston Churchill at the Parish Church at 7pm Friday January 29th 1965.

Bull pit: HCC tubular fence reported broken, Clerk to advise Highways Authority.

Annual Meeting May 24th 1965 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Johnson, Redden, Paul, Halgarth, Richardson, Hilton. Cllrs Bennett and Redden proposed and seconded H Waltham as Chairman. Cllrs Johnson and Richardson proposed and seconded W Bennett as Chairman. “*The amendment was put forward and two members were in favour. The original amendment was next put and 4 members were in favour. Thus H Waltham was appointed Chairman for the year.*” VC Bennett appointed.

Business arising:

Langary Gate: The additional reflectors had been provided.

Churchyard footpath and gate: Clerk read the latest letter from Highways that HCC would maintain the footpath when labour is available, gate to be maintained by PCC who maintain the other gates on the churchyard boundary. After discussion the clerk was instructed to continue pressing Highways for the gate.

Lights: Owing to Mr Waters resigning his position, no inspection had yet been made. The EERDC members (Waltham and Bennett) to inspect and report at next meeting.

Bushes: now removed

Speed restriction: Road Safety meeting on Friday 28th inst for discussion

Bull pit Fencing: HCC could not undertake repair. It was pointed out that HCC had provided the original fencing before the huts were erected and years ago guarded the pit. Clerk to write to HCC pointing out that it was their responsibility.

A light near Mr J Chapman's house on Station Road was hidden by a tree and EE to be asked to shift it one post nearer the Station.

Vacancy on council due to Mr Waters leaving the district. Two names proposed and seconded: Mr A Halgarth proposed by W A Bennett, seconded by B Halgarth; Mr B Mitchell proposed by Mr J G Johnson, seconded by L Redden. Mr A Halgarth of The Limes, Fleet, was elected by 4 votes to 2. Clerk to ask him if he wished to stand.

Bull pit: letter from EE Health Dept that under the Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, the two timber constructed shops on the site did not comply with the Act and should be demolished. The two EE members would discuss at EE Public Health meeting and report.

Hensons Pit at Fleet Fen: letter about ownership was read and the council decided that since it was not their property no action be taken.

Any other Business:

Station crossing: now disused and cause for concern; condition of the road to be kept under surveillance for any disturbance of the line.

Bus shelter: seat broken. Chairman and VC to inspect and contact Mr Bollons. It was thought some 7x2 timbers would prevent youths breaking it.

Clerk to write to HCC re a bus shelter near the mental hospital, Fleet Road.

Monday September 27th 1965 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Hilton, Paul, Johnson, Redden, Richardson, Halgarth, A Halgarth. Mr A Halgarth welcomed as co-opted Councillor in place of Mr Waters.

Business arising:

Churchyard gate: HCC Surveyors letter of 16th June read, again stating no responsibility. After some expressions of opinion, it was decided this had to be accepted.

Lights: Mr Waltham and Mr Bennett to report at next meeting. A light to be moved as requested but not yet done, Clerk to repeat request.

Speed restrictions: EE letter stated the Police did not think it necessary to enforce restrictions through the village.

Bull pit fencing: County Surveyor's letter of 16th July stated the Ministry does not maintain fences on trunk roads and though fences are erected when improvements are made, they are handed over to adjacent owners for maintenance. Previously the Clerk had written stating that HCC had painted the fence before. Chairman, VC and Cllr Richardson to look at it and report back.

Offices and shops on pit: nothing further had been heard.

Hensons Pit: Cllr Johnson, supported by Mr Redden, said a nuisance was being caused by vermin in the pit. After some discussion, Clerk to inform EERDC.

Bush shelter near hospital: County Surveyors letter of 30th June asked for a sketch and position. Clerk to submit this information after finding out how Gedney Council had erected a shelter on the Long Sutton main road. Other consultation would take place after gaining permission from County Planning.

Clerk read letter from Lt Col G A Ground, Chairman of HCC, on the proposed amalgamation of Holland and Kesteven. Nine points outlined the implications. Council agreed to support HCC and a specimen resolution of objection was agreed upon, to be sent to Whitehall by 30th September.

Any other business:

Hargate Room: no action taken.

Bensgate Road: Cllr Bennett said a grating had been tarmacked over and water accumulated after heavy rain, Clerk to notify Surveyor.

Monday, January 17 1966 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Halgarth, Paul, Hilton, Richardson, A Halgarth, Johnson. Apology from L Redden.

Business arising:

Churchyard gate: Reported found in Rector's possession. No further action.

Lights: Clerk to repeat request to EERDC for Chapman's light in Station Street (sic). Cllr Hilton then raised request for a light opposite Ladbrook's bungalow, Fleet Road. Considering this had been "*on the go*" since 1962, Council decided to ask for one.

Bull pit: Not yet inspected but arrangements to be made.

Bus shelter: Clerk read HCC letter of 10th January on correct procedure. Clerk reported a sketch had been submitted and he had made enquiries about other bus shelter projects recently erected: Long Sutton cost £150. After good discussion, Clerk instructed to obtain County Planning permission.

Holland with Kesteven amalgamation: Meeting at Holbeach on Nov 26th poorly attended but this would probably add 3d or 6d extra on the Rate. Council in favour of opposing, and "*not too happy about canvassing of signatures or petition forms being distributed.*" Clerk to write to EE and see Mr Pywell about it.

Agenda item 3 was vacancy of Mr H Halgarth's allotment from 6th April 1966. Application from Mr Norman William Harris considered. Council decided to advertise in Free Press and consider applications at a later meeting.

Bull pit: Letter from Mrs Johnson re termination of tenancy of the hut she had erected, and would remove by April 6 1966.

Monday February 28th 1966 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Hilton, Paul, Johnson, Redden, Halgarth, Richardson, A Halgarth. Apologies W Bennett.

Business arising:

Lights: Chapman light had been re-sited. Fleet Road Ladbroke's under consideration by EE who were visiting area to report on lights.

Bull pit: About 4 posts broken and fencing down but nothing could be done while huts existed. Would look at site in summer.

Allotments: Written enquiry from Mr Davis met with info from Clerk but no further reply. A Mr Benton from Whaplode had also applied but not proceeded with. Mr Harris's original application granted unanimously at present rent of £11 pa. Clerk to draw up agreement for his signature, probably at next meeting.

Bus shelter: Clerk reported various forms received. A Mr Cox objected if his land was involved, but Clerk to proceed with planning authority regardless.

Any other Business: Hensons Pit: Cllr Johnson reported broken railings, EE to be notified.

Annual Meeting May 20th 1966 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Hilton, Johnson, Hilton, Halgarth, A Halgarth, Paul, Redden. Cllrs Waltham and Bennett re-elected Chairman & VC.

Business arising:

Lights: Since Council was not advised of EE survey of lights, Clerk to write and press for light opposite Ladbrooks. This was first requested in 1962, withdrawn in 1963, re-requested in January 1966.

Bull pit: Clerk reported the hairdressing shop vacated by Mrs Johnson in April still on the site and they had agreed to pay rent until the hut was removed. Broken fence to be inspected by Council.

Allotment: New tenant Mr NW Harris signed agreement.

Fleet Parochial Council: Burial grant asked for. Clerk informed Council that he was asked at a recent audit for Baptist Chapel application for grant included in the accounts. He was unable to comply and was told no monies were to be paid without application. Councils had a duty to call for accounts to justify such applications. Clerk to ask for details re Parish church.

Bush Shelter: HCC representatives were to have met Council this Friday but had postponed until Wednesday week. Council agreed to proceed, Clerk to arrange and report.

Road sweepings left near the telephone kiosk were reported a nuisance at Fleet Church End and would be taken up with HCC.

October 10th 1966 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Paul, Redden, Hilton, Richardson, Halgarth, A Halgarth, Johnson.

Business arising:

Lights: Opposite Ladbrook's bungalow now agreed with E Elloe.

Church Burial Grants: Letter from PCC with total expenditure and income for year ending 31/12/66 generated much discussion as to whether it would be accepted by Auditors. A more detailed set of accounts should be asked for, like that from the Baptist Chapel. "*After much forthright speaking*" Council decided to ask for accounts as submitted to the Annual Church Meeting and exhibited on the Church Notice Board. A similar request to apply to the Baptist Chapel, who submitted bank statements from both Barclays Bank and East Midland Trustees.

Bus shelter: HCC letters were produced and meeting with a Mr Tobin on May 25th at the site reported. Various conditions were required and Council decided to proceed with a 9' x 5' brick structure, asbestos roof, concrete floor, a possible opening 2'6" until it was mentioned a prefab structure already existed, Clerk to enquire.

Bull pit: letter from Mr H Harrison asking to rent Renee's hut as a fruit shop, along with endorsements from HCC Planning Dept and EE with various conditions. Agreed at £15 pa rent.

Allotments: East Elloe letter re survey from Ministry of Land and Natural Resources wanting "*a terrific lot of information from 1945 onwards*" with a 14 page questionnaire, "*a very difficult job*", decided to leave in abeyance.

Friday April 9th 1967 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Hilton, A Halgarth, B Halgarth, Johnson, Redden, Richardson, Paul.

Business arising:

Lights: although agreed with EERDC last year, not yet fixed, Clerk to write again.

Church burial grants: Much discussion over detailed accounts from both churches. Decided to give £20 to Parish church, £10 to Chapel, as their accounts proved need.

Allotments: Mr Harrison had not replied to three letters re his tenancy and other information had come to hand about him. A Mr J H Davis of Holbeach Bank had applied. East Elloe had also heard from him asking permission to retail bulbs, flowers, vegetables and had agreed on certain conditions. Decided to allow him have an allotment at £15 pa in place of Mr Harrison, and Mr D to pay costs of agreement.

Bull pit: Cllr Hilton to find out if rats were under Mr Morris's hut as alleged.

Bus Shelter on Fleet Road: Clerk reported HCC had been written to and request for removal of tree trunk by Mr J Cox. He had visited Moulton and seen bus shelter like the one proposed for Fleet Road. It cost £128 and was built by a Mr Gott of Holbeach St Johns. No money had been asked for it and this would go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Highways: a "Give Way" sign would be asked for at the junction of Hallgate, Church End, near the church entrance.

Stones on the verges in Branches Lane and Sudbury Lodge considered dangerous, HCC to be notified.

A sign "Fleet Station" on the post at the Hargate crossroad was thought misleading, there being no Fleet Station as such. Decided to request "Fleet Church" sign instead.

Cheques issued between meetings: Mossop & Bowser 5s; H A Sheppard £3.16s; S Doubleday £2; S Doubleday £22.13s.9d; Calthrop & Harvey Rent £20. April 1967.

Annual Meeting Friday June 25 1967 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, R Frisby, A Halgarth, B Halgarth, Johnson, Redden, Richardson. Waltham and Bennett reelected Chairman and VC. Cllr Frisby welcomed.

Business arising:

Lights: Opposite Ladbrokes the bracket lamp on a pole now assembled.

Mr Davis tenancy agreed and in hand. Rubbish was reported at rear of his shop, Clerk to ask him to provide a bin.

Church burial grants cheques signed as agreed.

Bus Shelter: lengthy discussion after letters were produced. Clerk to ask Mr Paul to ascertain how many people used the bus stops. Cllr Redden suggested a bus stop in Fleet Fen but no decision taken.

Highways: HCC had agreed to the three points raised at last meeting: "Give Way" sign, "Fleet Church" to replace Station sign and obstructions on verges removed.

Bull pit: Chairman had been approached by Electricity Board to transfer wires to a pole in the pit from Mr Morris's shop, Council agreed.

Appointments: School managers: Messrs Parkinson and Richardson
Deacon & Fairfax: WA Bennett, B Halgarth, JG Johnson,
AF Halgarth

No appointments made for Fleet Poor Land Trustees as PC not concerned.

Bank balance to y/e 31st March 1967 £54.14s.7d.

Any other business: Plans for A17 Trunk Road no 51 proposed diversion from HCC

caused much discussion but to be left for other comments.

Cllr Frisby reported rubbish being dumped in a dyke adjacent to the allotments. He and Chairman to visit.

Hensons Pit: Clerk to write again to local authority.

Fleet Fen: Poplar trees needed trimming at junction of Leasgate-Fleet Coy at Lamings Farm – on the St Johns – Sutton St James road, Clerk to notify HCC.

November 10th 1967 Present: All except A Halgarth, L Redden.
Chairman welcomed back Cllr Frisby who had been indisposed at Kings Lynn Hospital.

Previous minutes read, confirmed and signed by Chairman (as usual).

Business arising:

Bus stop: no survey possible due to roadworks for sewage installation.

Bull pit : rubbish still being dumped

Allotment: nobody had investigated dumping. Cllrs Frisby and Richardson to visit with Clerk. Broken glass had been found in the pit, Clerk to warn Mr Ward, Mr Davis and Mr Hilton to desist.

Hensons Pit: Form from Rural Council re ownership. Decision to state no claim.

Parish Council Association: Cllrs Waltham and Bennett to attend Holbeach meeting in January.

Any other business: EE Road Safety Committee required parish rep: Cllr Paul.

Speed restrictions to be asked for again through the Hargate, Clerk to write.

Friday March 22nd 1968 All present as before.

Business arising:

Bush shelter: Cllr Paul reported a census taken Monday and Tuesday March 11-15th showed 58 and 64 people joined the bus between 7.30am and 7.30pm. Decided Clerk should ascertain types of shelter, especially concrete, and prices.

Allotments and Bull pit: Cllr Frisby reported on meeting on site and considered the tenant of Laburnum House was tipping rubbish in the dyke and should be asked to refrain. Councillors to view Bull Pit to decide if drainage might be affected by filling it in. "*At the moment it was an eye sore.*" Cllrs to meet, except Fleet Fen members, on site before May meeting.

Road Safety: Application for restrictions had their backing.

Church: Burial grant agreed £20 upon application from PCC. Agreed to give £10 to Baptist Chapel upon application.

Clerk's action approved in responding to letters about protests against closing passenger travel from Spalding and proposed alterations in electoral boundaries.

Any other business:

Bus Shelter on Hargate: Seating damaged, Clerk to notify Mr Bollons for repair.

Both Bus Stop signs down either side of Hargate, Clerk to notify authority.

Signs at Lamings Corner down, Fleet Fen, Clerk to notify HCC for replacements.

Sign for Fleet on Holbeach Boundary, Clerk to ask Mr Littlewood (HCC).

State of road at Mr Frisby's house and sign near entrance to Cherry Lane not in right spot. Road to be discussed at meeting on Bull pit. Stacking of bricks at Ely's site off the Hargate to be notified to Road Safety.

24th May 1968 Cllrs Waltham and Bennett re-elected Chairman and VC.
Apologies from Cllrs B Halgarth, Johnson, Paul. Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Frisby, A Halgarth, Richardson.

Business arising: Bull pit: After a visit, concerns expressed about its condition, mostly drainage. Holland & Elloe Internal Drainage Board and County Highway authority to be contacted for a meeting on site.

Speed limit: Comments made on letters received, decided to continue to press.

Bush shelter: repaired but more damage to seat needed more repairs by Mr Bollons.

Drings Trust: arbitration required on rent but nothing yet from Messrs White & Sons, Clerk to see Mr Waters about this. W Coupland gave notice of termination of his tenancy. No action until rent issue settled.

Bull pit shop: Letter from a Mr Larcombe saying he had bought Mr Morris's shop and wished to have tenancy. Clerk to notify Mr Morris that his agreement did not allow subletting and to ask for clarification. Mr Larcombe's request rejected.

Bank account at 31st March 1968 £24.0s.2d.

Bus stop: signs not yet done, Clerk to press *Lincs R Car Coy* (sic).

Friday September 27th 1968 All present.

Bull pit: HCC letter of 30th July read and commented upon following their meeting with Cllr Frisby. However, the Drainage Board had not been represented and the Clerk was to ask for a joint meeting as decided at last Council meeting. He would notify Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Frisby, A Halgarth and Richardson to attend site.

Speed restrictions: suggested that each road at the cross road be painted "slow" and with "hazard lines" but this was not thought to be sufficient. Since no support was forthcoming from local authorities, the local MP would be approached.

Bus shelter: Mr Bollons had repaired the seat and submitted his account. Despite three letters, the Lincs Road Company had not responded with signs; Clerk to notify EERDC.

Drings Trust: Clerk reported meeting Mr White about the proposed rent increase which would be about £110. After much discussion it was decided to ask for several pounds lower per acre. If Drings charged £18 per acre, tenants would have to pay the Council at the rate of 4 at £20 and one at £21 per acre per annum. The lowest figure of £15 per acre to Drings would mean a charge over £18 per acre per tenant. A meeting with the four existing tenants would take place in three weeks to discuss this.

Bull pit: Mr Davis' hut to be sold, Clerk to ascertain position when next ground rent was paid by him.

Fleet sign required on Holbeach boundary.

Path to Mr Morris's shop very overgrown.

Standing water near Mr Holvey's house.

Signs in connection with road diversion to be re-sited. Clerk to notify all authorities.

War memorial condition to be raised at next meeting.

East Elloe to be notified of rats at Hensons Pit.

Church letterbox did not show collection times more often than not, Post Office to be notified.

Bus Shelter at Fleet Road: No further action at present.

Cheques: Holland & Elloe Drainage Bd £9.15s.10d (Drainage); A Bollons £1.1s. (Bus shelter repair).

Friday October 25th 1968 All present except apology from B Halgarth.

Business arising:

Bull pit: Chairman reported that he and Cllrs Frisby and Richardson met both reps of HCC and Drainage Bd on site the previous day. Drainage Bd would lower drain 9" in December. No action until this was done.

Speed Restrictions: Reply from Mr Body (MP) read out.

Bus Signs: Lincs Road Co to expedite work.

Allotments: Tenants called to this meeting for discussion of proposed increase in rents. Drings wanted £20 per acre but might accept £15. Council thanked Chairman for his efforts and left it to him to negotiate further. It was thought a figure of £92.10s would have to be paid out in view of the Drainage Rate as well. Although Council paid out on 5a 2r 20p it was argued that Mr Morris was not paying on the remaining 2r 20p and when the tenants were called in he was to be asked if he had any idea of his acreage. Three were called in: Mr Mastin, M S Halgarth and Mr Morris. Mr Harris was unable to attend.

They agreed to continue their tenancy. Mr Morris said his acreage was 1 acre 8 perches. The vacant allotment was to be advertised after the Chairman had advised of his negotiations with Drings' solicitors.

After the tenants withdrew it was mentioned that Mr Davis had sold his hut and it was being operated by a Mr Larcombe or his wife with a notice "Harveys Store" displayed.

Clerk reported that Mr Davis had given written notice of termination of his agreement as at April 1969. Mr Larcombe had asked to talk to the Council about it and was called in. The Chairman explained the position to Mr Larcombe. Despite his cleaning up the site he was quite wrong in assuming he was now a tenant of the council. Mr Davis was still the tenant until April 1969 and future tenancy could not be discussed. Mr Larcombe could be under no illusion about his position and could take up the matter with Mr Davis, perhaps.

All other minor matters from the last meeting had been attended to except the Fleet sign. Mr B Halgarth said nobody had contacted him about it, Clerk to act.

War Memorial: past Minutes since 1961 were produced by the Clerk. Decided no action until further deterioration had taken place.

25th January 1969 All present.

Business arising:

Bull pit: No word from Drainage Bd but surrounding hedge now cut.

Speed restriction: Local MP letter reported County review of restrictions on principal roads and he hoped they would accede to Council's request for Hargate.

On the Gedney side of Baptist Chapel a "Slow" had been painted on the road.

Hargate Bus stops: one sign had been repaired and the other removed for replacement.

Davis shop on Bull pit: Clerk reported no contact with Mr Davis who had finally returned agreement unsigned. Council still expected him to give vacant possession for removal of hut in April next.

Fleet sign: Mr A Halgarth reported he had seen Mr Littlewood of HCC and a sign should be put up soon.

Allotments: Seven applications read out for vacant No 2. Each considered and finally decided to offer it to Mr C Bowers of Manse Cottage, Fleet Hargate at £19 per acre. Earlier the Chairman reported Drings had agreed £85 pa. Decided 4 tenants to pay £19 per acre and one (Mr Morris with 8 perches extra) £20 per acre.

If Mr Bowers did not accept the offer Mr Potterton of Highway House, Fleet Hargate, to be offered tenancy.

Income and Expenditure General Account: precept on the EERDC for £50 decided. Estimated produce of a penny rate for the year 1969/70 £110.

Cllrs A Halgarth and T R Frisby selected to attend a social meeting of parish councillors at EE on Thursday February 6th 1969.

Rural Council letter of 21 November 1968 requesting a light opposite the new premises of Mr W B Wright, Fleetway House. No action on account of existing light at bus stop near the house.

Any other business: Cllr A Halgarth told Council about land at rear of Mr Porter's house on the Hargate suitable for a playing field. It was stated to be Church land, Mr Richardson to enquire and report at next meeting.

Obstructions on the Main Road due to cars and vehicles parked there, Mr Littlewood to be informed, grass verge could be replaced by tarmac with road markings.

Annual Meeting Tuesday May 27th 1969 Cllrs Waltham and Bennett reelected Chairman and VC. Chairman asked meeting to stand as a mark of respect to the late B Halgarth. Also present: Cllrs Frisby, A Halgarth, Johnson, Paul, Redden, Richardson.

Business arising:

Drings Allotments: Clerk reported future rent agreed at £85 pa. Mr Bowes new tenant on No 2.

Hargate Main Road obstruction dealt with.

Playing field: Land at rear of Porters House discussed and Mr Richardson said the Church authorities had an offer and the EERDC Site Committee were to visit.

Bull Pit: no action for three months.

Council vacancy due to Mr Halgarth's death. Decided to approach Mrs B Halgarth.

Deacon & Fairfax vacancy: Mr Frisby agreed.

Naming of streets in parish: Letter from EERDC re a request for nameplates at Branches Lane. Clerk said the Council had no powers for this but had been informed by EERDC that Sutton Bridge and Whaplode were pursuing the matter, in which case it was decided Fleet should do likewise.

Income & Expenditure year ending March 1970: Income £163, Expenditure £171. General Account income was only £13 ground rent from Mr Morris but salary, grants, insurance etc totalled £60. Decided a precept on EERDC was necessary for the nameplates @ 3s/3d each letter plus £1.10s installation, an additional expense hitherto not accounted for. Bank balance for year ending March 31 1969 = £13.3s.1d.

Clerk reported his attendance at Audit, questioned again about the grants to Chapel and Church, applications now again presented. Decided to give as before, carried by 4 votes to 3.

Letter from Divisional Road Engineer of Ministry of Transport asked for observations on plan. Decided to ask what will happen to the War Memorial, and pedestrians on Lowgate going to Cheshire Home.

Report of various road obstructions due to lorries parking on the north side of the A17 to use the telephone kiosk near Mr Holvey's house [Carfax]. Decided to notify the EE Road Safety Committee. Report that nearly all road signs from Fleet to Fleet Fen and Gedney Hill were down, possibly due to hooliganism; HCC to be notified.

Friday November 7th 1969 All present except Cllrs Frisby and Richardson, apologies. Chairman welcomed Mrs B Halgarth.

Business arising:

Playing field: Land at rear of Porter's House. Decided Council not interested.

Bull pit: Following the meeting on site and action due from Drainage Board, it was decided to wait for the A17 extension when the pit could be filled in with surplus soil, with a possible view to a building site at the rear.

A17 work: Clerk reported a reply from the Divisional Road Engineer at Nottingham stating the War Memorial would be removed and re-sited, "*full re-instatement would be made by the Ministry together will full compensation and any legal costs*". "*This news was very well received by the Council.*"

Parked lorries still a nuisance at phone box; now up to the Police to act.

Nameplates: some discussion concluded that the County Council should be approached for Branches Lane. Signs for Princess St, Albion Street, Union St to be provided by Council, with precept set for £110, being a penny rate.

Mrs G M Halgarth and Mr J G Johnson appointed Parish Reps at joint meeting of pc's and EE members on January 29th 1970.

Business arising: Fleet sign opposite Holbeach Manor; white line at Proctors Corner not long enough on the Hargate side; pavement stones protruding outside Renee's hairdressing shop dangerously; ploughed up verge by the boundary posts 300 yards from the pit junction between Cross Drove and New Fen Drove [Fleet Fen]. All to be taken up with Holland CC by Clerk speaking to Mr Littlewood, also lorries on

Washway Road corner parked for the café. With the A17 now closed, this could cause an accident.

Thursday 26th March 1970 Apologies from Cllrs Paul and Richardson.

Business arising: No further complaints re lorries parked near the phone box.

Street signs were in progress; Fleet sign not yet resolved; white line at Proctors Corner improved but not long enough.

Letters from the MP included Ministry of Transport notification that a 40mph speed restriction would be included in 1971/72 programme of works.

Fleet Fen School: closure notified by County Education officer in July next. Council had no proposal to make and Boston to be informed.

Dept of Education and Science, Curzon Street, notified Council that Fleet old Church School (known as the Hargate Room) was to come under the jurisdiction of the Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance. Objections to be made within one month.

Fleet Fen strip of common land subject of letter (and plan) to HCC by Clerk, for retention by Council for records.

Countryside Award Scheme: no action

Cllr Redden raised question of direction sign at Coy Bridge, Clerk to notify HCC.

Annual Meeting June 2 1970 All present.

Business arising: Proctors Corner double white line to be pursued by Clerk

HCC could not recommend sign at Coy Bridge.

War Memorial: HCC asked for information on resiting due to A17 extension. Council replied that the British Legion to be notified about this.

Appointments: School managers: A W Parkinson, J H Richardson
Deacon & Fairfax charity: WA Bennett, T R Frisby, AF Halgarth,
JG Johnson

Bank balance at 31.3.70 = £69.13s.7d.

Monday September 28th 1970 Apology from Cllr Redden

Business arising: Proctors Corner, no further white lines could be added. In view of its dangerous nature, Council decided to press Police and HCC and ask for signs of "*dangerous corner*".

Allotments: Mr S Halgarth wished to terminate tenancy from October . Council would advertise, but not to accept highest tender necessarily. Meeting on October 16th to consider tenders. Application letter received from a Mr Potterton.

New sewage system: Observations invited. Council supported, no comments so far.

Lights: Cllr Richardson said Fleet Road needed more lights.

Little Marsh Lane: Mrs Halgarth said 2 posts by the side of the sewer in front of Mrs Bettinson's property had been removed, leaving it very dangerous. Council decided HCC be notified to reinstate asap.

Fen: Cllr Johnson asked for posts in Langary Gate, Clerk to ask HCC to contact Cllr Johnson on siting.

Friday October 16th 1970 All present.

Business arising: Confirmed letters sent on matters at last meeting.

Allotments: Notice to quit No 4 by Mr RW Harris as at April 1971, leaving two vacant.

Clerk produced tenders for No 1 as received, as follows: Mr Peter Bettinson £26 pa Mr R Proctor £19.10s., Mr AB Chapman £18, Mr J Potterton £25.

Chairman asked the meeting if they wished to vote by ballot or open vote. They opted for open vote. *"Cllr Frisby proposed and Cllr Bettinson seconded that Mr J Potterton be offered the tenancy. There being no other nominations the Chairman put the proposition to the meeting and Mr Potterton was unanimously elected. The Clerk was to write the unsuccessful applicants and state that No 4 Allotment was to be relet and a notice of this would appear in the local press."*

War Memorial: Highways Authority asked for new site. After much discussion Council decided to ask the British Legion to send two representatives to a Council meeting on October 30th for a joint discussion.

Bus Shelter: Hargate shelter in bad state and needing cleaning, Highways to be asked for help.

Fleet Fen: an extra light needed at New Fen Drove, end of Cross Drove (against white cottage).

Friday October 30th 1970 Prior to the meeting the Council met two British Legion reps by arrangement, Mrs Loweth & Mrs Seth, and informed them that, although the Council was responsible for the Memorial, the Legion had cared for it over the years and should express an opinion on its resiting. The ladies said their members were all in favour of the Bull Pit as the new site.

Meeting then opened with apologies from Cllrs Mrs G Halgarth and L Redden.

Business Arising: Mr Potterton had accepted tenancy of No 1 Allotment at £25 pa from 11.10.70.

War Memorial: Letter from Divisional Road Engineer, Nottingham, saying he had no powers of negotiation over re-siting but the responsible authority should negotiate

and all costs incurred would form the basis of the District Valuer's compensation for the existing site. Everything would be covered by the Ministry of Transport. "Cllr Richardson proposed and Cllr Frisby seconded that the Bull Pit be the site for the Memorial." Voting was unanimous and the Ministry to be informed through the County Council. "The question of sale of the pit was also mentioned."

Allotments: Tenders for No 4 from: Mr Peter Bettinson £26 pa; Mr R Proctor £19; Mr Eric Hannah £20 pa; Mr Crane – no figure.

The two Gedney applicants (Hannah and Crane) were not eligible.

After full discussion of each applicant it was decided to offer tenancy to Mr Bettinson at £26 pa, Clerk to prepare agreement.

Baptist Chapel application for a burial grant of £10 approved.

Annual Meeting 21st May 1971 Cllrs Waltham and Bennett re-elected Ch and VC. Apology from Cllr Paul. Chairman mentioned the passing of Cllr Frisby who had joined them in 1967 and asked members to stand in his memory.

Business arising: a) War memorial site plan received from Valuation Office and b) G Morris agreement.

The new site had the Memorial on the east end of the pit 25' from the back of the footpath, with removal of 4 willow trees and levelling with 300 cubic metres of approved fill. Council approved.

Mr Morris had removed his hut as required and had paid ground rent to April this year, as many years before, without using the hut at all.

The Council vacancy: four names were put forward: Mrs Loweth, Mr W Bingham, Mr Ray Morris, Mrs WW Bettinson. 4 members voted for Mr Morris and he was duly elected to serve.

Local Government reorganisation White Paper: possibility of amalgamation discussed.

Clerk's salary increased to £27 pa upon his application.

Any other business:

40mph speed limit now operational throughout village. Two signs needed alteration.

Cllr A Halgarth raised several items: HCC machine used for cleaning gutters did not suck up refuse but pushed it into heaps hindering drainage. Lack of kerb opposite Rose & Crown caused flooding. Ravens Clough hedge needed trimming as it obscured view from Sutton St James turning into Bengate. Clerk to contact HCC.

Hazlewood Lane, Haycroft Lane and Fleet Coy Road grass verges had all been eroded badly, leaving the road dangerous to traffic. Clerk to write to Highways.

Clerk also to ask about extending pathway from Parkers Garage to Haycroft Lane on southern side.

Hensons Pit: Discussion but no action to be taken; bus shelter at Fleet Fen raised.

October 22nd 1971 Ch. H Waltham, Cllrs Mrs Halgarth, Johnson, Paul, AR Morris, Redden, Richardson. Chairman welcomed Mr Morris. Previous minutes read, confirmed and signed as usual.

Business arising: Clerk reported favourably on the hedge obstruction and the HCC machine "*used in street clearance and said the very expensive machine was thought to be doing satisfactory work.*" Signs were discussed and the siting of a sign a few yards away from Mr Hilton's house was thought possible.

Divisional Surveyor letter read about CC looking into complaint on encroachments and drainage at Rose & Crown. Extending the pathway was to be included in 1972/3 County estimates.

A17 trunk road: further correspondence was produced and no action advised.

Deacon & Fairfax charity: Mrs Halgarth appointed in place of the late TR Frisby.

Church burial grant: Letter from Mrs T Wall, Secretary of Fleet Parochial Church Council, asking for grant approved £20 as before. Decided if the Baptist Chapel asked, they would receive £10 as before.

Fleet Fen: Cllr Johnson reported "*a condition existing*" at Lambert Bank and Long Lane. Clerk to meet him at site and report to the appropriate authority.

Allotments: Letter from Calthrop & Harvey re raising rents on Drings allotments to be left until the valuers (White Sons & Lumley?) approached Council.

Parish Councils & EE meeting February 3rd to be attended by Cllrs Paul and Morris. Rural Council to be advised but nothing for their agenda.

Chairman said various representatives were going round East Elloe on November 2nd re lighting and he had received some suggestions to put forward.

Cheques signed for PCC £20; Calthrop & Harvey Rents £42.50s; Holland & Elloe Drainage £12.25s.

AGM Friday May 26th 1972 Cllrs Waltham and Bennett reelected Ch & VC again. Others present: Cllrs Mrs G Halgarth, Johnson, Redden, Morris, A Halgarth, Richardson.

Business arising: Baptist Chapel asking for grant, approved £10 as before.

Drings Allotments: It was felt that the two tenants now paying £25 and £26 could hardly be called to pay any more; the other three "*would be called before the Council if any variation in their rent was contemplated.*" Decided the Chairman should see

Mr G Hastings about an increase, suggesting £18 or £19 per acre. If agreed, the three rents would have to be increased.

A precept was signed on the Rural Authority for £100. The Clerk said such a figure would be necessary each year due to expenses exceeding income and would be about one-third of a new penny rate (now producing £306+ in 1972/3).

Any other business: Local Government reorganisation letters asking for Council support for the Boundary Commission. Extract of EERDC meeting of April 27th 1972 and agreed by Council, Clerk to confirm to Boundary Commission.

Bus service: Clerk read out letter from Messrs Maples & Son re Stage Bus Service between Spalding and Wisbech run by Messrs Fowler & Son, asking Council to confirm it was beneficial to the parish and satisfied a need. Transport Act 1968 Section 34 provided for subsidy which Council intended to apply for. Council agreed it served "*a useful purpose*" and would confirm in writing.

Battle Bridge, Bensgate, fence in need of repair by HCC (Cllr Bennett), Clerk to write.

Friday August 11th 1972 Apology from Mrs GM Halgarth

Business arising: Local Govt boundaries: Council to support EERDC. Battle Bridge repairs not yet done.

Allotments: Mr PW Bettinson, tenant of no 4 wished to terminate October 11th 1973 on joining the Police. Decided to "*leave on the Table*" and advertise, calling a meeting for September 8th 1972. Clerk to ascertain rent increase from Harveys.

"A good deal of correspondence":

1. Holland Playing Fields Assn asking for annual contribution: no action.
 2. EERDC on "The Year of the Tree 1973" inc letter from HCC and Forestry Commission supporting tree planting in public open spaces in towns and villages.
 3. HCC nomination forms for Justices of the Peace over 50; Cllr Paul took one.
 4. Boundary Commission re meeting September 14th. 4 reps from local authority, one from Council not allowed to speak due to meeting lasting only 3 hours before visits to areas.
 5. Long Sutton PC asking for support for a by-pass asap, Council agreed.
- * Marginal note: EERDC consent form for a cable to Rose & Crown signed.

Any other business: Haycroft Lane/Little Marsh Lane junction in bad condition, Clerk to notify HCC.

Fleet Coy/Long Lane grating collected water (Cllr Redden) and needed widening. Not recommended by Council "*since it could turn out to be quite a big job*".

Friday September 8th 1972 Apology from Mrs Halgarth.

Business arising: Battle Bridge repairs not done despite letter 21st June to the contrary. Chairman Waltham unable to contact Mr Hastings re Drings due to his being on holiday.

Allotments: 3 tenders received for No 4 from: JW Disdel, Washway Road, Holbeach £21 pa; G Hannah, Church End, Gedney £20; C I Sands, Princes Street, Fleet £20. The low tender from Fleet produced "*much discussion*" as Drings would be raising the rent and the Council could be asking other tenants to pay £25 pa. It was decided not to accept Bettinson's notice but to write and point out that he had to pay until April 6th 1973.

After further discussion it was agreed there appeared to be no interest in the parish and existing tenants should be asked if they would pay higher rents. A meeting would be called for the 4 tenants to discuss matters on September 15th.

War memorial: HCC Planning Dept had discussed resiting on the Bull Pit with Councillors and work would probably begin before November.

Fleet PCC application for help with upkeep of the churchyard; agreed £20. Agreed to pay £10 to Baptist when they applied.

Fleet Fen: Hedge to be trimmed back (Cllr Johnson) on Nealsgate Road, Clerk to report next meeting.

Special meeting Friday September 1972 Apologies from Cllr Johnson.

Purpose to meet tenants of Drings Allotments and discuss rental increases: Messrs Bowers, G Morris, Potterton, Martin to be called in later. Previous Council Minutes read, confirmed, sgd.

Fen matters: Bushes on Nealsgate and Ravens Clough, authorities to be notified.

Before tenants were called in, it was decided the rental would have to be at £25 pa, Mr Morris £26; vacant allotment no 4 a problem. Tenants called in and agreed terms; Mr Potterton to take No 4 and agree in writing, Clerk to prepare agreement.

Cheques signed.

Friday November 3rd 1972 Apologies from Cllrs Halgarth and Paul.

Business arising: Items in HCC letter; Battle Bridge partly done, Drainage Board to be notified re repairs.

No 4 Allotment: Mr Potterton declined tenancy, Mr Morris agreed "very satisfactory" and Clerk thanked for his work on this.

Drings letter thanking Council for agreement on rental of £100 pa from 16.4.73.

Fleet Fen School playing field: HCC letter stated a Mr Royce "*had placed various restrictions on the use of the Field.*" Council would be able to rent at small fee. After discussion it was decided the Parish should write to HCC asking to have jurisdiction agreement but without a figure mentioned.

War Memorial: Plan presented, work to begin after 13th November 1972.

Clerk said money was required, for which a precept was signed for £150, payable to Council April 1973.

Any other business: Village sign: HCC to be asked for a sign on Holbeach/Fleet border.

Road sign: Studded posts to be asked for at Holbeach end of Neals Gate Road and various signs at Fleet Coy, Clerk would see local HCC office at Holbeach.

Lights: Five were "out", Clerk would contact Mr Stevenson of East Elloe for card to fill in.

Amusement Arcade: discussion on desirability of "*some development at the Hargate*" suggested near "*the Old Folks Bungalows*" currently in course of construction; stated that *..there appeared to be various teenage activity in the Hargate*" Council decided unanimously to object, Clerk to write to HCC.

Bus shelter: Nuisance regarded very seriously due to information from Cllr Richardson; letter to Police to be sent "*in the strongest terms*" for attention. There was no resident constable, unfortunately, to stop this sort of thing promptly.

Cheques: Hadden Best stationery 48p; Calthrop & Harvey October Rent £42.50; S Doubleday Audit Stamp (1972 audit) £2.

Friday March 9th 1973 8 Cllrs present, also invited by Chairman Mr A W Parkinson.

Cheques confirmed since last meeting: Mossop & Bowser Bond Premium £3; Sheppard & Co £14.

Business arising:

Battle Bridge: culvert repaired by SH Drainage Bd.

Amusement arcade: HCC had turned down application on strength of Council's letter

Bus Shelter: Spalding police stated no further nuisance noted but would give attention

Fleet Fen playing field: Tenancy agreement not yet been received. Mr Parkinson was involved through earlier contact with HCC. Full discussion suggested Mr Royce had suffered some annoyance and the Council should meet him to discuss the matter. Decided Cllrs Waltham, A Halgarth, Johnson, Redden, Mr Parkinson and

Clerk to attend. Gedney Hill Youth Club letter asked for full responsibility but this was refused.

War Memorial: Now being erected on Bull Pit; letter from District Surveyor 3rd Jan 73.

Any other business: Year of the Tree scheme, trees not yet planted at Hensons Pit.

Britain in Bloom: no action.

Work on Neals Gate Rd, Fleet Coy Road and signs not yet done by HCC, Clerk to notify.

AGM Friday May 25th 1975 Apology from Cllr Paul. Cllrs Waltham & Bennett reelected Chairman, VCh.

Business arising: HCC letter to say signs had been placed at the end of Neals Gate Rd and other two items in progress.

Fleet Fen playing field: all correspondence produced and a report on meeting with Mr Royce March 23rd. Three letters had been received from him since the last meeting, complaining about use of the field and his privacy. After full discussion, decided to write to HCC and ask for meeting.

Clerk's salary increased to £35 pa; it was thought that under the new local government reorganisation next year there would be more work and responsibilities.

School managers reps election left to next meeting.

Deacon & Fairfax: Cllrs Mrs Halgarth, A Halgarth, Bennett and Johnson till 1976.

Any other business: Surface water standing on path between J Snushall's house and Coffee Tavern, Clerk to notify HCC.

Friday October 5th 1973 Apology from Cllr Redden. Chairman welcomed Cllr J Ellis who signed the declaration of office.

Business arising: HCC had received the Fleet sign, to be fixed asap.

School managers reps: left in abeyance due to local government reorganisation

War memorial: HCC letter of 23rd August 1973 stated all work done except fencing. Parish Council now responsible. Fencing had been done some days earlier. Council to view site before confirming work to HCC. Date fixed Friday Oct 12th.

Fleet Fen playing field: Now in care of local youth club as suggested by HCC. Since first mentioned February 19th 1970, 27 letters had been exchanged between all parties.

Fleet Church and Chapel: letters for grants for churchyards produced. After discussion, decided to keep grants as before: £20 and £10, amended to £5 extra each upon proposal of Cllr Bennett, sec Cllr Morris.

Year of the Tree 1973: County Surveyor letter stating Hensons Pit to receive 20 trees, Council to arrange planting.

Audit: letter from SHDC asking for choice of auditor, either theirs or one from professional body in Section 164 (2) of Local Govt Act 1972. Clerk to confirm SHDC's as at present.

Highway: Cllr A Halgarth complained of state of road left by HCC near Fleet Road council houses, Clerk to notify. Also Mr Proctor's offer of land for a bus shelter to replace temporary one on Proctors Corner. This reopened debate about 1968 request for shelter opposite Parkers Garage when a census of users was taken, site chosen, but not proceeded with. Later Cllr Redden had suggested a shelter for Fleet Fen. These matters were discussed fully and it was agreed there was a case for all three shelters but they could not all be built at the same time. Clerk to ascertain cost of Gedney shelter and possible grants. Costs might reach £1000.

Cllr Ellis asked for a hedge to be trimmed on the Fleet/Gedney boundary opposite a Mr Faulkner's house approaching Gedney Dyke.

Cllr A Halgarth reported one of three safety posts broken near Mrs Bettinson's house in Little Marsh Lane, Clerk to notify Highways.

Several councillors reported a dyke thought to have been filled in and hedge planted by a Mr Broom of Fleet Hargate near Allotment No 1 on Drings land and should be reported.

Cheques: Audit stamp (1971) £3; Hadden Best stationery 63p; Holland & Elloe Drainage £13.25p; Calthrops & Harvey October rent £50; Fleet Parochial CC grant £25; Fleet Baptist chapel grant £15.

January 18th 1974 All present.

Business arising:

School managers: to be left for time being

Tree planting: Cllr Johnson reported 18 trees delivered that very day. He and Mr Parkinson would set them on Monday; some were small, needing staking.

War memorial: Reported meeting of a Mr Hall on site November 23rd 1973 with Council reps and agreement reached.

HCC replies to requests resulted in only a hedge being attended to, but not Fleet Road or the posts at Cherry Lane; Clerk to pursue.

Allotments: Mr Broom's encroachment the subject of a letter stating that White Sons & Lumby had surveyed the area on behalf of the owners and his action had been agreed although the gateway was narrowed by the in-filling.

Bush Shelter: Gedney shelter cost £223. Much discussion before decided to proceed with 1968 plan for Fleet Road, Clerk to contact as required.

Letter from SHDC asking what precept would be needed for 1974/75. The figure suggested produced "*much debate*". Decision to ask for £300.

Conference at Spalding South Holland DC February 10th: 8 Cllrs wished to attend.

Any other business: Cleaner's wages to be raised from 12 ½p per meeting to 25p from 1/4/74.

Forum about A17 in East Elloe at George Farmer School Friday January 25th 1974.

April 16th 1974 Full council

Business arising: HCC work on Fleet Road and Little Marsh Lane still not done.

Fleet Road Bus Shelter: HCC to meet Council on site, date to be fixed next meeting.

Conference at SHDC considered "*quite helpful*" by 6 Cllrs and Clerk.

Planning: Parish Councils to be more involved. Chairman gave a full account of how planning applications were to be dealt with: to be considered by Council and returned with observations within 14 days. Six applications were produced and it was stated that a lack of information made decisions difficult. This was to be passed on to SHDC with comments that the Ordnance Survey maps provided were outdated and in one case a location was found only through expert local knowledge.

National Association of Parish Councils: Booklets and leaflets produced with discussion about joining. Decision to apply for membership and buy 8 booklets.

Leas Gate Road bushes need trimming and a sign at Fleet Coy/Gedney Hill end, Lincs Council to be notified.

Annual Meeting Friday 24th May 1974. Apologies from Cllrs Bennett and Paul. Cllrs Waltham and Bennett re-elected Ch & Vch

Business arising: Lincs Council to be asked again re matters at previous meeting.

Bus Shelters: Circular from SHDC read. Financial assistance would be granted on 3 conditions: No more than £100; Brick and Concrete shelter approved by SHDC; only one grant-aided shelter per parish in one year. Decided to apply for the grant, Clerk to act.

Bank balance at 31.3.74 was £51.64.

Any other business: Baptist Chapel notice board had been removed from the main door to the schoolroom by Rev Webb. Clerk to contact.

Register of Births and Deaths: Cllr Johnson reported it was now necessary for Fleet Fen people to journey into Holbeach, a round trip of 20 miles instead of to Gedney Hill Post Office. Much inconvenience was caused to those without transport to Holbeach in office hours. Concern was to be expressed to SHDC and suggestion that Crowland was nearer.

Tree planting: Cllr Johnson reported the work done and Mr Parkinson should have a letter of thanks for his help.

Cheques: Lincs Assn PCs £18.59p inc. £1.59 for booklets; S Doubleday £5 Audit stamp 1973/4.

The press was present at the meeting.

Thursday June 20th 1974 8 Cllrs present.

Business arising:

Bush shelter: Clerk reported a visit from Mr R East of SHDC Survey Dept. There had been no time to contact Cllrs but Cllr Paul had kindly attended. The site 20 yards east of the Institution boundary and just beyond the telephone kiosk was agreed upon.

Baptist Chapel Noticeboard: Clerk had visited Rev Webb who apologised but considered the new position better. One of the chief objections to using the main door was that in wedding photos the background always showed "*Parish Council and whatever notice was pinned on the Board*". No further action to be taken.

Register of Births and Deaths: No reply from SHDC

Tree planting: Clerk read out the letter to Mr Parkinson. Council decided 18 stakes should be bought by Cllr Johnson, account to the Council.

Planning applications: Two were considered: from Mr HK Gott on behalf of a RF Claridge, Fen Road, Holbeach, for house and garage at Leas Gate. No observations. Outline application by RF Shildon, London, for Cupfine Ltd, London, for 36 semi-detached dwellings at Eastgate, Fleet Hargate. Observations included reference to existing bungalows that might be overlooked. Further discussion followed on planning decisions and it was decided that Cllrs Redden and Johnson need not attend unless plans related to the Fen area.

Any other business: War memorial: Council realised its responsibility for the site and would soon need to engage someone to cut the grass. Clerk to approach Mr Bowers, Manor Cottage, Fleet Hargate, and offer £2 max.

Monday September 9th 1974 Apologies from Cllr Mrs Halgarth. Since this was principally a planning meeting Cllrs Redden and Johnson were not called to attend.

Previous Minutes read, confirmed and signed by Chairman.

Business arising: Register: Letter from SHDC read but "*left much to be desired*".

Bush shelter: Still with SHDC surveyor (WJ Evans).

Tree stakes: No news as Cllr Johnson was not present

War Memorial: Clerk had arranged with Mr Bowers tidying up for £2. It was reported that Lincs CC had cut the grass as well.

School managers: letter from Lincs Education Officer asking for two PC reps till 1977. Cllrs Morriss and Paul appointed.

Planning: EK Gore, Strongs Bank, Fleet Fen: recommended. L Thornton, c/o Hilton, Gosberton for Bury re Langary Gate, Fleet Fen: *"Since the plan does not show clearly if there are other properties on this particular site and if not, why the plot to be built upon is situated in the centre of the field"*

KM Lenty, 2 Charles Road, Fleet: *"Owing to the fact that this is a property of the Council, and the proposed alterations do away with a bedroom, the Fleet Council feel they cannot support his application and suggest the Housing Manager be consulted."*

H Piggins, Gedney, concerning four plots at Low Gate, Fleet. No observations.

Chettle and Son, Station House, Fleet: Caravan – renewal of earlier application. No observation.

Cupfine, London, re Eastgate site: Chairman stated Council houses could possibly be erected there. Council *"totally and utterly opposed"*. The retired people in the existing bungalows would immediately lose all privacy and their properties would be devalued. The Council regarded this area as residential and if any further council houses were needed at Fleet, a spot further down Eastgate would be more suitable.

Fleet Hargate sign at the Bull Inn corner broken, Clerk to notify authorities.

Monday October 7th 1974 Full Council.

Business arising: Bus shelter, Council to ask SHDC for plans.

Tree planting: Cllr Redden asked what Stakes to obtain. Decided 2"x2"x6' fully treated, price about £6/7.

Eastgate development: Letter to SHDC objecting to any development read out.

Fleet Hargate sign: Clerk notified Lincs CC.

Planning Application: Calthrop & Harvey for outline permission for Drings Exrs at Fleet Hargate, let to Council for allotments. No observations in view of long term.

Clerk's salary review due to extra work and responsibility due to local govt changes. Clerk was asked to leave. Called back and was told increase to take place April 1st

1974. Earlier Council decided a telephone should be installed and would pay for installation. Salary increased to £95 inc £10 for office equipment and allowance. Clerk to pay £12.50p share of rental (50%). Clerk accepted.

Any other business:

FI Hargate Bus shelter: Seat damaged again. Cllrs Waltham and A Halgarth given powers to have Mr Wakefield install something substantial.

Hedge and road on Hocklesgate/Cherry Lane junction need attention, Clerk to act.

Bramble bushes on west side opposite Cherry Close a traffic problem, Clerk to act.

Letter box to be asked for as 33 bungalows at Hargate Close required one.

Bull corner pedestrian crossing thought desirable.

Two Boundary of Development plans considered from SHDC

Planning conference at Boston by invitation of Assn of PCs: No Cllrs wished to attend.

Friday January 24th 1975 All present.

Business arising:

Fleet Hargate Bus shelter: No repairs done; Cllrs Waltham & Halgarth to contact Mr Wakefield again.

Hocklesgate corner: Clerk reported work done and path at end of Hargate Close to be widened.

Letter Box at Hargate Close: Post Office did not agree but Housing Dept to arrange with warden.

Bull corner crossing reported to be in hand.

Planning: RC Waters, Shed, Fleet Hargate; Payne's Café, Extension, Washway Road: no observations on either.

Fleet Road Bus shelter: Clerk reported permission granted by Police and bus operators. Plans received were acceptable and to be sent to Lincs CC for approval. Tenders would then be sent out to: F Wakefield; EL Howman & Son; H Ward, Damgate Road, Holbeach; Rix, Boston Rd, Holbeach. Application for £100 grant had already been submitted to SHDC.

SHDC letter asking about precept for 1975/6, offering 50% unconditional contribution. Clerk gave extensive account of financial position and estimated £360 necessary in view of the bus shelter and possible increases in allotment rents, grants etc. Council agreed unanimously. Clerk stated balance for the current year could show £54 when Post Office account was paid.

Any other business: Fleet Parochial and Baptist church grants £25 and £15 agreed.

Room hire: LG1972 Act, Section 134, was debated. A charge of £1.40 per meeting would be made. *“Several Councillors thought this unfair and the Clerk stated the Parish Council Association were taking up the matter.”*

Conference of Parish & District Councillors: one or two hoped to attend.

Countryside Treasures: SHDC letter read out and two identified in Fleet for inclusion.

Holbeach Hospital: Closure proposed. Clerk to write to Mrs Hardy at Moulton who was organising a petition to object.

After cheques signed: Sanding in frosty weather from Bull corner to A17 raised by Cllr Ellis.

Friday 14th February 1975 – principally Planning [Cllrs Johnson & Redden exempt]
Apology from Cllr Ellis.

Hargate Bus Shelter: no further action *“for the seating would only be damaged again by those hooligans”*.

Fleet Road bus shelter: Clerk awaiting authority from Lincs CC before proceeding with tenders

Holbeach Hospital: PC letter supporting Mrs Harvey read out protesting closure but local press suggested nothing might happen after all.

Bull corner to A17 sanding in progress

Planning: 1) 48 semi-detached and terraced houses at Eastgate application from Pateman & Sons, Waddington, Lincoln, looked on *“favourably”* and recommended.
2) Bulb Store at Mill Farm for Mr J Ellis also recommended.

Insurance: No application received from HA Sheppard & Co for insurance renewals but Clerk had negotiated with Cornhill (in conjunction with Parish Councils Assn) much better terms from Jan 24th. His action confirmed by Council and cheque signed late for £3.12p, to June 1975.

Battle Bridge: Sewerage work had damaged posts and brickwork, Clerk to notify.

Cheques: Insurance £300; Hadden Best £7.12; Andrews & Co £6.03.

Friday March 14th 1975 Present: Cllrs Waltham, Bennett, Mrs GM Halgarth, Johnson, Morris, Paul, Redden.

Business arising: Battle Bridge, no reply or repairs by LCC.

Planning: 1) C Fisher, Lowgate, Fleet, for “Caravans” – no observations
2) Holbeach Motors, Fleet Rd, Holbeach for Workshops/Spray shop and canopy. Observation about noise nuisance if used at night.
3) AH Worth Estate Office – extension at Hovenden Ho. No observation
4) Mrs RL Loweth, Woodbine Cottage – Annexe. No observation

- 5) G Payne, The Bungalow, Washway Rd – Garage and additions. No ob.

Fleet Road Bus Shelter: Tenders from EL Howman & Sons £275; GF Wakefield £322; Rix £220. Rix unanimously accepted by Council. Clerk to act.

Any other business: Clerk to notify SHDC of “awful” state of roads left by contractors.

War Memorial: Cllr Paul raised its condition. Chairman said more earth would be put round it, Mrs Halgarth asked about clearing the site. Clerk referred to “*poorly attended*” meeting in 1963 and tenders put out to stonemasons with poor results. At that time the Council was unable to levy a rate but the 1972 Act placed responsibility wholly on them for the maintenance, repair and condition. After discussion it was decided nothing could be done this year due to the Bus Shelter and the price quoted in 1963 of £57.10s would have increased considerably.

Planning: Council decided that in future where minor additions and adjustments were concerned, the Chairman and Clerk be given powers to reply to the SHDC to save calling extra meetings costing £2 a time. So far 8 had already been held.

Friday April 25 1975 Planning meeting. Present: Waltham, Bennett, Ellis, Morris, Paul. Apology from Mrs Halgarth.

Battle Bridge repairs not yet done. Clerk to pursue.

Fleet Road Bush Shelter: Comments from Mr Rix reported.

Fleet Road condition to be seen to by SHDC.

Planning: 1) Dwelling and altered vehicular access from Proudfoot Lane by Lincoln Diocesan Trust. Observation: “*The Parish Council strongly object to this site plan and any future plans that may be submitted. This land will in future years no doubt be required for an extension to the existing Burial Ground. The vehicular access at this point would be most undesirable.*”

2) School: Canteen and other alterations by LCC. Recommended with proviso that Bin Store be on South side with connecting door to main classroom from the house made in centre of the classroom.

3) H Payne, Anglia Motel: Alterations and additions. No Obs.

Electoral boundaries: letter from SHDC, no alterations.

Cheques: Drings April rents: £50; Lincs CC Hire of room: £4.20 (3x£1.40); G Bowers War memorial surround £2; Lincs County Parish Cncl Assn sub 1975 £17.

Annual Meeting Friday 23rd May 1975 Cllrs Waltham & Bennett re-elected Ch & VC. Others present: Cllrs Johnson, Redden, Halgarth, Morris. Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Halgarth, Ellis, Bennett, Paul. Cllr Bennett indisposed, letter to be sent from Council.

Previous minutes read, confirmed and signed (as usual).

Business arising: Battle Bridge, temporary repairs done. Fleet Road Bus Shelter built by Mr Rix and account presented. £100 due from SHDC on submission of the receipt.

Planning: 1) G Payne, Washway Road – brick surround to café 2) M Seth, Church End – dwelling applied for. 3) A Fidler, Hazlewood Lane – roof space conversion to bedroom and a lobby porch. No objections.

Clerk read SHDC decisions on 6 plans recently passed by Fleet Council. They were now receiving many observations from the Planning Officer for information.

Bank balance at 31.3.1975 was £1111.25p.

Any other business: Two letters from SHDC read out on possible industrial development near Holbeach mentioned in local press; Mr Brindley asked for joint meeting of Fleet and Holbeach Councils at Mattimore House, & contact Mr Mossop.

Cheques: RH Rix £220 Bus Shelter; Cornhill Ins. £6.25 Insurance June 75-June 76.

Thursday August 21st 1975 Apology Cllr Redden.

Business arising: Battle Bridge repaired but a mishap warranted further attention.

Joint meeting June 9th: SHDC asked for list of businesses interested in proposed development. These included: EC Coupland, builder, Church End; GE Parker, engineers, Fleet Rd; GF Wakefield, builder, Bull Row.

Drings Allotments: Notice from White Sons & Lumby re their application for development of this land. Full discussion resolved to oppose as it was allotment land serving Fleet people and there was no other.

Plans: 1) Drings Trustees outline for residential development at OS894.

2) Mrs D Holvey, Lowgate – garage and vehicular access

3) MC Seth – house at the Wheel House, Church End.

No 1 to be opposed; 2) & 3) approved

Any other business: Grass cutting opportunity for PC declined as SHDC already did it satisfactorily.

Tree planting scheme from SHDC: Clerk to ask Mr Moore for advice on two sites. Cllr Johnson reported only one tree surviving on Hensons Pit and more to be asked for.

Baptist Chapel: application for burial grant from Treasurer left in abeyance

SHDC special invitation to commemorative concert Oct 15th at S Holland Centre by a dance company from Ghana, prior to public notice.

Friday November 14th 1975 Apologies from Clrs Ellis, Mrs Halgarth, A Halgarth, Johnson.

Business arising: Battle Bridge repairs done.

Tree planting: awaiting news from SHDC

Drings Allotments: Chairman reported telephone conversation with White Sons & Lumby that without planning permission they would close the Trust and sell the land.

Clerk to call to discuss possible sale to Council. Read Agreement of June 12th 1933.

Planning: 1) Anglia Motel – illuminated sign 2) Holbeach Motors – illuminated sign, 3) Bungalow with vehicular access at Branches Lane for GA Thomson, 170 High Rd, Moulton. No obs on any of them.

Any other business: Burial Grants – increased grants applied for from PCC & Baptist

Council agreed £50 pa to PCC, £30 Baptist.

Faulkners corner hedge on boundary of Fleet/Gedney at G Dyke needing attention

War memorial trees also needing attention, Clerk to notify authorities.

Friday January 1976 Apology from Chairman. V-Ch Bennett presided over: Cllrs Ellis, Mrs Halgarth, Johnson, Morris, Paul, Redden.

Business arising: Drings allotments – no action to be taken till further notice

Faulkners, Gedney Dyke, hedge not yet attended to.

Speed limit on Fleet Hargate: County Surveyor proposed 40mph limit. Council agreed.

Planning: no observations on following: H King – 3 dwellings and garages, Cross St;

Gedney Church Flower Festival sign on A17; H Payne 28 chalets; J Ellis, agricultural bldg, Fleet Bank; Mr E Stor & Miss Redden, hse & gge, Langary Gate Rd.

Any other business: Council Fidelity Guarantee renewal notice £10, previously £3. Clerk had asked Cornhill to quote and it was only £1. Council unanimously agreed. Total cover was now £8.25pa including bus shelters. Fleet shelter had been damaged and roof in need of repairs and painting.

Mrs Halgarth drew attention to the state of the road at Hocklesgate and Cherry Lane. Clerk to notify LCC.

Cheques: Dept of Environment \$14.04 Audit fee; Cornhill Ins. £1.

Monday February 9th 1976 Cllr Bennett presided over Cllrs A Halgarth, Johnson, Paul, Morris, Redden. Apologies from Cllr Waltham, Mrs Halgarth and Mr Ellis.

Business arising: Fleet bank hedge to be attended to by LCC

Hargate Close-Cherry Lane: Work done

Fleet Road Bus Shelter: Roof blown off. Mr Rix had repaired it and submitted his a/c £8.64. "*Much discussion took place*" and Council decided Clerk to discuss with Mr R.

Precept for 1976/77: Clerk presented estimates. Allotments showed only £3.50. Any increase in Drainage rate would have to be passed on. General A/c estimate £287, taking forward £120/150 would leave deficit. Precept would need to be £250/300; SHDC granted 50%. Unanimously agreed to £300.

Planning: no observations on: Cupfine, London – 18 dwellings off Eastgate; W Dekker – caravan, glasshouse extension Washway Rd; B Kowaski - caravan, Ravensgate; C Wright & Son – Gen purpose bdg, White House Farm, G Dyke; IH Allen – caravan, Ryefield Fen, Gedney Fen; F Pennington & Son – drying store etc, Fleet Lodge Farm; SP Taylor, Bdg & gge, Haycroft Lane.

Clerk's office allowance: increased to £20 pa w/e/f 1975/76 due to increased heating and lighting costs.

Clerk announced May election of Parish Councillors. He would have Nomination Forms 1/4/76. Next joint meeting of District & Parish cllrs March 6th at Spalding.

Council confirmed Clerk's cheque £130.91 signed between meetings.

AGM Thursday May 27th 1976 Declaration of Office signed by all newly-elected members: Cllrs Bennett, Ellis, A Halgarth, Mrs Halgarth, J Lanigan, Mrs S Lanigan, Morris, Paul, Waltham. Cllrs Waltham and Paul elected Chairman and Vice-Ch. Chairman welcomed Mr & Mrs Lanigan. Press and one member of the public present

Business arising: Fleet Bank hedge and Hocklesgate Road – no progress.

School managers to 1979: Cllrs Paul and Morris.

Deacon & Fairfax: Cllrs Mrs Halgarth, A Halgarth, Bennett re-elected.

Mr Johnson's vacancy was deferred for enquiries about his eligibility, having served till 1976.

Agenda items 6,7,8 voted to be taken in committee. Press and public left.

Planning: no observations on: WE Spinks – dwelling & gge on site of Rose Cottage, Princess Street; R Diggle – 2 hses & gges, Hallgate; F Laming & Son – gen purpose bdg, Snowdrop Farm, H'beach St Johns; A Karim – alterations, Hargate House; W Dekker – house, Washway.

Drings Allotments: Letter from agents asking if Council would like to terminate tenancy for remuneration. After discussion, decided not to.

Clerk's salary to remain as at present.

Business arising: Cllrs Mr & Mrs Lanigan raised several points for information i.e. amenities, notices displayed, grant to Brownies, village signs; Clerk to report back. Cllrs A Halgarth and Lanigan reported conflicting road signs at Hocklesgate and A151/A17; Clerk to notify.

Bank balance 31/8/76 was £174.27.

Monday August 16th 1976 Apology: Mrs Lanigan. Local press present.

Business arising: Fleet Bank hedge reported by Cllr Ellis still untended, Clerk to act.

Hocklesgate now done.

Deacon & Fairfax: Cllr Johnson not now eligible, vacancy filled by Cllr Ellis till 1979.

Village amenities: Cllr Lanigan expressed his opinion that the Council "*had been rather lax in not securing land*" for a play area and asked why not. After much discussion, Chairman explained that cutbacks in County Council grants did not allow for such a scheme "*in the foreseeable future*". Cllr Lanigan said other councils provided such amenities and the people of Fleet should say what they wanted. Clerk pointed out that £70,000 grant aid had been offered throughout the country from County Councils in 1975/76 but this year only £25,000 was available and was to be cut back even further. Grant aid for 1977/78 was therefore remote. Cllr Lanigan was invited to secure funding if he could. Council decided no further action required.

Road signs: Clerk reported site meeting with LCC who found the signs as per regulations; moving the "Give Way" sign would cost about £150. No further action. Same conclusion reached for Eastgate and Hocklesgate signs but Cllr Lanigan said he would pursue the matter further.

Planning: PL Eley, 26 dwellings & gges at Eastgate – no observations.

GE Hall – Residential devlopt (14 acres) off Eastgate/Hocklesgate. Council observed this was premature for the condition of the road. Sewerage and school accommodation were also important factors, Clerk to notify SHDC.

V Clements – Fleet Road alterations and additions. No obs.

G Thompson – garage and packing shed, Branches Lane. No obs.

PL Eley for RL Thorpe – bungalow & gge, Branches Lane. No obs.

T Morris – house & gge, Hazlewood Lane. N/o.

J Ellis – cold store, Millbank Farm. N/o.

Any other business: National week of sport Sept 12-18 at Spalding. Council decided not to participate. School advised.

Fly posting – council asked by SHDC to cooperate in stopping this

Tour of Amenities in SH District – circular from SHDC.

Cllr Morris reported dangerous road at Ravens Clough through obstructive bushes

Cllr Lanigan said the milestone near Ward's property on the Hargate was in a dyke, possibly from when the War Memorial was moved. Clerk to notify authorities.

Cheques: Hadden Best £1.30 Stationery; Lincs CC £1.90 Room hire 27.5.76.

Tuesday August 31st 1976 Apology from Cllr Bennett. Press and one member of the public present.

Business arising: Fleet Bank hedge still left. Milestone put back. Ravens Clough bushes reported to highways.

*Drings allotments – Cllr Paul proposed, Cllr Morris seconded going into committee, voted 5 to 2. Other Agenda items continued.....

Mrs Ashton had offered a seat for the war memorial with ornamental bushes. Accepted.

Cllr A Halgarth raised matter of unadopted roads: Princes St, Union St, Albion, Cross. Clerk to enquire. Cllr Lanigan asked about footpaths. Chairman replied there were none, some having been closed 38 years ago.

Tree planting and Post Box at Hargate Close would be discussed at next meeting.

Water supply/Drought – letter from SHDC asking Council to ensure aged and infirm were not overlooked in any water rationing scheme.

Planning: No observations on 1) RF Cork, Little Marsh Lane – outline P/A dwelling; 2) FH Barns, Lowgate Rd – brick surround to existing wooden bungalow; 3) R Buckingham, Fleet Hgte, Garage.

Press were asked to leave.

**Drings Allotments: in committee – “and this minute can be seen or communicated to the Council at a given time. ‘The Clerk produced a letter dated Aug 16th from CL Harvey enclosing a notice requiring arbitration as to rent, stating as from 11th day Oct 1977 or the next ensuing day on which the tenancy could have been determined by notice to quit at the date hereof, be referred to arbitration under the Agric Holdings Act 1948 Sect 8”*

Chairman fully outlined the implications, saying the last such document was in October 1971, effected 1972, and they could have served notice last year. Rents would have to be increased and Council required powers by 11th October to serve such arbitration on tenants. Council unanimously agreed, Clerk to act.

Monday September 13th 1976 Cllr Waltham presided over the meeting attended by Cllrs Bennett, Ellis, Mrs Halgarth, Johnson, J Lanagan, Mrs Lanagan, Morris, Paul. Press and 25/30 members of the public present. Previous minutes read, confirmed and signed. Business arising:

1. Fleet Bank hedge: LCC asking Mr Snell's permission to cut it themselves.
2. Ravens Clough: Clerk and LCC rep visited that day and agreed dead tree and elder bush to be removed, plus 3 or 4 hawthorn bushes on Holbeach side cut down to dyke level. Hawthorn bushes to be trimmed at Neals Gate Road end.
3. Unadopted streets: Only if ALL occupiers make up their frontages to standard would LCC consider adoption but unlikely due to current programme.
4. Tree planting: Clerk gave a list of trees and shrubs planned for Hargate Close etc and Hensons Pit to be looked at. Costs on 50-50 basis.
5. Post box, Hargate Close: Clerk read out previous correspondence. No action.
6. Allotments – Cllr Paul proposed, Cllr Morris seconded going into committee; vote 5 for, 2 abstaining

Any other business: Application from PCC for churchyard maintenance grant; decided to leave until Baptist Chapel also applied.

Garden refuse raised by Cllr Lanagan and others, a problem since bonfires were not practicable in confined areas. Clerk to enquire.

Letter from Mrs Stublely, Columbus House, asking for a children's playing field to keep them off the streets. No action.

Planning: Mr Thorold – bungalow at Field House. Approved. PL Eley – bungalow & gge at Princes Street, n/o; PL Eley – 3 houses & gges, Cross St, n/o.

Press and public withdrew.

Chairman explained that the Allotments were shortly coming onto the market. He and the Clerk had taken legal advice and were told it would be wise to try and buy. Having made various enquiries and obtained loan sanction, given Council's approval they would try to purchase within D.V. figure and asked for executive powers for Chairman, V-Chairman and Clerk to carry out their wishes. Before putting this to the meeting, Chairman allowed discussion and questions. Cllr Paul proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded *"that the Parish Council endeavour to purchase the land at the DV price at the public auction held at the Bull Hotel, Long Sutton on Sunday September 28th 1976."* Carried unanimously.

"The following minute was also recorded for official notification to the public Works Loan Board 'that the Parish Council of Fleet agrees to the participation of the Loan for the purchase of 5a 2r 20p Allotment Land, Fleet Hargate, now rented from Drings Trust to be sold at Public Auction on 24/9.76.'"

Signed: H Waltham, Chairman.

End of book.

At a Parish Council Meeting held at the Wood Lane CP Primary School on Monday October 4th 1999 the death was announced of Mr Stan Doubleday, former Clerk to the Council for 50 years. It was proposed and seconded that a wreath and condolences be sent.