

WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER

Birchington items

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**ISLE OF THANET R.D.C.
HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING
COMMITTEE MINUTE BOOK**

20 Nov. 1913 Major Powell Cotton and Charles Pemble were two of the members of this committee.

Birchington, along with four other small parishes, asked for help in providing more labourers' cottages for local people. The Committee said that the parishes must select possible sites for such additional housing and also pay for the erection themselves.

16 July 1914 Major Powell Cotton was elected Chairman of the Committee, on the resignation of George March.

10 Sept. 1914

All building work was postponed "till more settled times". (WW ! had begun)

There are no further entries until

21 Nov. 1918

Major Powell Cotton was again Chairman. Decided to take up the housing problem again, and write to the owners of the various pieces of land to ask the prices of them.

9 Jan 1919

Captain Butterworth (of Birchington) was offered an increase in salary at £50 per annum "for work in connection with the building of houses for the working classes".

6 Feb. 1919

Bought a site of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre at Brooksend for housing at £60. Further enquiries for other sites at Birchington and Acol.

6 March 1919

Small plot of land at South End offered, and more at the SW end of B'ton – no restrictive covenants on this piece – frontage from Allotment gardens on the NE to where the SE Railway crosses the Birchington to Canterbury Road on the SW. Price £400 per acre.

3 April 1919

50 acres of land was offered at Acol for housing – were offered £125 per acre for a site 256' in length and 200' in depth abutting onto Acol Street.

Committee wanted to buy a site in B'ton at South End, which was already laid out as a building estate

The Committee wanted to build :

36 houses at Birchington

20 at Minster

12 at Manston

8 at Acol

6 at Sarre

8 at Monkton

(total 90)

16 April 1919

Mr J Irvine Friend (of Northdown) wanted a better price for his land at Brooksend!

29 May 1919

Committee and also B'ton Parish Council to attend a site meeting at the South End site to inspect the building land.

Committee had been advised that where no owners could be found they could put a Compulsory Purchase order on the plots.

B'ton P.C. who came were:

Messrs Erlbach, Solly, Oldham, Sayer and Dr Brunton. Everyone agreed that the site were suitable for building land for erecting housing for the Working Classes.

9 Oct. 1919

Another site at B'ton was earmarked – land on the south side of the Canterbury Rd, immediately to the west of the Manston Railway, consisting of about 5 acres (this is now the Council estate at the top of Brooksend Hill). Because of the shape of the plot, only 32 houses could be built on it, so they were advised to try and buy another “slip” of land to fit the extra 4 houses on.

This site became known as the “Ashwood” site and negotiations for it continued through into 1 Jan. 1920.

It is clear that the burden of buying the land and paying for the building is now falling on the Council, but they will obviously get some of this back from local taxes and the rest from the National taxes.

6 November 1919

Mention is made of “concrete houses” being erected in the West Derby Rural District, presumably similar to those still standing in Biddenden. A further reference to these concrete houses was minuted at the Nov 20th meeting, this time from Sefton Rural District Council.

1 Jan. 1920

Committee met and were still trying to resolve the Ashton site, needing the full 6 acres, instead of the 5 – 5 ½ acres offered. There was also a reference to subsidised building costs and to trying to make sure a bath was included in the plans of each property.

Mr Powell-Cotton retired as chairman. Mr Willett took over.

5 Feb. 1920

Committee threatening a Compulsory Purchase order on Ashton site.

4 Mar. 1920

C. P. Order served.

20 May 1920

Plans going ahead for site – 20 “A” type houses and 24 “B” type, plus plan of site laid out. Mr Ashdown, owner of the site, put in his claim and requested £100 per acre. He also wanted the site to be fenced with Park fencing, with a merrabella plum hedging inside. The Committee agreed about the price, but said “there was no need for such a fencing. If one was requested, a five wire and post fence would be sufficient.”

26 Aug. 1920

Suggested that only 8 of the “parlour” type of house should be built to start with.

9 Sept. 1920

Ministry of Health agreed to the purchase of the Ashton site at £625 – Clerk to apply for loan. To go ahead with the redemption of the tithelad tax and the compensation to the tenant

25 Nov. 1920

Lay out and house plans were approved for the eight houses.

9 Dec. 1920

Council to allow cropping on the site that is not being used for building purposes at the moment

Plans were submitted and approved for a bungalow to be built near Albion Road (possibly in Alpha Road just round the corner)

13 Jan. 1921

Housing Commission approved plans for the erection of 44 houses of various types, named subject to modification that where larger windows face south, east, or west, they should be properly screened from the sun. he pointed out the effect financially of the Council building only 8 houses on the site and stated that the houses should be erected abutting onto the Canterbury Road.

Negotiations were started to acquire a strip of land at the rear of the plot, to compensate for the piece on the Canterbury Road side that might eventually be needed for road widening.

24 Mar. 1921

Two sets of houses were started

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1.) 1 block of 4 “B” type properties | } | |
| | } | 8 houses in all |
| 2.) pair of “A” type | } | |

12 Mar. 1921

Because of a strict limit being set by the Housing Commissioners of £800 on each house, the Committee were unable to continue with their programme of providing affordable houses to rent for the working classes in Margate Rural District. No further meeting of the Committee until –

9 June 1921

Trying to rescue the situation – complaint that the programme appeared to have foundered - badly needing houses for war veterans. One group offered to take £29 less per house, if this would mean the programme could be restarted.

14 July 1921

Still trying to hold the programme together, but without much success. A number of people were “waiting in the wings”, but it was stated that Major Powell-Cotton was not one of them, as he was “out of the country at the present time”.