



## **BIRCHINGTON SEA SHELTERS**

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26 Sept 1933

### **BIRCHINGTON SHELTERS**

The provision of shelters at Minnis Bay was discussed at length by members of the Parochial Committee on Wednesday, when it was resolved to instruct the Surveyor (Capt. G. L. Butterworth) to provide plans and estimates for submission to the next meeting.

The Surveyor was also requested to produce plans and estimates for the provision of a shelter or shelters at Minnis Bay by running out a roof from the cliffs. The necessity of providing shelters at Minnis Bay was urged by Councillor H.D. Press.

15 & 19 Dec 1933

### **BIRCHINGTON SHELTERS**

#### **Application to Ministry**

After a short discussion at the monthly meeting on Weds, members of Birchingtton Parochial Committee decided to ask the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council to make the necessary application for sanction to a loan to provide seven shelters on the sea front, at an estimated cost of £156 each.

The Assistant Surveyor (Mr G. Longmore) reported that owing to a substantial drop in the price of materials, the shelters which had been estimated to cost £230 could now be obtained for £156.

The Chairman, Councillor A. Hodges, suggested that one shelter be provided on the Minnis Bay cliffs as an experiment. A letter was received from the Clerk to the Rural District Council, Mr C. Taylor, pointing out that in the estimate for rates, the council had only allowed for the sum of £100 for contingencies and he could not say whether or not there would be a balance at the end of the year.

Councillor G.B. Farrar said the Council would have to assume that there would not be a balance at the end of the year and the cost of the shelter would fall on the rate payers. It would

amount to a 1d. rate. He thought they should take up a loan for six other shelters.

It was mentioned that the Council had originally suggested the provision of eight shelters, but a letter was received from Mr Percy Gore, agent for Major P.H.G. Powell. Cotton, intimating that the major was not prepared to allow the Council to provide a shelter on his ground at Epple Bay. [His old brickfield]

Councillor G.J. Phillips proposed that the Council should ask the Rural District Council to obtain the necessary sanction to take up the loan to erect seven shelters at Birchingtton.

The motion was carried. It was also resolved to approach Major Powell-Cotton inquiring his terms for the purchase of his land at Epple Bay.

30 Jan 1934

### **SHELTERS**

Birchingtton will have to go without its shelters on the seafront for a little longer, following a letter from the Ministry of Health by the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council.

The letter, which was read by the Clerk, Mr C. Taylor, at the monthly meeting of the District Council on Thurs, stated that the application to borrow the money had been very carefully considered, but that on the evidence, there did not appear to be sufficient cause for proceeding with the proposals under the present economic circumstances.

The letter stated that if the Council were of the opinion that they could establish a case, the Ministry were prepared to hear further statements and also the reason for the opinion.

Councillor G.B. Farrar said he thought the matter must be dealt with right away and he thought most of them would agree with him, that shelter were wanted on the seafront at Birchingtton. It seemed ridiculous that a sum of £1000 could not be sanctioned for Birchingtton

when the Government spent £50,000 on “a rotten piece of parchment from Russia.”

Councillor Major L.C. Sargent: “What is the rotten piece of parchment from Russia, may I ask?” Councillor Farrar said he was referring to the purchase of the Codex Sinaiticus. [an ancient book written 1600 years ago – has the oldest reference to the New Testament]The matter will probably come up for discussion again at the next meeting of the authority.

9 Mar 1934

### **FRIVOLOUS OBJECTIONS**

to Birchington shelters

The proposal of Birchington Parish Council to obtain a loan of £1,000 for the purpose of providing seven shelters at various points on the seafront provoked little dissention at the annual Parish meeting on Monday.

The proposal is being considered by the Ministry of Health at the moment and on Monday, a resolution was passed by the ratepayers supporting the application. The motion was proposed by Mr B.V.C. Ransome and seconded by a ratepayer in the body of the hall.

The chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor A. Hodges, said he felt a strong recommendation from the ratepayers at that meeting, to the Ministry, as they felt the shelters were necessary and the position would be strengthened considerably if the Ministry were acquainted with the fact that the Ratepayers were behind the proposal.

Councillor Hodges, replying to questions, said the Council had made application for loan sanction for provision of seven shelters at a cost of £1,100. The interest on the loan would mean an immediate increase of 1d. on the rates, Each shelter would seat 22 people and would be placed at various positions between Beresford Gap and the west end of Minnis Bay.

Mr Ransome, ”We want the shelters badly. I will move for that.”

Mr W. Tomlinson said he was in sympathy with the provision of the shelters, but he did not think that any resolution passed at that meeting would have any effect on the Ministry, who were loath to sanction any expenditure upon the district until it was included in the borough of Margate.

The chairman did not agree with Mr Tomlin, pointing out that sanction had been received for

making up the roads. Councillor Hodges declared that the Ministry were prepared to sanction a loan for six of the shelters, subject to certain conditions, which of course the local authority would accept.

They intended to cut out the seventh shelter at the bus stop in Minnis Bay, because the East Kent Road car Co. Ltd had intimated in response to a suggestion made by the Council, willingness to contribute towards the cost of that shelter. The Council had attempted to save the ratepayers money, but the Ministry declared the idea was illegal and in the circumstances, they had no alternative but to forgo the contribution from the bus Company and had communicated to the Ministry to that effect.

Mr Tomlin: “If you are so sure that you will obtain sanction, what is the good of passing a resolution?”

The Chairman: “Because of the frivolous objections made by the ministry.”

The Chairman put the motion to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

23 March 1934

### **MINISTERIAL APPROVAL**

For Birchington Shelters

At the Monthly meeting of Birchington Parochial Committee on Weds, a letter was received from Mr Charles Taylor, Clerk to the Thanet Rural District Council, intimating the decision of the Ministry of Health, to allow the District Council to take up the loan for the provision of seven shelters on the sea front at Birchington.

The Committee resolved to ask the Ministry, through the Rural District Council to allow them to advertise for tenders for the foundation and erection of the shelters the Committee desiring the shelters to be provided by a well-known firm.

Mr G. Longmore, the Deputy Surveyor, said the firm had gone to considerable trouble in the matter and had agreed to provide the shelters at a cost of £80 each. The firm had reduced their application from £150 a shelter. He was sure the committee would not be able to obtain a more reasonable estimate.

24 April 1934

### **BIRCHINGTON SHELTERS**

The tenders for a number of shelters on Birchington sea front are to be considered at the next meeting of the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council. A sub-committee of Birchington Parish Council, consisting of Councillors A. Hodges, Chairman, H.D. Press, G.I. Phillips, W. Curtis, H.E.E. Jeston and G.B. Farrar has been appointed to approve the District Council's selection and so obviate the necessity of delaying further the progress until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

22 May 1934

### **SHELTERS AT LAST**

Birchington Council accept tender. Within the next ten weeks, seven shelters, capable of seating twenty people, are to be constructed at various points on the Birchington cliffs.

The lack of shelter on the seafront has been deplored by visitors and residents alike for many years. Numerous schemes have received the consideration of the Local Authority during the past seven years, but the present scheme, tackled wholeheartedly by the Parochial Committee some months ago, has been carried to fruition by the determination of the Committee to make some provision for shelter on the sea front during the summer.

At the monthly meeting of the Birchington Parochial Committee on Wednesday, the Clerk, Mr F.J. Cornford, detailed a report from the sub-committee especially appointed to deal with the matter, to the effect that the committee had considered fifteen tenders and designs submitted for approval and selection by the Thanet Rural District Council, and after careful thought, recommended the acceptance of the tender of J.B. Sharman Ltd of Ramsgate. Sharman's tender was the lowest and provided for the erection of seven shelters at £150 each, each shelter capable of seating twenty people.

The chairman, Councillor A. Hodges said, "The work can now be proceeded with."

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Charles Taylor, Clerk to the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council, intimating the receipt of the Ministry of Health's sanction to the taking up of a loan for £1,000 for the erection of the shelters, providing the loan extend over a period of not more than fifteen years.

It was stated that the shelters would be erected within ten weeks and the report of the sub-committee was adopted without dissent.

24 July 1934

### **SHELTERS IN USE**

The deputy Surveyor, Mr G. Longmore, reported at the monthly meeting of Birchington Parochial Committee on Wednesday, that the work in connection with the provision of seven shelters on the sea front was well in hand and it was hoped it would be completed within a week or ten days. Some of the shelters were already being used by the public.

21 Sept 1934

### **SHELTER AT EPPLE BAY**

Birchington Parish Council has decided to approach Major Powell-Cotton with a view to the purchase of a piece of land at Epple Bay for the erection of a public shelter.

23 October 1934

### **EPPLE BAY SHELTER**

At their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Birchington Parochial Committee decided to write to Major Powell-Cotton asking him to consider selling a piece of land at Epple Bay on which could be erected a public shelter.

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### **MARGATE 'HOOVERED-UP' BIRCHINGTON INTO ITS BOROUGH IN APRIL 1935**

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12 April 1935

### **EPPLE BAY SHELTER**

Consideration is being given by Margate Town Council to the proposed erection of a shelter at Epple Bay, Birchington.