

1894 Parish Council

Minutes of the First Meeting Dec. 31

The first meeting of this Council under the local Government Act of 1894, was held in the National School on Monday December 31st 1894 at 7 p.m. having been duly convened by the Chairman of the Parish Meeting, Mr. Joshua Wilford, according to the prescribed form of notice.

As the appointed Chairman Mr. Wilford at once called upon the newly elected Councillors to sign the Form of declaration on acceptance of Office required by the above-mentioned Act. These gentlemen signed this in the following order:

1. Corney, George 2. Brazier, Edwin 3. Deacon, Joseph 4. Hollands, Thomas 5. Burke James Henry 6. Beadle, Henry Thomas, 7. Archer, Thos. Richard 8. Fowle, Jabez, 9. Hodgkinson, William Robinson 10. Roberts, Wm Lee Henry, 11. Hawks, Henry 12. Gash, Thomas 13. Kemsley, John 4.

Election of Chairman

On the motion of Mr. Hollands, seconded by Mr. Roberts, the choice of Chairman unanimously fell on Mr. Corney, who appropriately thanked the Council for the honour they had thus conferred upon him and engaged to use his best efforts to conduct all the meetings in the most efficient and impartial manner.

It was then agreed without objections, that Mr. Wilford should be allowed to remain throughout the meeting as a silent witness of its proceedings.

Election of Vice Chairman

Two gentlemen were proposed in the office of Vice-Chairman, viz. Mr. Brazier, prop. By Mr. Archer, sec. Mr. Deacon and Mr. Roberts, prop. Mr. Fowle, sec. Mr. Beadle

For Mr. Brazier there voted 3: Mr. Archer, Deacon, Hollands

For Mr. Roberts 7: Messrs Beadle, Burke, Fowle, Gash, Hawks, Hodgkinson, Kemsley. Mr. Roberts was therefore elected and took his seat by the Chairman

Clerk

Respecting the appointment of Clerk, there was an animated discussion as several members considered it advisable that till Easter next one of the Councillors should act in that capacity.

Clerk (election of)

It was proposed by Mr. Beadle and seconded by Mr. Hollands:

That the council appoint one of themselves as Clerk to the council "pro tem" and that Mr. Hodgkinson be requested to serve as such till Easter next

As an amendment Mr. Roberts proposed and Mr. Gash seconded. "That Mr. Hilder, the Assistant Overseer, be asked to undertake the duties of Clerk to the Council, without remuneration, till April 15th. 1895."

The following 5 gentlemen voted for the Amendments Messrs. Burke, Gash, Hawks, Kemsley Roberts For the Proposition the follg. 6 gentlemen Messrs. Archer, Brazier Beadle, Deacon, Fowle, Hollands

The proposition was therefore carried and Mr. Hodgkinson consenting to accept the office, was accordingly appointed Clerk to the Council.

Treasurer

Mr. Deacon proposed, Mr. Brazier seconded and it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Jackson, Manager of the London & County Bank, Maidstone as Treasurer.

Brook property

Matters concerning the Snodland Brook Property arose for consideration but were deferred.

Burial Board.

The Chairman then read a letter received by him as Chairman of the Burial Board, from Mr. Robinson, Clerk to the same.

This letter referred to the extinction of that Board, through the election of a Parish Council which would now be required to take over the duties, powers and liabilities of the defunct Board - It also urged the importance of soon attending specially to the questions of Mortgage & Conveyance relative to the new Burial Ground now in the process of formation.

It was proposed by Mr. Fowle, seconded by Mr. Burke" That this Council confirm the agreement entered into by the late Burial Board and hereby instruct the Clerk of that Board to see to the due carrying out of the same.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman now read a letter received from Dr. Palmer containing a renewal of his offer to defray the legal costs incurred in the Consecration of a portion of the Burial Ground.

The Clerk was instructed to reply, expressing the cordial acceptance of the generous offer by the Council with grateful appreciation.

May's Overcoat Charity.

It was proposed by W. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Deacon and unanimously supported "That the Clerk be directed to address the Churchwardens & Overseers and request them to kindly forward the overcoats of the May's Charity, now due together with all particulars of the applications made for the same, to the Chairman of the Council by Monday Jan 7.1895.

Future Arrangements.

It was decided that as a rule, the Council Meetings should be held on Tuesday evenings at 7.p.m. and further that the Public and the Press should be admitted into all but Committee Meetings, the next Meeting to be held on Jan 8th next.

The Clerk was instructed to procure a suitable book to contain the Minutes of the Council Meetings.

Signed George Corney (Chairman) Jan. 8th 1895.

1895, Jan. 8

According to the arrangement made at the First Meeting, the Council met at the National Schools on Tuesday Jan. 8th 1895 the Chairman taking the chair at 7.p.m.

All the Councillors were in attendance while about 40 parishioners were present as silent spectators of the proceedings.

At the call of the Chairman, the Clerk read the Minutes of the last Meeting, and they were duly confirmed and signed.

Correspondence

The Correspondence produced, included

- (1) A letter from Mr. Jackson accepting the post of Treasurer to the Council
- (2) A letter from the Overseers of the Parish intimating the distribution by them of the overcoats of the May's Charity.
- (3) A letter from Rev. J.G.Bingley. M.A. Rector re use of School room for the Council Meetings.

Overcoats of the May's Charity - discussion and resolution.

The action of the Overseers re Overcoats occupied a considerable portion of the night's Meeting - Much surprise and indignation were expressed that the request of the Council conveyed in the Clerk's letter in accordance with the instruction of the last Meeting should have been ignored.

(2) On the proposition of Mr. Archer seconded by Mr. Burke it was unanimously resolved "That the clerk write to the Overseers requesting an explanation of their action in the distributing the overcoats of the May's Charity and expressing surprise at their apparent discourtesy, in ignoring the request of the Parish Council, seeing that the latter were now empowered to act for that Charity.

(1) Some discussion arose as to inviting one of the Overseers present in the room, to come forward and speak on the subject. Mr. Archer proposed and Mr. Burke seconded "That the Overseer present be given the opportunity of giving an explanation" Mr. Hollands proposed and Mr. Gash seconded an amendment: "That in the absence of his colleague the Overseer be not given a hearing"

Voting For the amendment (3) Messrs. Gash, Hollands & Kemsley. For the resolution (7) Messrs. Beadle, Brazier, Archer, Deacon, Fowle, Hawks, Hodgkinson.

The proposition was therefore carried but the gentleman concerned declined to accept the opportunity.

Application for copies of title

On the motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Roberts it was unanimously decided "That the Clerk make application to the Somerset House Authorities for certified copies of the Wills of Godden and May to be in the possession of the Council.

Notice of Motion.

Mr. Burke read the following Notice of Motion he intended to bring forward at the next Meeting:- "That an inquiry be made by this council into the administration of its relation to and power over our local Charities and also into the question of cheap allotments"

Letter to Lighting Inspectors.

Moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Beadle and carried, that the Clerk formally intimate to the Lighting Inspectors, that the Parish Council was now prepared to take

over the duties and liabilities of the lighting committee formed under the Adoptive Acts.

Preparation of Rules and Standing Orders.

On the proposition of Mr. Hawks, seconded by Mr. Beadle it was unanimously decided to form a Sub Committee who should draw up Rules & Standing orders for the guidance of all meetings, and submit the same to the next Meeting of the Council for consideration and approval and that this Sub Committee consist of the Chairman, Clerk & Messrs. Archer, Deacon & Gash.

It was arranged that the Burial Board Deed Box and Copying Books should be at the service of the Council also that Printed Forms of Notices of meetings should be procured by the Clerk.

Snodland Brook proposition.

Mr. Deacon again brought forward this question but on the proposition of Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Archer it was decided by 6 votes to 3 to again defer it.

Voting:- For proposition (6) Messrs. Archer, Burke, Corney, Gash, Hawks, Hodgkinson. Against (3) Messrs. Fowle, Hollands, Kemsley.

Mr. Deacon and Mr. Beadle seconded it was carried nem.con. that the Council request the Highway Board of the District Council to have the 3 trees on the path to Paddlesworth removed also that their attention be drawn to the present to the unsatisfactory state of Waghorn Road.

Signed Geo.Corney.

Jan 95.

1895 Jan 22

A full General meeting took place in the National School on Tuesday Jan.22 The Chairman at 7 pm called on the Clerk to read the Minutes of the last Meeting and after their being confirmed, duly signed them.

Correspondence The correspondence read included,

- (1) Letter from Rev J.G.Bingley M.A. Rector of Snodland re use of schoolroom for Meetings of the Council.
- (2) Letter from Overseers re Overcoat Charity.
- (3) Letter from Clerk to Lighting Inspectors announcing that their a/c were fully drawn.up.
- (4) Letter from Tenant of farm in Romney Marsh respecting proposed reduction of rent.
- (5) Printed circular from County Council re Treasurers Guarantee.
- (6) Letter from Clerk and architect to the Burial Board re estimate for planting of trees and bushes in Cemetery.

Rules and Standing Orders (Committee report)

The Chairman of the appointed Committee (Rev. J. R. Archer) read a report of the meeting of his Committee held on the 15th inst.

Each Rule and Standing Order proposed was then separately considered and its form decided upon.

It was resolved that the Clerk should get these printed on proof copies which should be distributed to the Members of the Council with a view to final revision.

Mr. Burke's Motion

The motion of which Mr. Burke gave notice at the last Meeting was introduced by him, Mr. Hollands seconded and it was adopted nem.com.

During the discussion on this motion the Clerk produced and read the contents of

(1) Copy of order certifying approval of Trustees re May's Charity and dated Dec. 18.1888.

(2) Particulars of May's Will obtained by a perusal of the original document. (3) Printed copy of the revised scheme of Charity Commissioners re Goddins Charity.

All being obtained at the kind instance of the Rector of Snodland, for the use of the Council.

It was ultimately decided to instruct the Clerk to fully carry out the Resolution on the subject decided at the last Meeting.

Parish Meeting

With reference to letter No. 3. it was arranged that a Parish Meeting be summoned for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and Statement of a/cs of the Lighting Inspectors also to be decided on the amount to be expended in the ensuing year:- Such meeting to be held on Thursday Jan 3 1 .next at &p.m. in the National School.

The Clerk stated that the Rector had kindly offered a copy of the Parish Councils Act on a large mounted sheet, for the use of the Council:- The Clerk was requested to acknowledge the gift and express the Council's acceptance with thanks.

Letter No2

On the proposition of Mr. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Hodgkinson it was resolved that the letter received from the Overseers should lie on the table.

Voting for - Messrs. Hawks, Roberts, Beadle, Hodgkinson

Against Messrs. Archer, Brazier, Hollands.

Letter No.4.

On the subject of the future rental of Watercress Farm, Romney Marsh it was decided to defer the final arrangement until the Clerk obtained further particulars.

Letter No. 5.

The Clerk was directed to communicate with the Treasurer

Letter No.6.

It was proposed by Mr. Beadle seconded by Mr. Holland and carried unanimously, that a sum not exceeding £20 should be at the present stage, incurred in the planting of trees and shrubs in the Cemetery and that various Florists in Maidstone should be applied to for estimate and quantities.

It was also agreed that a reply should be forwarded to the request of Mr. Champion contained in the Architect's letter stating that the Council had no hesitation in acceding thereto. (Proposed by Mr. Deacon Seconded by Mr. Holland)

Signed Jan.31 1895.

Jan 31

A meeting of the Council was held on Thursday at 7 p.m. **Jan 31 1895** in the National School Mr. Corney in the Chair

Present:- Messrs. Brazier, Beadle, Burke, Fowle, Hawks, Hollands, Kemsley, Roberts and the Clerk.

Vote of Condolence

On the minutes being confirmed and signed Mr. Hollands moved that a vote of Condolence with Mr. Deacon, on the sad bereavement of his son Mr. Arch Deacon caused by a lamentable gun accident, be passed by the Council and a message of sympathy be conveyed by the Clerk, to the young widow and Mr. Deacon. The Chairman seconded in a feeling manner and the motion was unanimously carried.

Burial Board

Mr. G. Robinson, Clerk to the Burial Board was on the invitation of the Council, present to explain the position of the Council concerning the entire undertaking of the new Burial Ground as to the arrangements for purchasing the land, negotiating a loan of £2000 together with the repayment of the latter and interest thereon.

On Mr. Robinson's recommendation, the Council resolved to call a meeting of the Parochial Electors at an early date viz:- Monday Feb 11 8p.m. to consider the points raised by the altered circumstances of the Local Government of 1894.

Tenders for Plants.

The tenders for the supply of trees etc for laying out, the new burial Ground, received from Mr. Harrison, Messr. Bunyard & Co and Messr. T. Frost & Co. all of Maidstone were laid before the Council - (After an interval of 35 minutes occupied by the Parish Meeting) the subject was resumed comparisons of prices named being considered. The total prices (approx) were as follows:

Messrs. Bunyard & Co. £18.9.0. "

Frost & Co. £15.16.6

Mr. Harrison £16.13.0 or £14.17.0.

Moved by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Fowle and carried unanimously that Messr. Frost & Co's tender for £15.16.6 be accepted.

On the motion of Mr. Kemsley, seconded by Mr. Hawks it was unanimously decided to invite Mr. Harker of Strood Cemetery to superintend the planting of the trees.

Mr. Hollands' kind offer of the use of his horse wagon for conveying the plants to the Burial Ground was gratefully accepted.

Treasurer's Security

A letter received from the Treasurer re the Security required by the County Council of Kent according to the local Govt. Act of 1894 was read and considered.

It was proposed by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Beadle and unanimously resolved that the form of Bond enclosed in the Treasurer's letter should be accepted by the Parish Council, the amount of £500 to be inserted as the sum to be held in bond of the sureties to be named in the bond, the Clerk to request the Treasurer to get the Bond duly executed, signed and sealed forthwith and on its being placed in the hands of the Council, to advise the Kent County Council of the transaction.

Notice of Motion by Mr. Deacon That at the next meeting of the Council he will draw the attention of the Parish Council to the unsatisfactory state of the Parish in regard to the extinguishing of fires.

Notice of Motion by Mr. Fowle, viz:- That he would move that the Council enter at once into a thorough consideration of the Management of the Snodland Brook property past, present and future.

Slides on footpaths Mr. Hollands introduced the subject of the dangerous condition of the Roads and footpaths through the slides made by children and others.

It was considered advisable that the Clerk on behalf of the Council should approach the Superintendent of Police on the matter.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 9pm.

Signed Geo. Corney Mar 12 1895

Mar 12

A Meeting of the Council was held in the British School on Tuesday **Mar 12 1895** at 7pm. Mr. Corney in the Chair.

All the Councillors attended except Messrs. Gash, Hollands and Roberts, from each of whom reason for absence were received.

7 Parishioners were also present, Messrs Bateman, Hopper, Randall, Stewart

After the minutes had been confirmed and signed the following letters were read

Correspondence:

- (1) Returning Officer's charges concerning recent Poll.
- (2) Treasurer's re Bond.
- (3) Clerk to Birling Parish Council re Tenancy of farm on Romney Marsh.
- (4) Superintendent of Police W. Malling re sliding.
- (5) Mr. Harker and proposed planting of trees.
- (6) Messrs. T Frost & Son re supply of plants.
- (7) Mr. Hilder's accounts.
- (8) Communication from Local Govt. Board
- (9) Communication from Kent County Council
- (10) Messrs. T. Frost & Son re commencement of work
- (11) Reply from District Council re removal of trees at Waghorn Road.
- (12) Mr. Robinson re Loan transaction
- (13) Mr. Lepine (Clerk of Halling Parish Council) Expenses

Respecting Nos. 1 & 7 it was decided to at once draw a precept on the Overseers to the amount of £40 in order to defray these and other current a/c's of the Clerk ac.

No2. The Treasurer's Bond for £500 duly stamped was presented and ordered to be placed with the Council's documents

No.3 On the motion of Mr. Deacon seconded by Mr. Beadle it was unanimously agreed to request Mr. Hollands to act as the representative of this Council in the matter of arranging the future rent of the tenant of Watercress Farm, Romney Marsh and arrange to accompanying Mr. S. Payne of the Birling Parish Council to the farm and together consult with the tenant.

Page 18 1895 Mar 12 No 11 The Clerk was instructed to correspond with Col. Luck respecting the trees obstructing the path to Paddlesworth.

No. 13 The idea of forming a joint Committee of the Parish Councils of Birling, Halling and Snodland for the purpose of considering the position and powers of these Councils with reference to Charities in which they are alike concerned , met with general approval.

On the proposition of Mr. Deacon seconded by Mr. Kemsley it was resolved to appoint the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk as representatives of this Council on the proposed Joint Committee and that they should make the necessary arrangements for the place and time of Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to select Tuesday the 26th inst. for holding the first Annual Parish Meeting, in the National Schools 8. p-m.

Notices of Motion.

(1) Mr. Burke resumed the question of Allotments but at his request it was considered better to defer discussion for the present

(2) Mr. Deacon introduced the subject of the present inadequate provision of means for extinguishing fires in the Village.

Fire extinguishing apparatus.

He proposed that the Clerk write to the Mid Kent Waterworks Co. for a revised estimate of the cost of new hydrants. Mr. Archer seconded and it was carried.

(3) Mr. Fowle brought forward the Brook question and in a lengthy but interesting speech traversed the past history of its Management, its present position and made suggestions for a better and more advantageous use of its revenue.

Proposed by Mr. Fowle, seconded by Mr. Beadle "That the amount of £40 now paid to lighting Inspectors be in future diverted to other Parish purposes such as the council shall approve".

A protracted discussion followed in which various Councillors took part but on the motion of Mr. Hodgkinson seconded by Mr. Kemsley it was unanimously decided to adjourn the consideration of the subject till the next meeting.

It was arranged that Mr., Deacon continue to undertake the Management of the Brook property and certain necessary work

It was proposed by Mr. Deacon seconded by Mr. Fowle and carried, that it be recommended to the Parish Meeting to raise the charge per Head of Cattle taken on Brook land be in future 7/6. Meeting closed at 10.p.m.

Signed March 19 1895.

At a meeting of the Council held on Mar 19 1895 in the British Schools 7 pm. Mr. Corney took the Chair and all the Councillors attended except Messrs. Hollands, Gash and Archer.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Palmer describing the inability through illness of Mr. Hollands to attend.

7 Parishioners were present:- Messrs. Bateman, Blackman, Filmer, Hopper, Hillyard Alf Penney and Spice also.

Proposed loan of £2000.

Mr. Robinson Clerk to Burial Board who explained the present position re loan of £2000 and submitted a Memorial addressed to the Local Govt. Board, for signature of the Parish Councillors present,(see letter No 1) viz: Messrs. Corney, Roberts, Hodgkinson, Deacon, Brazier, Kemsley.

Correspondence:

- (1) Letter from Kent County Council announcing their approval of this Parish Council negotiating a loan of £2000 for Burial Ground purchase etc.
- (2) From Clerk to Halling Parish Council re arrangements for Joint Committee on May's Charity.
- (3) From Mr. Bensted, Architect (with enclosed letter from Engineer to Mid Kent Waterworks Co) having reference to proposed supply of water to Burial Ground
- (4) From Mr. Hollands requesting that a later date should be fixed for the visit to Romney Marsh.
- (5) From Mr. Godfrey representing Managers of the National School, concerning charges for-the use of that School for Meetings of the Council.

Letter No. 3. It was decided not to discuss the matter at present.

No. 4. Clerk was instructed to communicate with Messrs Holland & Payne as well as Mr. Sillibourne to arrange a later date.

No. 5. It was proposed by Mr. Deacon & seconded by Mr. Beadle.
"That an inclusive charge of 2/6 for the use of the National School for each of the Council Meetings, be recommended (that amount to cover the cost of the Caretakers attendance).

Mr. Burke proposed an amendment. "That such charge should be 3/-". Seconded by Mr. Fowle.

VOTED: AMENDMENT... Messrs. Burke, Fowle, Hawks, Hodgkinson....4

MOTION.....Messrs. Deacon, Beadle, Brazier, Roberts, Kemsley 5

The Amendment was therefore lost & the Motion Carried.

Burial Grounds.

Mr. Deacon brought forward the state of the ground on the North Side where the hedge had been removed & the need that had arisen to make good this ground where necessary.

On the Motion of Mr. Deacon. Seconded by Mr. Hawks it was resolved "That Messrs Corney, Deacon & Roberts be appointed to view the ground & afterwards make suggestions to the Council.

Mr. Deacon also referred to the new Oak Fence that to him did not seem to be fixed straight.

Accounts.

The accounts of Mr Spowson (Printing &c.) & Managers of National School were ordered to be paid.

First Precept. The first precept drawn by this Council on the overseers was signed by Chairman, Clerk & Messrs Roberts & Deacon for the amount of £40.

Annual Parish Meeting.

The arrangement for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 26th were duly considered . (Agenda:- Brook, A/C's, Charities etc).

Parish Documents.

On the Motion of Mr. Beadle , seconded by Mr. Roberts it was unanimously resolved "that the Clerk request the Rector Rev. J.B. Bingley M.A, to place the Minute Book of the Vestry Meetings as well as other documents of the Parish now in his custody in the hands of the Council.

Rules of Debate.

In accordance with the instruction of the Council at it's meeting of Jan. 22nd last, proof copies of the Rules of Debate & Standing Orders were placed in the hands of the Councillors who at once proceeded to revise the same.

Mr. Burke proposed & Mr. Kemsley seconded "That 50 copies of the Rules of Debate & Standing Orders as now revised be ordered to be printed & to be bound in dark Brown Linen". Carried.

The Brook.

The Brook question was resumed by Mr. Hodgkinson, but after further discussion the Motion proposed on this subject at the last meeting, was withdrawn with the consent of all parties concerned. (Rule 12)

Attention of the Council having been called to the state of the Bridges over the Brook in the Malling Road & at the end of Dr Smith's garden.

Mr Beadle moved & Mr. Hodgkinson seconded, "That the Clerk bring the matter to the notice to the Kent County Council & the Birling Parish Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....Geo' Corney.

Meeting of the Council.
Held in the British Schools April 2nd 1895
At 7pm.

Mr. Geo' Corney presided – All the Councillors attended except Mr. Roberts (excuse given). Mr. Hollands (ill health). And Dr. Gash.

6 Parishioners were present – Messrs Filmer, Hildyard, Simmonds, Fletcher, Hammond, Atkinson.

The Correspondence included letters from Col. Luck, Mr. Bensted, Mr. Sillibourne. Printed Communication from the Local Government Board, & letter from Mr. Lepine.

Applications for Apprenticeships under Godden's Charity were received from the Parents of Kate Elizth Cunningham & Florence Efford.

It was arranged that the Chairman should consult Mr. Wildes with reference to the subject of Col. Luck's Letter, also that a circular from the Bridge Wardens at Rochester be handed to the new Church Wardens in due course.

Burial Ground.

Some conversation arose concerning the erection of the Buildings on this ground & also as to the supply of water thereto.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Architect & consult him as to the position of the well that is to be sunk.

It was decided that in the tenders for the Buildings, this supply of water should be included and such named.

It was arranged that the Clerk should when required by state of weather, give orders for watering the plants and applying manure to the ground below the surface.

Brook Affairs.

Considerable time was spent in discussing the future arrangements for Managing the Brook Land.

On the Motion of Mr. Fowle, seconded by Mr. Burke it was resolved

“That 3 members of the Council be elected to supervise the work to be done on the Brook Land, and that they be empowered to act on any emergency that may arise, without consulting the Council.

Mr. Archer proposed, & Mr Beadle seconded that Messrs, Brazier, Deacon & Hawks be the Members chosen. (Carried.)

Mr. Fowle proposed, Mr. Kemsley seconded & it was resolved “That 100 circulars announcing the alteration in the charge for taking Cattle on the Brook Land, made at the recent Parish Meeting, be printed and distributed among those concerned”.

At the request of the Council. Mr. Fowle agreed to undertake the arrangements for letting Allotments on this land.

On the proposition of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Beadle, it was resolved to appoint Mr. [W]Ray as Gatekeeper, his remuneration to be 4 guineas a year. The Clerk was instructed to apply to S[ou]th Metropolitan Gas Lighting Co. for cost of disused main pipes 13 ft to 2ft in diameter . Mr. Archer having suggested the use of these as foundations for Bridges over Ditches.

Mr. Burke proposed, Mr. Kemsley seconded & it was carried. “That Mr. Deacon undertake to receive all payments from those making use of the Brook for their Cattle, and forward to the Treasurer of the Council”.

On the question of Income Tax it was felt an unjust imposition considering that the Income arising from this Land was much below the statutory limit of £16.0.0.

It was therefore resolved on the motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Kemsley.

“That the Clerk write to the Commissioners of Income Tax & make application for the refunding of the sums received as Income Tax on the revenue of the Brook Land in late years.”

Other matters connected with the Brook brought forward by Mr. Deacon were referred to the Committee just formed, who were requested to present a report at the next meeting of the Council.

Local Government Board Circular

It was thought advisable to hear the suggestions contained in the form received from the Local Govt. Board concerning Rights of Way &c., and at the request of the Council the clerk accordingly read the paragraphs.

First Annual Meeting.

It was decided to hold the First Annual Parish Council Meeting, on Thursday April 18th at 8 p.m.

Notices of Motion.

The following Notices of Motion were given in,, to form the subjects of discussion at this Annual Meeting.

1. By the Chairman :-

“That I will bring forward the question of adopting the Public Improvements Act for the Parish of Snodland.

2. By Mr. Brazier

To call the attention of the Council to the unsatisfactory condition of the pathway in the High Street and the Roadway that lies too low in one part; further, to request the Council to apply to the Kent County Council , for the necessary work to make good the entire pathway & roadway in the High St. whenever required, & to call the attention of the County Council to the desirability of making a new pathway on the North side of the Street with proper water table to release the water that frequently collects on that side.

3. By Mr. Beadle.

That he will propose that 3 Public Notice Boards to contain announcements of all Meetings of the Council & Parish, shall be placed in prominent positions in the Parish. One each at Holborough, at some points opposite the Post Office & Bull Hotel respectively.

4. By Mr. Beadle.

That he will propose a Motion on the question of Allotments.

Geo' Corney
April 9th 1895.

Meeting of the Council
Held in the British Schools Tuesday April 9th.
At 8pm.

All the Councillors were present except Messrs. Hollands, Hodgkinson & Roberts, all of whom sent excuses.

Among the Ratepayers in attendance were Messrs. Fletcher, Davis, Hildyard & Bateman.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

After the reading & confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Mr. Beadle proposed & Mr. Brazier seconded "That the Standing Orders be Suspended to give the Council opportunity to hear Mr. Benstead Architect to the late Burial Board, re. the Cemetery & water supply to same.". Carried Unanimously.

Burial Ground Business.

Mr. Burke proposed, Mr. Deacon seconded & it was resolved, "That the Council by Appointment meet Mr. Benstead on Tuesday at 6pm. To view Burial Ground relative to alterations in grounds at the disposal of Council for Burial purposes. Absent members to be informed of such meeting.

Mr. Burke proposed. Mr. Deacon seconded and it was unanimously resolved "That the old resolution of the late Burial Board be adhered to viz:- That the Architect be instructed to advertise for Tenders for Buildings to be erected on Burial Ground, in the "Rochester Journal", "South East Gazette" & "Maidstone Telegraph".

A long discussion arose respecting the Water supply for domestic or other purposes. It was proposed by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Beadle, that a well be sunk in some portion of the Cemetery subject to the sanction of the Medical Officer of Health."

VOTING FOR.....Messrs. Archer, Beadle, Burke, Corney, Deacon, Fowle, Gash & Hawks.

AGAINST....Mr. Kemsley.

The Chairman of the Council wished to present the Council with a tree to be planted in some spot chosen by the Council. On the proposition of Mr. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Gash, it was resolved that the gift be thankfully accepted.

Brook Business.

The Brook Committee presented the following report and asked for powers to carry out the following work.

1. Brook Gate repaired
2. Brook Side Gate repaired
3. Stiles at end of Willow Walk have another rail added & sides be railed to prevent Cattle getting on the Pathway.
4. Trunk close to Willow Walk be reconstructed.
5. One Trunk on Brook be repaired.
6. 12 loads of lime ashes to repair pathway washed away by tides.
7. Removal of dead Willow trunks at sides of pathway & replant young trees.

The Adoption of this report was proposed by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Beadle & unanimously carried.

Mr. Deacon proposed & Mr. Archer seconded, & it was resolved "That Mr. Norman be engaged to do the necessary repairs to the woodwork as adopted & that the trunk next to the Willow Walk be replaced by one made of well seasoned Oak.

On the Motion of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Beadle it was resolved "That instruction be given to the Gatekeeper to prevent the deposit of rubbish upon the Brook Land & that a Notice Board cautioning defaulters be erected.

Letter from K.C.C.

A letter received from the Technical Education Committee of the Kent County Council was presented, but on the proposition of Mr. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Deacon, it was resolved to defer consideration of the same till next meeting.

Trees Obstructing Pathways

The Chairmen reported that Mr. Wildes suggested that a deputation from the Council wait upon Col. Luck respecting the 3 trees obstructing the pathway to Paddlesworth. Mr. Deacon proposed, Mr. Burke seconded & it was resolved that the Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Council be asked to see Col. Luck

William L. H. Roberts.
18th April 1895.

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held in the British School on Tuesday 18th April 1895 At 8pm

Mr. Roberts as Vice Chairman opened the Meeting and all the Councillors were present.

After the Minutes of the last Meeting had been read and confirmed, steps were at once taken to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

Election of Chairman.

Warm appreciation of the very efficient, genial & impartial discharge of the duties as Chairman by Mr. Corney during the three months existence of the Council, was expressed by Mr. Roberts and other members.

Mr. Hodgkinson proposed, Mr. Burke seconded the re-election of Mr. Corney and it was unanimously carried with general applause amid which Mr. Corney occupied the Chair.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Birling Parish Council re. Formation of Joint Committee of inquiry into the Charities of May & Godden., also the re-adjustment of the Rent of Farm at Romney Marsh.

Concerning the latter, Mr. Holland gave an interesting report of the visit paid by Mr. Payne & himself on April 8th to Mr. Sillibourne. This report met with general approval and on the proposition of Mr. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Kemsley it was unanimously resolved "That the future Rent of the Farm be a net sum of £30 and that a written agreement be drawn up between Mr. Sillibourne and the Trustees of Goddens Charity for the signature of all parties concerned."

Mr Hollands suggested the fixing of Boundary Stones on the Farm.

Mr. Burke proposed, Mr. Beadle seconded & it was decided "That the Clerk in connection with the Clerk of the Birling Parish Council, write to inform Mr. Sillibourne of the acceptance of his offer of a rental of £30 per annum for the future".

2. Letter from Technical Education Committee of the Kent County Council respecting the availability of the Parish Councils undertaking to act as Local Committees. Mr. Beadle proposed and Mr. Deacon seconded & it was resolved that a reply be forwarded stating "That this Council recognising the importance of the work of Technical Education express the opinion that it would be most desirable for Parish Councils to act as Local Committees or in conjunction with Local Committees already existing. Any information on the subject would be gladly accepted by this Council.

3. Revised estimate of the cost of providing apparatus for extinguishing fires in the Village, received from the Mid Kent Water Co. was laid before the Council. Mr. Deacon proposed, Mr Beadle seconded and it was resolved that the matter be deferred 6 months.

Some conversation took place relative to the position of the wire & stake fence on North side of the Cemetery.

Election of Overseers.

Mr. Deacon proposed, Mr. Hollands seconded "That 2 Overseers be appointed , one inside & one outside of the Parish Council."

As an Amendment Mr. Beadle proposed & Mr. Archer seconded "That four Overseers be appointed two inside & two outside of the Parish Council.

VOTING.... (8) for Amendment:- Messrs. Archer, Beadle, Burke, Brazier, Corney, Roberts, Gash & Hodgkinson.

Amendment was therefore carried.

Nominations

1. Outside the Council.

Proposed by

Seconded by.

Mr. F Errey

Mr. Fowle

Mr. Archer

Mr. J.R. Holman

Mr. Beadle

Mr. Brazier

No other nominations being made for outside the Council Messrs. Errey and Holman were declared elected.

2. Inside the Council.

Mr. Roberts

Mr. Fowle

Mr. Hawks

Mr. Brazier

Mr. Beadle

Mr. Hollands

Were unanimously chosen.

Appointment of Clerk.

Mr. Hodgkinson stated that he was very reluctantly compelled through ill health and pressure of professional duties to relinquish the Office of Clerk, the work with which had afforded so much interest.

The Chairman then gave very kind expression to the regret felt by all the Council and to the general appreciation of the services rendered by the Clerk in the first 3 months of the work of the Council.

Messrs. Roberts & Hollands also spoke in a similar strain, the former proposing "That the best thanks of this Council be given to Mr. Hodgkinson for his valued services as Clerk during the past 3 months and that this motion be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting".

Mr. Hollands seconded and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hodgkinson briefly acknowledged the Vote of thanks.

On the Motion of Mr. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Burke the Council formed itself into a Committee according to Rule 13 and the 14 Ratepayers present withdrew. The Chairman then stated that according to the Local Government Act 1894 the duties of Clerk necessarily would devolve upon Mr. Hilder, the Assistant Overseer.

After a somewhat exhaustive consideration of the duties required at present & likely to be required in the future of the Assistant Overseer, it was proposed by Mr. Deacon & seconded by Mr. Archer. "That the Salary of the Assistant Overseer for the ensuing year be raised to £60, such sum to cover the payment for all services as Assistant Overseer and Clerk to the Parish Council." Carried Unanimously.

This concluded the business at 10.10pm

The following were present during the open Meeting:- Messrs. Holman, Bateman, Filmer, May, Simmonds, Fletcher, Tilbrooke, Stevens Hildyard, Ashburner, &c.

Geo. Corney.

Meeting of the Council.
Held in The National School April 30th 1895.
At 7pm.

Present:- Councillors Corney, Archer, Hawks, Deacon, Kemsley, Roberts Brazier, Beadle, Burke & Fowle.

Mr Corney in the chair.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

1. Letter from South Metropolitan Gas Co. stating they had no disused gas pipes for sale.
2. Letter from Baddeley Bros. quoting price for new die to lever press.
3. Letter from Clerk to County Council in answer to letter re bridge in Malling Road, stating matter should have attention.
4. Letter from Charity Commissioners re return of Goddens Charity, sent back to Church Warden.
5. Letter from Mr. Bensted re well in Cemetery allowed to stand over for the present.
6. Letter from Mr. Robinson, stating the Local Government Board had given consent for loan.

Public Improvement Act.

In accordance with previous notice of motion Mr. Corney introduced a discussion on the advisability of adopting the Public Improvement Act.. He suggested the formation of a Committee to obtain information on the subject.

After Messrs Roberts, Fowle, & Burke had spoken on the matter-

The Chairman proposed & Mr. Deacon seconded that a Committee of five be appointed to inquire into the matter and report to the Council as early as possible.

This was carried unanimously.

The following Councillors were unanimously elected to serve on the Committee.

Messrs.

G. Corney	Proposed by	H. Beadle	Seconded by	H. Hawks.
H. Beadle	“	J. Kemsley.	“	J. Burke.
J.R. Archer	“	W.L.H. Roberts.	“	H. Hawks
E. Brazier	“	J. Deacon	“	J. Kemsley.
H. Hawks	“	J. Deacon.	“	W.L.H. Roberts.

State of the High Street.

Mr. Brazier who had given notice of motion., stated that the County Council had not completed the repair of the pathway on the South Side of the High Street, between the Red Lion & the Post Office, that the road in the High Street was low causing the water to lie in large pools, and that a pathway with water table on the North Side would be a great improvement.

Letter to County Council.

Mr. Brazier proposed & Mr. Deacon seconded the following resolution.
That a letter be written to the County Council, calling their attention to the state of the High Street and asking that authority to take the matter in hand at once.
A copy of this letter to be sent to Henry Peters Esq'. C.C. + Mr. Faraday's letter.
Carried unanimously.

Notice Boards.

Mr. Beadle who had previously given notice of motion proposed “That three notice boards be put up in the Parish - one at or near the entrance to the station, one at or near the Bull Corner, and one at Holborough near Mr. Hawks' shop or at some other suitable places where notices of the Parish Council Meetings could be posted as well as other notices”. There was no seconder, so the motion fell through.

Allotments.

Mr. Beadle had also given notice that he would introduce the subject of allotments. Councillors Roberts, Fowle, Burke and the Chairman spoke on the matter after which Mr. Beadle proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Burke.
“That as Allotments at a reasonable rent are required in the Parish, steps be immediately taken to obtain land for this purpose, by agreement if possible”.
Carried by 8 to 1.
Those who voted for the resolution were – Messrs Burke, Beadle, Brazier, Roberts, Kemsley, Deacon, Hawks & Archer.
Mr. Fowle was neutral.

Mr. Beadle proposed & Mr. Roberts seconded “That a Committee of five be appointed to carry out this resolution subject to the approval of the Council. This proposition was carried. The Councillors voting as in last resolution.

The following Councillors were unanimously elected to serve on the Committee.
Proposed by Mr. Archer and seconded by Mr. Brazier.
Messrs. Beadle, Burke, Roberts, Hawks and Deacon.

Brook Affairs.

Mr. Deacon reported re Brook Affairs that he had given two or three little jobs that needed immediate attention to Mr. Norman.

He also called attention to the ditch just inside the Brook Gate. This he described to be in a most insanitary condition. It received the surface water of Brook Street where it lay stagnant, emitting a horrible stench, which was a continuous source of danger to the health of the neighbourhood.

He suggested that the water be taken into the sewer and the Ditch filled up. Mr. Wray, owner of part of the Ditch had given his permission to have this suggestion carried out.

Letter to District Council.

On the proposition of Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Fowle and carried unanimously, it was resolved to instruct the Clerk to write to the District Council calling their attention to the matter and asking them to carry out the suggested alterations at once.

Mr. Beadle gave notice to move resolution with references to the Parish Books and their future custody.

Meeting ended 9.25pm.

Geo. Corney.

Meeting of the Council.

Held in the National School May 14th 1895.

At 7pm.

Present Councillors, Corney, Roberts, Archer, Burke, Beadle, Hawks, Brazier Deacon, Fowle, Hollands & Kemsley.

Mr. Corney in the Chair.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Suspension Of Standing Orders.

Mr. Brazier moved & Mr. Holland seconded the suspension of standing order No1 in order to take Mr. Robinson's business relating to loan for purchase of Cemetery.

Carried Unanimously

He, Mr. Robinson, stated that the Council of the Prudential Company had raised several technical objections, some of which he had persuaded them to withdraw.

They still required a certificate that Paddlesworth was part of the Parish of Snodland, and also the order of the County Council fixing the number of Councillors for this Parish.

Mr. Robinson next read the draft for loan which was satisfactory, and he was asked to complete the deeds as early as possible and to give notice as soon as they were ready for signature. The Clerk was requested to send to him the Certificate and the order, at once.

Overdraft.

Mr. Beadle proposed, & Mr. Hawks seconded that the Clerk be instructed to ask Mr Thos. Jackson, treasurer to the Council to allow an overdraft of £100. Carried unanimously.

Report on Recreation Ground.

The Clerk read a report of the first meeting of the "Recreation Ground Committee", which showed that four owners of land had been written to asking if they were willing to sell or let on long lease the whole or portion of the land specified, and on what terms.

Report Allotments Committee.

The Clerk also read a report of the first meeting of the "Allotments Committee". This Committee had decided that they would be better able to deal with the question if they knew the amount of land required for the purpose & asked the Council's permission to have some bills printed inviting applications to be made to the Clerk for Allotments together with the size of each, on or before the first day of June.

Mr. Hollands proposed & Mr. Archer seconded that 25 bills be printed. Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Mr. Peters in answer to Clerk's letter re High Street.
2. Letter from Mr. Powell, Chairman of Bridges & Roads Committee, acknowledging Clerk's letter re High Street.
3. Letter from District Council in answer to Clerks letter re Bridge in Birling Road, and the unwholesome ditch on the Brook
4. Circular from District Council re repair of footpaths.
5. Letter from Rector, Churchwarden & Sidesmen, asking the Council to decide on date, or probable date when the Consecration of part of the Cemetery might take place, in order that interments might be made, there being room in the church yard for the reception of only 5 or 6 more bodies.

Mr. Roberts proposed that the Cemetery be opened for interments before the Buildings are completed - as soon as trees are planted & drains laid. No seconder. Mr. Burke proposed that the question be deferred for the present, till the completion of the loan. No seconder.

Mr. J. Fowle proposed that the Clerk be instructed to answer letter stating the position of Council in reference to loan & the recommendation of the Solicitor in the matter.

This was seconded by Mr. Roberts & carried unanimously.

Parish Books And Documents.

In accordance with previous notice of motion Mr. Beadle proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Archer.

That this Council being the Parochial Power, considers that the Parish Books & Documents should be in their possession and that a letter be written to the present holders respectfully asking them to hand them over to the Clerk to the Council. All the Councillors voted for the resolution except Mr. Roberts who remained neutral.

Brook Affairs.

Mr. Deacon reported that the work re ditch on the Brook had not been commenced & suggested that a letter be written to the District Council asking them to carry out the work. Mr. Deacon proposed & Mr. Hollands seconded that the letter be written. Carried unanimously.

Lighting Receipt.

A precept on the Overseers for £100 for Lighting Expenses was signed.

Transfer of account.

A Cheque for £17.15.3 was signed. This amount was the balance of old Lighting Inspectors account, which is now transferred from the Kentish Bank to the London & County Bank.

Bridge over Medway.

Mr. Corney in an elaborate speech suggested the advisability of reviving the question of improved means of communication across or under the River Medway. He had written to the Chairman of the Birling Parish Council who had expressed himself in favour of the movement & had promised to bring the matter before the Council at the end of the present month. He had also written to the Chairman of the Burham Parish Council. The Chairman of the Burham Parish Council had laid the matter before his Council, all of whom were unanimous in their agreement of the advisability of again opening the whole question. He, Mr. Corney, felt if they were to move at all, they must do so now or the bridge would be placed in another locality. They would now have the support of land owners and manufacturers & and some who had been enemies would now be friends. He moved that the following resolution be forwarded to the Kent County Council.

“That this Council respectfully petitions the Kent County Council to withhold its sanction to any new scheme of communication either across or under the Medway between Aylesford and Rochester, until plans are submitted for a bridge or subway at Snodland. They also desire to suggest, the very great importance of any undertaking in this respect, being carried out in the most central position which would benefit the County of Kent generally, and supply to the large working class population of Snodland, Birling, Burham and Eccles a greatly needed means of crossing the river in this much used and important district than at present exists. This was seconded by Mr. Burke.

Messrs Burke & Archer spoke in favour of resolution, & Mr Roberts against it. Messrs Beadle, Burke, Hawks, Archer, Fowle, Kemsley, Brazier & Deacon voted for the resolution. Mr. Hollands remained neutral.

Public Meeting.

Mr. Burke proposed that the Council arrange a for a Public Meeting in Snodland to discuss this question, and that Messrs Porter, Peters, Margetts, Roberts & Col. Holland be invited to attend, together with representatives of all Councils & other bodies in the neighbourhood. Seconded by Mr. Beadle. All the Councillors present voted for the proposition except Messrs Roberts & Hollands who remained neutral.

Deputation to Mr. Porter.

Mr. Deacon called attention to grass in Cemetery & proposed that it be disposed of by tender and cleared on or before the 30th June. This was seconded by Mr. Roberts & carried.

Mr. Beadle gave notice of motion re Notice Boards.

Geo. Corney

June 4th 1895.

Meeting of the Council
Held in the British School June 4th 1895
at 7pm

Present: Councillors, Corney, Brazier, Gash, Beadle, Burke, Archer, Hollands, Hodgkinson, Hawks, Kemsley and Fowle.

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Suspension of Standing Order No.1

Mr Archer thus proposed that standing order no.1 be suspended in order to take the business of the solicitor Mr Robinson. This was seconded by Mr Hollands and carried unanimously.

Mortgage Deed

Mr Robinson read the mortgage deed statutory declaration i.e relating to the loan to the Council by the Prudential Assurance Company.

After some discussion, on the proposition of Mr Edwin Brazier seconded by Mr William Robinson Hodgkinson:-

It was unanimously resolved that the deed of mortgage made between this Council of the one part, and the Prudential Assurance Company of the other part for securing the loan of £2,000 and interest thereon, to the Council by the said Company for the purpose of providing and laying out a Burial ground for this parish be duly executed by the Chairman and two members present at this meeting.

Cheque to Treasurer

On the proposition of Mr James Henry Burke seconded by Mr Henry Hawks it was unanimously resolved that the authority to the Company to pay the cheque of £2000 to the Treasurer of the Council be duly signed by the Chairman and two members present.

Solicitor's Charges

The Chairman next read the Prudential Company's solicitor's bill of charges which amounted to £22.11.6.

On the proposition of Mr Beadle, seconded by Mr Kemsley:-

It was resolved, that the charges payable to Mr Nicholas Hanhart solicitor to the Prudential Assurance Company, at the completion of the deed for carrying out the loan of £2000, as agreed between the Company and this Council and amounting to the sum of £22.11.6 be paid.

Correspondence

Letter from Treasurer re overdraft. As the loan of £2000 would shortly be in his hands no further action was taken in this matter.

Letter from the Rector, the Rev Bingley re parish books and documents.

After some discussion, on the proposition of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Hollands it was resolved:-

That the Chairman and Clerk wait on the Rector and examine papers and documents in his possession, as invited by him, and report to the Council. All voted in favour except Mr Burke.

Letter from the Rector re consecration of Cemetery. On the proposition of Mr Fowle and seconded by Mr. Kemsley it was resolved:-

That a letter be written to the Rector in answer to his application that the Council would not be in a position to fix any date for Consecration or otherwise for at least 3 months from the present time.

Letter from County Council re suggested improvements in High Street.

Letter from Thomas Frost & Co re charge re for planting trees in Cemetery. This was allowed to stand over till next meeting and the Clerk was asked to look up previous correspondence.

Expenses of Councillor to Ivy Church

Letter from Local Government Board re Councillors expenses to Ivy Church.

On the motion of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Hodgkinson it was resolved that Mr Hollands be paid the sum of 12/6 to cover his out of pocket expenses.

Burham Bridge Committee

A letter was read from the Chairman of Burham Parish Council re appointment of Bridge Committee.

Mr Bensted

Mr Hodgkinson proposed and Mr Hawks seconded the suspension of standing order no.1 in order to take Mr Bensted. Carried.

Mr Bensted stated that he had not submitted plans, for the Cemetery buildings, to the district Council because the question of water supply had not yet been settled.

Mr Hollands proposed and Mr Beadle seconded and it was resolved:-

That Mr Bensted be instructed to enquire into the question of expense of laying the water on to the proposed cottage at the cemetery by the Water Company, and report to the Council.

Mr Bensted was instructed to advertise contracts for the Cemetery buildings in the following papers - Kent Messenger, South Eastern Gazette, and Rochester Journal and it was decided to hold a Council meeting on Tuesday June 18th when the tenders would be in.

Mr Bensted's attention was called to the fence on south side of Cemetery which needed ramming.

Mr Bensted was also asked to make a plan of the ground, and a chart with the graves marked and numbered.

Report of Bridge Committee

Mr Corney gave a report of the deputation re Bridge over Medway.

The deputation had waited on Mr Porter and had interviewed Mr Peters both of whom were prepared to support a practicable scheme for a bridge over the Medway. Mr Peters had also promised the assistance of his engineer Mr B Lambert.

Mr Lambert, being present in the room was asked to give any information he could on the matter.

Mr Lambert submitted a rough plan of a high level bridge.

He suggested that a premium be offered to the engineering firms in the Country for the best scheme and estimate for a high level bridge over the Medway and stated that Mr Peters had offered Ten guineas towards the sum to be offered as a premium.

He also said he would give the Council his assistance as far as he was able in furtherance of the object in view.

Mr Burke proposed that the whole Council form a Committee to further the object of a bridge over the Medway. This seconded by Mr Hodgkinson.

Mr Beadle moved an amendment that a Committee of 4 be appointed to act in this matter. Seconded by Mr Kemsley.

Messrs Brazier, Beadle, Hawks and Kemsley voted for the amendment, Messrs Fowle, Hodgkinson and Burke voted against and Messrs Archer, Hollands and Gash remained neutral. The amendment was declared carried.

Mr Hodgkinson proposed that Messrs Beadle, Brazier, Corney and the Clerk form the Committee. This was seconded by Mr Hawks and carried.

Mr Beadle in accordance with previous notice of motion, moved a resolution that 3 notice boards be put up in the parish, one on Misses Hook's garden wall opposite the post office, one at the Bull corner on Mr Hawkins' wall and one at Holboro on Mr Hawk's shop. This was seconded by Mr Hodgkinson and carried unanimously.

New Die for Press

Mr Archer proposed that a new die with Snodland Parish Council and Kent Arms be placed on the old Burial Board Stamp at a cost of 15/6. This was seconded by Mr Brazier. All the Councillors present voted for the motion except Messrs Burke and Kemsley who voted against it. Carried.

Mr Hollands gave notice of motion that the Council hold all its future meetings in the British School.

During meeting a telegram was received from Mr Roberts asking to be excused as he was at Ashford with the Yeomanry.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Peters and thank him for his kind offer of £10.

Meeting of the Council
Held on Tuesday June 25th 1895 at 7 o'Clock
in the British School

Present:- Messrs Corney in the Chair, Roberts, Gash, Fowle, Beadle, Brazier, Hollands, Kemsley, Burke, Deacon, Hawks and Hodgkinson. Mr Archer sent note asking to be excused as he had a previous engagement.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Suspension of Standing Order No.1

Mr Brazier proposed and Mr Deacon seconded that standing order no.1 be suspended to take Mr Bensted's business. Carried unanimously.

Estimate to Lay Water on to Cemetery

Mr Bensted gave the price of laying water on to the Cemetery Cottage. An inch pipe would cost £60 the Council to take the responsibility of repairs. If the pipe should be 1½ inch up to Mr Champions and Mr Champion should take the water the Water Company would be responsible for repairs up to Mr Champions and the Council for the remaining distance.

New Estimate

There was an unanimous opinion that this estimate was too much and Mr Beadle proposed that the Clerk be instructed to get an estimate from three people living in the parish who did this kind of work. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried unanimously.

Tenders for Cemetery Buildings

The tenders for Cemetery Building were opened by the Chairman. They were as follows:-

Cox Bros.	Maidstone	£1325.0.0
Wood & Son	Boughton	£1296.0.0
Brown Ed.G	Halling	£1330.10.0
Norman Ed.	Snodland	£1370.14.7
Wilford	Snodland	£1310.0.0
Langridge	Birling`	£1247.0.0

The tenders were considered to be too high, exceeding the architects estimate by £200. Some discussion took place as to what should be done.

New Plans for Cemetery Buildings.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Roberts seconded that new plans be prepared the estimate for which to come within the power of the Council to accept. Carried unanimously.

Plan of Grave Spaces

Mr Bensted submitted a plan of the Cemetery with the grave spaces marked thereon.

Committee to Make Rules etc.

It was resolved on the motion of Mr Deacon seconded by Mr Hodgkinson that a Committee of seven be appointed to consider the grave plan and to make Rules Regulations and a scale of fees.

It was resolved on the proposition of Mr Roberts seconded by Mr Fowle that the Committee be composed of the following Councillors:-
Messrs Deacon, Hodgkinson, Beadle, Brazier, Hawks, Archer and Burke.

Mr Bensted promised to meet the Committee at the Cemetery.

Mr Deacon suggested that the Clerk write to several burial boards asking for copy of rules etc.

Correspondence

Letter from Malling Rural District Council stating the Bridge complained of was private property.

Two letters from Mr Bensted re advertisement relative to tenders for Cemetery Buildings.

Two letters from Mr Robinson re Clerk's declaration relative to mortgage.

Bill for inserting advertisement in Rochester and Chatham Journal.

Allotments Committee Report

The report of the Allotments Committee was read by the Clerk. It showed that only 9 applications for allotments had been received and the total amount of land applied for amounted to 197 rods. The Committee considered that as the demand for allotments was so small they would not be justified in recommending the Council to take any further action in the matter at present.

Mr Beadle proposed that the report be referred back to the Committee to report to the Council in 3 months time. Mr Kemsley seconded.

Messrs Beadle, Kemsley, Fowle and Burke voted for and Messrs Hollands, Hodgkinson, Brazier and Hawks against the motion. The Chairman having given his vote in favour of the motion it was declared Carried.

Bridge Committee Report

The report of the Bridge Committee was read by the Clerk.

It showed that donations to the amount of £36.3.0 had been promised towards the fund to provide a premium for plan and estimate to be competed for by engineering firms in the Country.

That the Bridges and Roads Committee would receive a deputation from the Parish Councils of Snodland, Birling and Burham.

That the Bridge Wardens would receive a similar deputation to submit a scheme for a bridge over the Medway at Snodland.

That Mr B Lambert had prepared an excellent plan of a high level bridge for the use of the Council.

Mr Frost's Account

Mr Frost's charges for planting tree in the Cemetery were next discussed and the correspondence relating to the subject was read.

The Clerk was requested to write to Mr Frost requesting a detailed account of the extra charges.

Mr Hollands Motion on Future Committee Meetings

Mr Hollands in accordance with previous notice proposed that all the future meetings of the Council take place in the British School. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley.

Mr Burke moved an amendment that the Council meet at the British Schools for the next 3 months with the consent of the Misses Hook. This was seconded by Mr Beadle. Messrs Fowle, Burke, Gash, Roberts, Beadle and Hodgkinson voted for the amendment. Messrs Hollands, Kemsley and Hawks against it. Messers Brazier and Deacon remaining neutral. The Amendment was accordingly declared Carried.

Mr Fowle invited the whole of the Council to meet him on the Brook Allotment on Monday evening July 1st that he might show them where certain improvements might be made.

Brook Matters

Mr Deacon reported that an application had been made by a Snodland owner of property to turn a pony on the Brook but it being found that the pony belonged to someone in Maidstone the application was refused.

Mr Deacon also reported that the Birling Brook Committee had given them notice to remove a barbed wire fence and claw out a ditch bounding the Birling Brook. In answer to this request the Committee laid claim to 5 or 6 acres of the Ham Hill Brook which really belonged to Snodland. At present they were unable to establish their claim because both the Tithe and Ordnance maps gave the boundary as it exists at present. The Committee was exhorted to make fresh efforts to discover an older map having the original boundary and Mr Burke proposed that the Committee have a free hand in the matter except that they incur no expense without the permission of the Council. Mr Hollands seconded and it was carried unanimously.

Agreement with Lilibourne

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that the agreement with Mr Lilibourne be left in the hands of Messrs Hollands and Payne. Carried.

Notice Board Tenders

The tenders for the three notice boards were opened. They were as follows:

Large Boards up to 4ft x 3ft 6in	
Hawks W	£2.7.6
Norman Ed	£2.2.0
Wilford	£2.14.0

Small Boards 2ft x 1ft 6in	
Hawks W	£2.5.0
Norman Ed.	£1.3.0
Wilford J	£1.14.0

Mr Fowle proposed and Mr Deacon seconded that the smaller boards be ordered.

Mr Beadle proposed an amendment that the large size be ordered. This was seconded by Mr Hodgkinson and carried unanimously.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that Mr Norman's tender be accepted. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman reported that Mr Hollands had sold the grass in the Cemetery for 30/- to Mr W Hawks.

Joint Committee in Charities

Mr Hodgkinson proposed that the joint Committees of Snodland, Birling and Halling elected to enquire into the Charities meet on the 9th day of July in the British School at 8 o'clock.

This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried.

Mr Lambert who was present in the room stated that Mr Aveling of Strood had promised £10 towards the fund to provide the premium.

The Clerk was instructed to write and thank him for his kind offer.

Mr Hodgkinson Testimonial

Before closing the meeting the Chairman referred to the vote of thanks which had been passed and seconded in the minutes, to Mr Hodgkinson their former Clerk. The Committee felt that they ought to do something more in recognition of the services rendered to the Council by Mr Hodgkinson so ably and so willingly. He on behalf of the Council presented Mr Hodgkinson with an inkstand which he asked him to accept as a token of gratitude and appreciation. Mr Roberts in suitable terms on behalf of the Council presented him with an illuminated address. Mr Hodgkinson who appeared overwhelmed with surprise and pleasure sincerely thanked the Council in a few appropriate words.

Meeting of the Council
July 16th 1895
Held in the British School Rooms
At 7pm

Present Messrs Corney (Chairman), Roberts (Vice Chairman) Deacon, Brazier, Beadle, Burke, Archer, Hawks, Fowle, Hodgkinson and Kemsley

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Suspension of Standing Order No.1

Mr Deacon moved and Mr Brazier seconded that standing order no.1 be suspended in order that Mr Bensted's business might be taken. Carried unanimously.

Cemetery Business

Mr Bensted submitted revised plans of cemetery buildings, and showed where the original estimate could be reduced by £200. Mr R Langridge whose tender was the lowest, £1247 offered to carry out the work as shown on the revised plan for £1047. This amount being considerably more than the Council had intended to spend on the buildings i.e a long discussion ensued on how the extra money should be raised and eventually Mr Roberts proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that a Parish Meeting be called in order to obtain the sanction of the Parish to equal the extra sum of £100.

Mr Hodgkinson moved an amendment that Mr Robinson solicitor to the Council be asked to give his advice on the matter. This was seconded by Mr Beadle and carried. Messrs Deacon, Brazier, Beadle, Archer, Hodgkinson and Hawks voted for, and Messrs Roberts, Burke, Fowle and Kemsley against the amendment. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Mr Deacon proposed that if the advice of the solicitor was in favour of raising the money without calling a parish meeting that the architect be instructed to at once commence the work, but if not that a parish meeting be called as early as possible. This was seconded by Mr Archer and carried unanimously.

Water Supply

The Tenders for laying the main for the water supply to the cemetery were opened and were as follows:

Mr E Norman	£48.0.0
Mr H Draycon	£49.9.4
Mr J Wilford	£60.0.0

Mr Burke proposed that Mr Draycon's tender be accepted and Mr Kemsley seconded.

Mr Hawks proposed an amendment that Mr Norman's tender be accepted on condition that the best steam pipe be used and that he agree to lay the pipe into the cottage. This was seconded by Mr Deacon and carried. Messrs Deacon, Fowle, Hawks, Roberts, Archer voted for and Messrs Beadle, Burke, Kemsley and Brazier against it.

This amendment becoming the substantive motion Mr Archer moved an amendment that the specification be laid before the Council before accepting the tender. This was seconded by Mr Beadle and carried. Mr Hodgkinson alone voting against it.

Committee Reports

The Recreation Committee's report was read showing that price of land was too high.

The Charity Committee's report was read. It showed that resolutions had been passed that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Charity Commissioners for

information relating to the Great Coat Charity and also the Godden Charity. Mr Roberts proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that the report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

The Resolutions were as follows:

“That this parish committee of the Parish Councils of Snodland, Birling and Halling approach the Charity Commissioners with the view of obtaining that portion of the Charity referring to Great Coats distribution dissociated from the School Charity so that each of the said Councils may appoint a trustee (or trustees) to administer or assist in the administering of the said charity, according to Sect 14 (sub sec 3) Local Government Act 1894”.

“That the Clerk be instructed to write to the Charity Commissioners asking how many trustees can be appointed by the Parish Councils of Snodland, Birling for the administration of the Godden’s Charity”.

The Report of the Bridge Committee was read.

This report showed that an advertisement had been inserted in the “Engineer” offering a premium of £50 for the most suitable and economical design and estimate for a high level vehicular bridge of the Medway at Snodland.

Transfer of Land for Cemetery

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Roberts seconded that the Clerk write to the solicitor Mr Robinson respecting transfer for the ground for the cemetery. Carried unanimously.

Accounts

Two accounts of Mr Wilford’s for £1.7.0 and £10 for work in cemetery. Gas account for two quarters £63.15.0 and Mr Norman’s account £5.5.3½ for Brook repairs were presented. On the motion of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Deacon it was resolved that cheques for the payment of these accounts be drawn.

Mr Frost’s Detailed Account

Mr Frost’s account in detail was read. The Clerk was instructed to bring all correspondence relating to the matter to the next Council meeting.

Schedule of Papers etc from Rector

The schedule of papers and documents received from the Rector was read.

Vestry Minute Books

Mr Deacon proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write to the County Council asking for permission to have the custody of the Vestry books. Seconded by Mr Brazier and carried.

Before writing to the Council it was decided to apply to Mr Jackson the new Rector for the books.

Bridge in Malling Road

Mr Archer proposed that the Clerk write to the County Council respecting the Bridge on the Malling Road suggesting that it be repaired at once and that it be made a little wider. This was seconded by Mr Fowler and carried unanimously.

Old Map of Ham Hill Brook

Mr Deacon reported that he had received a letter from a gentleman in London respecting the old map giving the original boundary of the Ham Hill Brook. Some expense would have to be incurred and on the motion of Mr Fowle seconded by Mr Kemsley it was resolved to allow Mr Deacon to incur expenses not exceeding £1.

Mr Fowle gave notice of motion re Brook allotments.

Mr Brazier gave notice of motion re gas columns.

Meeting of the Council **Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday July 23rd 1895** **at 7pm**

Present: Corney, Messrs Brazier, Burke, Kemsley, Deacon, Beadle, Archer, Hollands, Hawks, Fowle and Hodgkinson

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr Beadle proposed that the minutes be confirmed with the exception of the minute relating to the notice to Mr Robinson which after reference to the minutes of the Burial Board was found there was no occasion for and that this minute be expunged from the minutes of this meeting. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried unanimously.

Cemetery Buildings

On the motion of Mr Brazier seconded by Mr Fowle standing order no 1 was suspended to take Mr Bensted's business relating to the Cemetery buildings.

Mr Bensted stated that the sum of £1,047 could be reduced to £940 by the substitution of bricks and slates for stone and slates. If the building of the mortuary was left in abeyance it would be further reduced by £75. Mr Deacon proposed that the Cemetery buildings be erected at a cost of £865 and that Mr Langridge's tender as amended be accepted. This was seconded by Mr Fowle and carried.

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that the architect be instructed to arrange that Mr Langridge should commence building at once so as to get them completed by the end of November. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried.

Deeds of Conveyance etc

Mr Robinson's business was next taken. This comprised the submission of deeds relating to the Cemetery, the conveyance, surrender of lease and apportionments. Messrs Corney, Hodgkinson and Brazier signed the deeds on behalf of the Council

Accounts

The following accounts were presented by Mr Robinson:

1. Purchase of land £400 costs £30.2.4. and interest £19.6.8 total £449.9.0.
2. Mr Cobb's costs re transfer £12.7.0.
3. Mr Hanhart's costs re loan from Prudential Assurance Society £22.11.6.
4. Mr Roberts for compensation £16.2.0.

On the motion of Mr Deacon seconded by Mr Hollands it was resolved that these accounts be paid and cheques were accordingly drawn.

Correspondence

Letter from Mr Powell, Chairman Roads and Bridges Committee stating that the bridge at Malling Road should have his attention.

Letter from Mr Lepine Clerk to Halling Parish Council re resolution relating to Charities.

Letter from Mr Lepine re bridge over the Medway and asking the Council to support resolution. Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Brazier seconded that the Clerk simply acknowledge the letter. Carried

Parish Books

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hollands seconded that application be made to Mr Henry Phillips Churchwarden for the book containing a record of the distribution of the Charities. Carried

Mr Brazier proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that Mr Holman's application remain in abeyance re apprentice premium.

Water supply

The three tenders for water supply to the Cemetery were again read as well as the specification.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hawks seconded that Mr Norman's tender be accepted. Carried. Messrs Brazier, Burke and Archer voting against and Messrs Deacon, Hawks, Fowle, Beadle, Hollands and Hodgkinson voting for.

Mr Fowle moved an amendment that the pipe be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch instead of 1 inch and that it be laid 18 inches deep instead of 2ft deep. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley. Lost Messrs Fowle and Kemsley only voting for it.

Mr Burke proposed and Mr Archer seconded that Mr Draycon's tender be accepted. Messrs Burke, Brazier, Kemsley and Archer voted for and Messrs Hawks, Hodgkinson, Fowle, Deacon, Hollands and Beadle voted against it.

Mr Frost's Account

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that the account be paid. Lost.

Mr Hollands proposed that the Clerk write to Mr Bensted for the two plans of Cemetery showing the holes made, in which to plant the trees. This was seconded by Mr Burke and carried all voting in favour of it except Mr Beadle.

Mr Fowle's Motion re Brook Allotments

Mr Fowle in accordance with previous notice of motion moved a resolution that the Brook Committee be instructed to widen the ditch between the allotments and the Mill Stream 18 inches and to raise the bank of the stream and that the rents be reduced by one half. This was seconded by Mr Archer.

Mr Beadle proposed an amendment that the whole matter be referred to the Brook Committee and Messrs Fowle and Kemsley to prepare a report and present it to the Council at the next meeting. This was seconded by Mr Hodgkinson and carried.

Mr Brazier's Motion re Lamp Columns

Mr Brazier in accordance with previous notice of motion proposed that three lamps be moved to better positions viz one near Mr Knell's garden, one near Misses Hook's garden and one at the corner of Veles opposite the Red Lion. Mr Burke seconded. Carried.

Mr Deacon's Notice of Motion

Mr Deacon gave notice of motion that he would move at the next Council meeting that the Bishop of Rochester be invited to attend and dedicate the whole of the Cemetery to the Parish of Snodland.

Meeting of the Council **Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday August 27th 1895** **at 7pm**

Present: Councillors Corney, Deacon, Brazier, Beadle, Archer, Hollands, Hawks, Kemsley, Fowle, Burke and Roberts (Vice Chairman).

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr Frost

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Brazier seconded that standing order no.1 be suspended in order to take Mr Frost. Carried unanimously. Mr Frost who attended at the invitation of the Council to explain the extra charges appearing in his account for planting the trees in the Cemetery, clearly showed that he had been instructed to perform the extra work and the Council decided to pay his account.

Committee's Reports

Mr Fowle stated that he had no report to make in consequence of the non attendance of the Brook Committee at the meeting called to discuss the points in question. He resigned the collectorship of the Brook allotment rents.

Brook Matters

On the motion of Mr Deacon seconded by Mr Archer it was decided to send a letter to Messrs C T Hook & Co Ltd requesting them to repair the bank of the Mill Stream next the Brook allotments.

Correspondence

Letter from Mrs Knott, High Street, respecting the apprenticeship of her daughter. The Clerk was instructed to answer letter and inform Mrs Knott that no children were apprenticed for a less term than three years and that the Trustees make the arrangement at the commencement of the apprenticeship.

Technical Education

Letter from Mr Marsh organising secretary of Technical Education classes, Rochester respecting a visit of the Farriery van to Snodland and the establishment of a class on Farriery. The Clerk reported that he had answered the letter and given the information asked for.

Charities

Letter from the Charity Commissioners re May's and Godden's Charities. This was referred to Joint Committee to obtain fuller information.

Allotments

Letter from Mr Halkes, Mr Robert's agent offering a piece of land called Birling Meadow to the Council for allotments. Area 1-2-32 rent £6. Referred to the Allotments Committee.

Letter from Mr G Robinson re rent of land for Cemetery for the time between the taking over of the land by the late Burial Board and the completion of the purchase. It was decided to draw a cheque for same £5.12.9.

Vestry Books

Letter from Rector of Snodland refusing to give up custody of the Vestry Books. Also letter from Country Council stating that if the Parish Council wished the difference as to custody to be decided by the County Council they would be glad to be informed of the grounds upon which the Parish Council base their claim to the custody of the books.

Mr Fowle proposed and Mr Deacon seconded that the grounds upon which the Council base their claim to the custody of the books be forwarded to the County Council. Carried.

Book Containing Register of Great Coat Distribution

Letter from Mr Phillips, Churchwarden, re Register of Great Coat distribution etc stating that the Rector considered that the book in question should be in his possession.

Mr Roberts proposed and Mr Hollands seconded that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Rector and ask him to give up the custody of this book.

Path at Holboro

Letter from the County Council stating that the Roads Committee had directed the necessary work to be done to the footpath at Holboro.

'Post Office' on Lamp

Letter from Mr Bateman sub postmaster asking the Council to allow the words post office to be placed on the lamp outside the post office and if they or he would have to bear the expense. Mr Hollands proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that permission be given to Mr Bateman to place the words 'post office' on the lamp at his own expense and subject to the approval of the Council. Carried.

Accounts

It was decided to draw cheques for the following amounts;

Mr Frost planting trees etc £21.14.0.
Proposed by Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Kemsley.

Mr Norman's work in Cemetery £150.0.0
" " Notice Boards £2.2.0
" " Brook repairs £0.2.6
Proposed by Mr Hollands and seconded by Mr Deacon.
Mr Bateson's for Mr Robinson rent of land £5.12.4.
Proposed by Mr Deacon and seconded by Mr Hawkes.

Mr Hilder's various accounts printing stamps etc. £8.3.10
Proposed by Mr Burke and seconded by Mr Kemsley.

Grass in Cemetery

Mr J Hollands reported that he had sold the grass in the Cemetery to Mr H
Hawks for the sum of £1.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked Mr Hollands for the trouble he had taken over the matter.

Dedication of Cemetery

Mr Deacon in accordance with previous notice of motion proposed "That this Council respectfully ask the Bishop of Rochester through the Rector of Snodland to dedicate the Cemetery now nearly completed, for the use of the people of the Parish of Snodland".

He supported his resolution by an able and exhaustive speech basing his arguments on religious equality and quoting many instances where cemeteries had been dedicated by Bishops. Mr Beadle seconded.

Messrs Fowle, Hollands ,Burke spoke in support of the resolution and Messrs Roberts and Archer against it.

On being put to the meeting Messrs Brazier, Burke, Deacon, Fowle, Hollands and Beadle voted for the resolution and Messrs Hawks, Kemsley, Archer, and Roberts voted against it. The resolution was accordingly declared carried.

Meeting of the Council
Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday October 15th 1895
at 8pm

Present: Councillors Corney, Roberts (Vice Chairman), Brazier, Hollands, Beadle, Burke, Archer,awks, Fowle, Hodgkinson, Kemsley and Deacon.

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

Reports

Charity Committee:-

This report stated that the Charity Commissioners had given permission to the Council to elect four trustees for the Godden's Charity (apprentices) and to the Joint Committee to elect two trustees in the place of the Churchwardens of Snodland for the Great Coat Charity. Concerning the last the Committee had written for further information. Mr Burke proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that the four trustees to Godden's Charity be appointed at once. Carried

Election of Trustees to Godden's Charity:- On the motion of Mr Roberts seconded by Mr Hodgkinson it was unanimously resolved that Messrs Joseph Deacon, Edwin Brazier, George Corney and Thomas Hollands be elected trustees of Godden's Charity.

Recreation Committee:- This report stated that the Committee had made further applications to Mr Cobb and Mr Roberts for the purchase or hire of land for the purpose of a recreation ground.

Allotment Committee:-

This report showed that the Committee had refused the offer of Mr Roberts of a piece of land in the parish of Birling 1-2-32 already let as allotments and also suggested that the Clerk be appointed to collect the rent of the Brook allotments. Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Beadle seconded that the Clerk be elected to collect the rent of Brook allotments in the place of Mr Fowle resigned. Carried.

Correspondence

Letter from Mrs Knott respecting her daughter's apprenticeship. Referred to Godden's Trustees.

Letter from Mr Robinson acknowledging receipt of cheque for Mr Dalison's work.

Letter from Mr Bensted respecting the completion of the Cemetery fence by Mr Wilford.

Letter from Mr Frost acknowledging the receipt of cheque for his accounts.

Letter from the Rector of Snodland enclosing a letter from the Bishop designate who stated if he became Bishop of Rochester the subject of the Cemetery should have his attention.

Letter from the Rector of Snodland stating that he refused to give up the book containing a record of the distribution of the Charities.

Letter from Birling Parish Council authorizing Mr Payne to act with Mr Hollands in drawing up the agreement with Mr Lillibourne.

Cheques

On the motion of Mr Deacon seconded by Mr Hodgkinson it was resolved to draw cheques in discharge of the following accounts:

Messrs C T Hook and Co Ltd one quarters gas £31.17.6

Messrs C T Hook and Co Ltd removing 2 col. £1.9.5

Ed. Wray one yrs gate keeping Brook £4.4.2

Brook Affairs

Mr Deacon Chairman of the Brook Committee stated that it was time to consider what work should be done this year on the Brook. He suggested that in addition to clearing out the ditches the bridge leading into the allotments should be repaired and the Willow Walk repaired with cinders. On the motion of Mr Hollands seconded by Mr Kemsley it was unanimously resolved to carry out these repairs and also the path in the allotments to be repaired with cinders.

On the motion of Mr Hodgkinson seconded by Mr Kemsley it was unanimously resolved to draw a cheque for £5 to Clerk to enable him to pay the weekly wages of the men working on the Brook. Mr Fowle suggested that the work on the Brook be distributed among two or more men in the Parish who wanted work.

Cemetery Matters

The Chairman explained that the original wall in the east side of the Cemetery was to have been a dwarf one with iron fence on top. Owing to the cutting down of expenses it has now proposed to substitute a slate fence similar to the one on the north side. This in his opinion would not improve the look of the Cemetery and he hoped something different might be done.

On the motion of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Hodgkinson it was unanimously resolved that Mr Bensted be asked to give an estimate for a dwarf wall and fence and submit to the next meeting.

Notices of Motion:

Fire Extinguishing:- Mr Deacon in accordance with previous notice of motion proposed that the Council take the matter of fire extinguishing in hand and provide a complete set of hydrants through the inhabited part of the Parish with two lengths of hose and two stand pipes and that a committee of five be appointed to go into the whole matter and report to the Council. This was seconded by Mr Hollands and carried.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Brazier seconded that Messrs Hodgkinson, Deacon, Brazier, Beadle and Hollands be elected to act on the Committee. Carried.

Technical Education Lectures:- Mr Deacon in accordance with previous notice of motion proposed that the County Council be written to suggesting that if the Technical education lectures were made free they would become more popular, and the attendance would be greatly improved. This was seconded by Mr Burke and carried. Mr Hodgkinson alone dissenting.

Meeting of the Council
Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday October 22nd 1895
at 8pm

Present: Councillors Archer, Deacon, Beadle, Kemsley, Fowle, Hodgkinson, Burke, Hollands, Hawks, Gash and Roberts.

Mr Corney in the Chair

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Reports

The report of the Cemetery Committee was read. It stated that the Committee had met six times and that a code of rules and regulations had been drawn up and a scale of charges made for the management of the Cemetery.

Correspondence

Letter from Mr Beadle enclosing two bills for advertisements in the Gazette amounting to £1.5.6. S E

On the motion of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Deacon it was unanimously resolved that these two accounts be paid.

Letter from Mr E Norman asking for a cheque on account for laying in water pipe up to Cemetery.

On the motion of Mr J Hollands seconded by Mr Deacon it was unanimously resolved that a cheque for £35 be drawn and paid on account.

Letter from Mr Cobb asking for an answer to letter respecting the land for recreation ground. The Clerk stated that at the suggestion of the Chairman he had written stating that the rent (£60) asked for the field placed the matter beyond the power of the Council to deal with.

Letter from Mr Bensted giving the estimate for a dwarf wall and fence on the east side of the Cemetery. £74.13.0

Letter from the Charity Commissioners acknowledging the receipt of the copy of the resolution appointing Trustees to Godden's Charity.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Bensted and request him to let the matter of the slate fence stand over till the Spring and in the meantime to instruct Mr Langridge not to put up any fence.

Deposit of Title Deeds

On the motion of Mr Beadle seconded by Mr Kemsley it was resolved to place the Cemetery title deeds in charge of Mr Jackson Treasurer to the Council.

Rules, Regulations Scale of Charge.

The Rules, Regulations and scale of Charges as drawn up by the Cemetery Committee were read by the Clerk and considered by the Council.

Mr Burke moved an amendment to Rule 6 "That all funerals on Sunday take place between the hours of 2 and 4pm from Michaelmas to Lady day and between the hours of 2 and 5pm from Lady day to Michaelmas". Any departure from this rule must be by special arrangement.

This was seconded by Mr Fowle. Messrs Hollands, Gash , Kemsley, Fowle and Burke voted for the Amendment and Messrs Beadle, Hodgkinson, Hawks, against in which Messrs Archer and Deacon remained neutral.

It being put to the meeting as the substantive motion it was carried unanimously.

Mr Burke moved an Amendment to Rule 17 after the word deficiency etc. Not seconded.

Mr Burke moved that the age of children admitted to Cemetery Rule 24 should be fixed at 10. Not seconded.

Mr Burke moved an amendment to 46 "That tolling the bell at funerals be charged one shilling". Mr Fowle seconded. On being put to the meeting it was lost, only Messrs Burke and Fowle voting for it.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that the Parish meeting be asked to approve and accept the Code of Rules and Regulations and Scale of Charges as submitted to them by the Council. Carried.

Meeting of the Council **Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday November 12th 1895** **at 8pm**

Present Messrs Corney, Beadle, Burke, Deacon, Hollands, Hawks, Kemsley, Fowle, Hodgkinson, Archer and Brazier.

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

Report of Bridge Committee

This report stated that designs had been received, one was under consideration for adoption, that deputations had been formed to wait on the Bridge Wardens and the Roads and Bridges Committee and that a tender be drawn up and advertised in the 'Engineer and Engineering'.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Mr Robert's agent offering a piece of land for recreation ground. It was referred to the Recreation Committee.
2. Letter from Technical Education Committee with Copy of Minute stating that no alteration would be made in the charges for admission to the classes.
3. Letter from Messrs Frost & Son offering to replace dead trees in the Cemetery, about a dozen for half cost. Matter deferred.
4. Mr Jackson's receipt for title deeds.
5. Letter from Charity Commissioners re May's Great Coat Charity. They had decided to allow the Council in the respecting parishes of Birling, Halling and Snodland to appoint not more than four trustees in the place of the Churchwardens and overseers in each parish. Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hollands seconded and it was resolved that the four trustees be appointed from inside the Council.

Trustees to Great Coat Charity

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that Messrs George Corney, Joseph Deacon, Edwin Brazier and James Henry Burke be elected trustees to the Great Coat Charity in the place of the Churchwardens and overseers. Carried unanimously.

Application to Rector for Copy of May's Will

After a statement that he had found in an old document that in addition to the £20 for the purchase of the Great Coats two guineas were given to the Churchwardens for their trouble. Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Archer seconded that the Clerk be instructed to apply to the Rector for May's will in order to make a copy of it. Carried.

Book Containing Record of Distribution

Mr Fowle proposed and Mr Beadle seconded that the Trustees of the Great Coat Charity wait on the Rector and request him to give up to them the possession of the book containing a record of Great Coat distribution. Carried.

Letter from Mr Holman asking for apprentice money. It was referred to the Trustees proposed by Mr Beadle and seconded by Mr Archer.

Precept on Overseers

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Beadle seconded that a precept for sixty pounds be issued on overseers in order to be able to pay the first instalment of the repayment of loan and interest thereon. Carried unanimously.

Tithe and Rate Demand

Mr Fowle proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that the tithe charge stand over till next meeting. Carried

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Deacon seconded that the Rate amounting to 10/6 be paid. Carried.

Rules, Regulations and Scale of Charges

Mr Deacon moved and Mr Hollands seconded and it was resolved that the Rules, Regulations and Scale of fees be held back till a reply had been received from the Bishop and that the Clerk be instructed to write to him and ask for a favourable reply at his earliest convenience.

Replacing Dead Trees in Cemetery

Mr Kemsley suggested that the dead trees in the Cemetery be replaced by fresh ones. He proposed that as Mr Frost had agreed to bear half the cost of replacing these dead trees (12) that his offer be accepted and that the trees be replaced at a cost not exceeding 30/- to the Council. This was seconded by Mr Beadle.

Mr Deacon moved an amendment that nothing be done till the building were completed. This was seconded by Mr Hollands. On being put to the meeting. Messrs Hollands, Deacon Archer and Brazier voted for the motion and Messrs, Beadle, Kemsley, Hawks, Fowle and Burke against it. Lost by 5 to 4.

The original proposition was then put. Messrs Beadle Kemsley, Hawks, Fowle and Burke voting for it and Messrs Hollands, Deacon, Archer and Brazier voting against it . Carried by 5 to 4.

Mr Beadle proposed that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr Frost as to what trees shall be planted. Messrs Corney, Kemsley and Hawks to form the Committee. This was seconded by Mr Deacon and carried.

Wages Cheque

Mr Deacon proposed that a cheque for £10 be drawn for wages to new working on the 'Brook'. This was seconded by Mr Brazier and carried.

Mr Deacon proposed that the District Council be asked to take over the Willow Walk as soon as the new Hithe Path is completed and that the path at present be only temporarily repaired. This was seconded by Mr Archer and carried.

Mr Burke proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that a letter be sent to the County Council requesting them to attend to the Holboro Road near Gorham's Cottages, which was lately flooded. Carried.

Mr Archer proposed and Mr Burke seconded that the attention of the District Council be called to the state of the path by Alma Place. Carried.

Committee Meeting

Previous to the meeting a Committee of the whole Council sat (???) to consider Mr Robinson's bill of charges. The total amount of the bill was £49.14.5 but objection

was made to £22.11.4 on the ground that Mr Robinson as Burial Board Clerk had already received payment for this work.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hollands seconded that the Clerk be instructed to arrange to meet Mr Robinson and explain the grounds of objection to the various items marked by 'x'. Carried.

Meeting of the Council
Held in the British School Rooms Tuesday November 19th 1895
at 7pm

Present: Councillors, Corney, Deacon, Beadle, Fowle, Brazier, Kemsley and Hodgkinson.

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Mr Lepine Clerk to Halling Parish Council acknowledging receipt of copy of letter received from the Charity Commissioners.
2. Letter from Charity Commissioners acknowledging receipt of letter informing them of the appointment of trustees to May's Great Coat Charity.
3. Letter from Thos. Powell Esq. Chairman of the Roads and Bridges Committee stating that the defective drain in the Holboro Road should have immediate attention.
4. Letter from Mr Robinson re Bill of costs. Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded that the matter be deferred till next meeting in order to obtain further information.

Confirmation of Appointment of Trustees

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the appointment of Messrs George Corney, Joseph Deacon, Edwin Brazier and James Henry Burke as trustees to May's Great Coat Charity be confirmed.

John May's Will

The Clerk submitted a copy of John May's will.

Place of Future Meetings

Mr Hodgkinson stated that the Misses Hook were desirous that the meetings of the Council now held in the British School should in future be held in the Devonshire Rooms. He suggested that these ladies be approached and definitely informed which room the Council would prefer for their meetings, how often they would be likely to require its use and gave notice of motion that he would bring on the "question of place of future meetings of the Council".

Mr Fowle reported that he had not yet been able to obtain information re tithe charge, and asked that the matter might be allowed to stand over till next meeting. Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded and it was resolved that the matter stand over till next meeting.

Parish Council Meeting
Held in the British School Wednesday December 4th 1895
at 7pm

Present: Messrs Corney, Archer, Beadle, Brazier, Burke, Deacon, Fowle, Hawks, Kemsley and Hodgkinson.

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

Reports of Committees

The Chairman reported that Mr Frost would replace 17 to 20 dead trees in the Cemetery, superintend the planting etc for the sum of 30/-.

Correspondence

1. Letter from C T Hook & Co Ltd referring to the Clerk's complaint that many of the gas lamps were not lighted on Nov 24 and explaining that it was the rough gale together with broken glass that was the cause of their not being a light.
2. Letter from C T Hook & Co Ltd stating that the lanterns of the street lamps had been blown out of position and till they had been attended to, it was impossible to clean them.
3. Letter from Mr W B Posser, Clerk to the County Council, respecting the custody of the old Vestry books. The County Council decided that the Rector was the proper custodian but that easy access might be had by any one interested.

Mr Deacon proposed that further application be made to the County Council for the custody of the Vestry books and also for the custody of the book containing an account of the distribution of the charities. This was seconded by Mr Beadle and carried.

4. Dedication of Cemetery:-

Letter from the Bishop of Rochester re dedication of Cemetery. He refused to dedicate the cemetery but was prepared to consecrate a portion and if desired to considers the fees which consecration carried with it.

Mr Hodgkinson proposed that the parish council recognising the altered circumstance created by the case of Barrow-on-Soar expresses its opinion that a similar arrangement might be made with reference to the new Cemetery at Snodland. This was seconded by Mr Archer and carried unanimously.

Deputation to Rector:- Mr Deacon proposed that a small deputation wait on the Rector and respectfully ask him to consider an arrangement with regard to the fees in the portion of the Cemetery to be consecrated on the basis of the recent correspondence effected at Barrow-on-Soar. This was seconded by Mr Burke and carried unanimously.

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hawks seconded and it was resolved that the deputation consist of Messrs Corney, Deacon and Hodgkinson.

Minister's Fees:- Mr Archer proposed that information be obtained from the Home Office as to the legality of the Council fixing the Minister's fees for performing the Burial Service in the Cemetery. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried.

5. Letter from the Prudential Assurance Company notifying the date December 11th for the first instalment for repayment of loan.

1st Instalment Repayment of Loan

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Brazier seconded that a cheque for £62.18.10 be drawn and the instalment paid. Carried unanimously.

Mr Robinson's Account

The Chairman gave some further information respecting Mr Robinson's account. Mr Hodgkinson proposed and Mr Kemsley seconded and it was resolved that the Chairman interview Mr Robinson for the purpose of getting the account settled and that he have discretion to make Mr Robinson an offer not exceeding forty guineas without prejudice.

Mr Burke moved an amendment that the bill be paid as it stands. This was seconded by Mr Fowle. Messrs Burke and Fowle voted for the amendment and Messrs Deacon, Brazier, Kemsley, Archer, Hawks Beadle and Hodgkinson against it. Resolution Carried.

Cemetery Business

Mr Deacon suggested that the grave spaces be marked out and that the Clerk write for price lists of tablets with numbers.

Caretaker

Mr Burke suggested that the time had arrived for advertising for a caretaker. He gave notice of motion in respect to this matter for next meeting.

Fence

The Chairman made a suggestion re alteration of fence at Cemetery and asked the Councillors to view the place in order that the matter might be decided at the next meeting.

Cheque for Wages

Mr Deacon proposed that cheque be drawn for £10 to enable the Clerk to pay the wages of the men working on the Brook. This was seconded by Mr Fowle and carried.

Future Meetings of Council

Mr Hodgkinson in accordance with previous notice of motion i.e. place of future meetings of the Council proposed that the Clerk be instructed to apply to the Misses Hook for the use of one of the rooms in the new hall on the Waghorn Room on the same terms as the British School. Mr Burke seconded and it was carried unanimously.

Map

Mr Deacon suggested when the Council got new quarters that a map of the parish be purchased and hung on the wall of the room where the Council will hold its meetings.

The Tithe matter was allowed to stand over till next meeting on Mr Deacon's request.

Parish Council Meeting **Held in the British Schools on Tuesday December 17th 1895** **at 7pm**

Present: Councillors Corney, Hollands, Beadle, Brazier, Burke, Kemsley, Deacon, Hodgkinson and Hawks

Mr Corney in the Chair.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fees in Cemetery

Mr Deacon reported the result of the deputation which had been appointed to wait on the Rector respecting the fees on the portion of the cemetery to be consecrated.

The Chairman read a letter from the Rector stating the concessions he was prepared to make and the rights which he proposed to retain. He was prepared to forego all fees except the fee of 2/6 for all interments which took place on the consecrated portion, and in certain cases where non conformists were concerned he would remit this fee.

A report of the Barrow-on-Soar case was read from the Christian World. After some discussion Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hollands seconded that the question be referred back to the Committee (deputation) in order that further efforts may be made to induce the Rector to forego the right to the fees for all burials on the consecrated portion of the Cemetery. Carried.

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Deacon seconded that the Clerk be instructed to obtain a copy of the agreement between the Bishop of Peterboro, the incumbent and the Parish Council of Barrow-on-Soar. Carried.

Correspondence.

1. Letter from Mr Bensted respecting the plan of the Cemetery with the grave spaces marked thereon.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Brazier seconded that a Committee of the whole Council meet Mr Bensted at the Cemetery when he has completed the plan - the morning of Saturday the 28th being suggested. Carried.

2. Letter from Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss being their quotation for grave tablets without numbers 5/6 per dozen with numbers up to 3 figures 6/6 per dozen.

It was decided to ask Messrs. Moore, Wilford, Stone and Martin to quote prices and to make inquiry of Mr Robinson

3. Letter from the Misses Hook re room to which to hold future meetings of the Council.

Mr Burke proposed that the Council hold its meetings after the 1st of January 1896 in the Devonshire Rooms the fee for each meeting being 2/6 inclusive. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and carried.

4. Letter from the Birling Parish Council re May's Charity Trustees. It was referred to the Trustees.

5. Letter from the Home Secretary acknowledging letter re Ministers' Fees.

Mr Robinson's Account

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the Council's instruction he had waited on Mr Robinson and prevailed on him to accept £40 in settlement of his account, though he still maintained his charges were fair and he was entitled to the whole.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that the offer be accepted and that a cheque for £40 be drawn to settle the account. Carried.

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Hollands seconded that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman and Clerk for the trouble they had taken over the matter of getting the account settled. Carried.

The Clerk was requested to see the books required in connection with the Cemetery and obtain prices.

Tithe

Mr Deacon proposed and Mr Beadle seconded that a cheque be drawn for £1.7.0 in order to pay the tithe charge on the Cemetery. Carried.

Trees in Cemetery

The Chairman suggested that five trees be placed in front of the Cemetery buildings.

Mr Kemsley proposed and Mr Hawks seconded that five trees be purchased and planted in front of the Cemetery buildings, the cost not to exceed the sum of 30/-.

Messrs Hollands, Deacon and Brazier voted against and Messrs Beadle, Hawks, Kemsley, Hodgkinson and Burke voted for the proposition. It was accordingly declared carried.

Publication of Fees

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded and it was resolved "That copies of the Scale of Fees be posted on the notice boards in the parish and a notice that they are posted inserted in the Kent Messenger".

Caretaker for Cemetery

Mr Burke in accordance with previous notice of motion proposed "That a notice be printed and posted in the Parish of Snodland inviting applications from the parishioners of Snodland for the post of Caretaker in the new Cemetery". Each application to be made in writing with copies of testimonials. The salary to be fixed hereafter by the Council. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley.

Mr Deacon moved an amendment that the invitation be extended to the Parishes of Birling and Halling. This was seconded by Mr Hodgkinson.

On being put to the meeting Messrs Deacon, Hodgkinson, Brazier and Beadle voted for and Messrs Hollands, Hawks Burke and Kemsley voted against the amendment and it was carried by the casting of vote by the Chairman.

On this becoming the substantive motion Mr Deacon moved an amendment that a notice be posted in the Parish of Snodland inviting applications from the parishes of Snodland, Birling and Halling for the post of Caretaker in the new Cemetery.

This was seconded by Mr Beadle and carried. Only Mr Burke voting against it.

On being put as the substantive motion Messrs Hollands, Hawks, Burke and Kemsley voted for and Messrs Deacon Brazier Beadle and Hodgkinson voted against it and it was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Mr Beadle proposed and Mr Hodgkinson seconded that the matter be deferred till the next meeting of the Council. Carried.

Waghorn Road Repairs

Mr Beadle asked a question respecting Waghorn Road - whether it could not be put in a proper state of repair.

Mr Corney stated that he had tried to get the matter attended to both through the Surveyor of Highways and the Sanitary Inspector but had failed.

Mr Beadle proposed that a letter be written to the property owners in the road, with a view of getting the road put in a proper state of repair so that the District Council may be in a position to take it over. This was seconded by Mr Kemsley and Carried.