

WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER**Birchington items**

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**Isle of Thanet
SURVEYOR'S REPORT
January 1921 – March 1935**

George BUTTERWORTH, Surveyor
(He was also the Captain of the Birchington Fire Brigade.)

p 1

27 January 1921**Cinematograph Licences for 'exhibitions'**

Among the places asking for these was the Public Hall in Birchington. (The Hall had been opened in 1902 by Mrs Susan Gray and used by the local community for entertainment and educational purposes.

The Surveyor looked into the widening of Minnis Road outside "Mayfield", "Perrywood" and "Bella Vista" and found the cost would be £85, of which he hoped that half would be contributed by the County funds.

p 4

24 February 1921**Council Offices at Birchington**

Arrangements were being made to have the outside of the offices redecorated.

Minnis Road

The secretary of the London & County Estates offered to contribute £200 towards the repairs and improvements to Minnis Road.

Seats at Minnis Bay

There was a clause in the conveyance of certain of certain properties at Minnis Bay to the Council, whereby the Council undertook to keep the Gardens opposite the Bay Hotel tidy, the fences & seats in good order and paint same when require; also to maintain the wooden steps leading from the Parade to the beach.

Seats and fence needed to be done at this date.

PLANS

Plans for a bungalow in King's Avenue for Mrs C. Bridger

p 8

24 March 1921**Beresford Gap**

The Birchington Improvement Co originally owned this, but they were willing to cede it to the Council, provided they were prepared to maintain it. Agreed.

Seats etc. at Minnis

Agreed for the seats and fences to be repaired & painted and also asked for the euonymus hedge to be trimmed as well.

Telegraph Cables

Sectional Engineer asked for permission to open part of Albion and Minnis Roads to lay a short length of cable in each area. The area in Albion Road was in the grass waste beside the level crossing at the end of Albion Road, near to the thicket. As Mr Neame claimed ownership of this land the Council are not able to give permission.

p 12

28 April 1921**Manston Railway**

Surveyor asked the Ministry of Transport if he could make use of the Manston to Birchington line to transport the materials for repairing the roads – matter to be looked into.

p 16

26 May 1921**Steps at Minnis Bay**

Birchington Improvement Company asked if they could move the steps from their present position at the west end of the Parade to the extreme western end of the beach. This was because the present steps are always unusable at high tide.

p 26

28 July 1921**PLANS**

Bungalow in king's Avenue for Sgt. Major May.

Passed

p 31

25 August 1921**Birchington Hall**

"Hearing that The Hall, Birchington had been sold to Spurgeon's Home, I interviewed Mr Spurgeon (son of the great H. C. S.) and indicated to him how it was proposed at some later date to Town Plan the locality in the neighbourhood and asked if he would be good enough, should any of the land surrounding "The Hall" be sold for building purposes, to develop according to the Council's scheme; he promised to do so and instructed his agent to prepare a plan showing the new roads. Mr Davis, the Town Planning Assistant at Margate, also called upon me to confer in the matter of the Margate Scheme; he produced his plan and agreed to make several alterations so that the Margate Scheme will fit into the Council's proposals."

p 33

27 October 1921**Park Lane Corner**

Fence was moved back on the corner of Watson's Yard (where the old Darby House used to stand) and the footpath was about to be installed. (Prior to this, there had not been room for one, as the road was so narrow.)

PLANS

Bungalow in Alpha Road for Miss Broughton - "The Ingle" (?)
 Restaurant & dwelling house in Station Road for Mrs Kellett
 Bungalow in Green Drive (Road?) for Miss Cuthbert

Passed

p 36

24 November 1921**Canterbury Road Widening**

Surveyor trying to make an agreement with Mr Wilson, who owned Jessamine Cottage opposite the churchyard, to move his carpenter's workshop back from the edge of the road, so that they could widen this section of the Canterbury Road. He had finally agreed to something of a compromise at last.

PLANS

Birchington Hall alterations at Spurgeon's Orphanage.

Passed

p 42

22 December 1921**Land by Beresford Gap**

Searches had been made to find out if there were any restrictions on the use of the land beside the Gap, but in the end it was discovered that anything could be built there as there were no covenants limiting what might be erected.

The Monarch Land Co could sell off the land exactly as they pleased.

In 1915 The Birchington Improvement Co suggested to the Monarch that the land be handed over to the Local Authority and then maintained as an open space. Negotiations failed at this period, but the Surveyor now stated that the acquisition of this space was vital and that it be laid out as a place where visitors could sit or walk. The section where the tower Bungalows was built has no such open access, and the surveyor greatly regretted that this had been allowed.

Cinematograph licence given again for the Public Hall

p 50

23 February 1922**Temporary Building**

This was to be a workshop to be erected on land adjoining the Fire Station. The hut will be 9 ft by 12 ft. "As the site is already used for the storage of carts, barrels etc, I do not think that t temporary building will make it worse than it is and I suggest that a licence for 10 years be granted."

PLANS

Plan of a small Engine & Battery room for electric lighting plant at "Orion", Birchington.
 Plan for additions to "Shrublands", Birchington for Mr Wilson
 Plan for additions to Grenham House School, Birchington for Messrs Ransome & Jeston. Passed

p 52

23 March 1922**PLANS**

Additions to "Quinta", Birchington for Mr Allwright

p 57

25 May 1922**Diversion of Footpath**

Diversion of footpath leading from Paddock /road to the south end of Prospect Road, Birchington discussed. – new path will be repairable by the Council and will run from Hughsenden Place to Prospect Rd. Request was made by Mr Friend of Norhdown who is the owner of the land. It will make it possible to develop this piece of land on proper lines.

p 70

26 October 1922**PLANS**

Plan for strong room at Lloyd's Bank, Birchington Passed

p 74

23 November 1922**SAND from the FORESHORE**

Reported that a local carter was removing sand from the foreshore illegally. Butterworth went to Petman's yard in Albion Rd and saw a man named Stringer who had just tipped a load of sand from Epple Bay into the yard. He admitted where he'd got it from and after being told that it was illegal, he took it back to Epple Bay.

STONE DEPOT at CLEVE

Butterworth visited Mr Sayer at Cleve and asked to rent a piece of land to store the stone, so that they weren't dumped on the grass verge opposite Cleve Court Farm. He agreed to let him have a piece at the corner of his field near the trees on the south side of Cleve Court at a rent of 5/- a year.

ROADWAY at Cleve corner

Surveyor advised that the corner needed to be improved and suggested that they ask Lord Carson if the iron fence outside the farmhouse could be moved back nearer to the house, and the Council would then be able to create a better line of vision for travellers on that very sharp bend. Lord Carson was reported to be returning to the /court on Dec. 22nd

ROAD MEN

There had been 22 men working on the roads in 1912
By 1913 it had dropped to 16, but by 1922 it was back to 22.
Of these were listed 3 old age pensioners, a youth, the Foden wagon driver and his mate and a Hooker who was engaged principally in the removal of house refuse at Westgate.

PARK ROAD – road widening

Suggested widening on the west side, which would mean that Major Powell-Cotton would need to release some land. The Surveyor estimated the work would cost £1,364, which was an excessive amount for such a small lane. It was decided that the footpath only should be created at this stage and wait until the houses were built along that side of the road before undertaking the rest of the improvements. That part of the work would only cost £126.

SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT

Butterworth followed the advice of the Council and had appointed Mr Cecil Bowling of Birchington as his assistant for one month on a salary of 25/- a week.

PLANS

Plans passed for a pair of villas in Epple Bay Rd, Birchington for Messrs. Bushell and R. Pettman.

p 79

28th December 1922

SEA WALLS at Minnis Bay

Met up with representatives of the Parish Council at the Bay and inspected the sea walls, which are, together with certain pieces of land being offered to the Council by the Estate Co. (Developers of the area)

SCARLET FEVER

A case of Scarlet Fever was reported at No 1 Gordon Square – a 4½ year old child taken to hospital and the premises fumigated.

PLANS

Long list but only two that might be traceable -
Mr C. S. Strange – bungalow in Herschell Rd
Mrs Dawson Scott – bungalow in Epple Rd

p 82

25th January 1923

CLEVE IMPROVEMENTS

Lord Carson has expressed approval of the almost completed work at the corner of Cleve Court Farm. Telegraph pole still to be moved and two notices about the danger of the corner to be erected, once permission was obtained from the County Surveyor.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE in Birchington

Asked for the premises to be papered and distempered – hadn't been touched since taken over 9 years ago. Also asked for a small roof to be erected over the front door, "as the door has to be left open and the rain drives into the vestibule."

PARK ROAD CORNER

Trustees of Spurgeon's Homes (who had only recently acquired Birchington Hall and Homestead Farm) agreed to have the wall at the corner of Park Road brought back, so that the entrance into the road could be made safer.

p 89

23rd February 1923

PLANS

Cottage in Queen's Avenue - for Miss Hine
House in Green Road – for Mrs Pimmock

PLANS (cont.)

Bungalow in Green Road – for Mrs Shelley
Bungalow in Hengist Road – for Mr Harbrow – wanted to use timber framing and asbestos coverings. Surveyor not happy about this.

p 90

22nd March 1923

BERESFORD HOTEL

Plans for additions to the Beresford Hotel were presented on behalf of Mr Remnant

p 95

26th April 1923

FORESHORE by BAY HOTEL

Birchington Improvement Co. asked for permission to build a sea wall of about 9 feet and use materials from the foreshore. Since the council were sure that the building of the wall would benefit the public they were advised to agree to the foreshore materials being use, but the quantity taken was to be monitored.

PLANS

The Nursery in Epple Road – improvements to buildings for Mr Sandle
Cottage in Hereward Ave – for Mrs Quown
Seven houses in Quex View Road – for Mr Archer (for Quex Estates)
Cottage in Queen's Ave – for Mr W. Hatch
Bungalow in Grenham Rd – for Miss Graham
Bungalow in King's Rd – for Mr R. Cole

p 102

May 1923

Birchington Improvement Company

Surveyor was asked to supervise the Company's construction of a sea wall at Minnis Bay. Decided not to get involved with the project – no reason given

p 107

28th June 1923**STEPS at slipway – Minnis Bay**

New step at the eastern side of the slipway at Minnis Bay – three tenders submitted.

PLANS

Bungalow in Reculver Ave – for Mr Randall Harris

House in Hereward Ave – for Mr C. Ward

Bungalow in Wilkie Rd – for Mr F. C. Keen

Additions to the "Basketts" in Spencer Rd – for Co. Reece. These plans are in order, subject to the drain under the building being encased in concrete.

p 109

26th July 1923**STEPS at SLIPWAY at Minnis Bay**

These steps have now been completed – a god job

Road Improvements by Wilson's Shop

Improvement to the road opposite Wilson's shop, Birchington – Suggested the road need widening, but County Surveyor didn't agree.

(This shop was the Carpenter's one in the entrance to left of the three white cottages opposite the Churchyard, Nos: 237-241 Canterbury Road. Wilson lived in "Jessamine", now 241 Canterbury Road.)

PLANS

Brunswick Rd	- new bungalow for Mr G. Whitwham
	- additions to bungalow from Miss Trill
Sea View Ave	- Bungalow for Mr C. V. Wood
	- Bungalow for Mrs Muddimer
Station Rd	- Proposed store for Mr A. S. Reed
King Edward Rd	- Bungalow for Mr G. Smith

p 114(?)

23rd August 1923**CENSUS of vehicles on 5 local roads.**

<u>PARK LANE,</u>	2,130 motor vehicles
Birchington	495 horsed vehicles
	2,235 cycles
	76 horses

<u>MONKTON Rd</u>	4,761 motor vehicles
	(1,127 motor omnibuses, 1,411 motor cars, 4,23 motor lorries)
	1,247 horse vehicles
	2,137 cycles
	1,737 horses, sheep, handcarts etc.

Other roads counted were, Plucks Gutter Rd, Ebbsfleet Rd and Hengrove Rd (which had the least amount of traffic.)

During a census of traffic on the Monkton Road in 1914 (just 9 years earlier), there were 261 cars, 2 motor omnibuses, and 5 motor lorries. During that week the total in 1914 for motor traffic was 2,885 as against 10,482 in 1923.

At this date, many of the roads in the village were still not tarred and a water-cart was used in the summer months during dry periods to dampen down the dust. The surveyor put in a request for the overhauling and re-paving of the water-cart "as soon as possible" so that his service would not be interrupted.

PLANS

Shops in Station Road – for Mr J. F. Sharp
Bungalow in Ethelbert Rd – for Mrs F. Moore

p 118

5th October 1923

SHERIFF'S COURT FARM

Mr Fuller of Sheriff's Court Farm complained about the number of motor vehicles which took the road leading to his farm, thinking it would lead them across the marshes into Eastry District. However, his track is a dead-end road and the drivers then had a great difficulty in turning round and returning to the main Monkton Road. He asked the council if they could please put signs at the top of the road indicating that the road terminated at Sheriff's Court!

PLANS

Bungalow in Cross Rd – for Mr J. Harmer
Bungalow in King Edward Road – for Mr L. Goldsworthy
Villa in Reculver Ave – for Mr E. White / House in Queen's Ave – for Mr E. Coles

p 123

22nd November 1923

FOOTPATH DIVERSION

Permission was sought from two magistrates to divert the footpath from Paddock Road to Prospect Rd, when the new roads were eventually laid out. Butterworth felt that they would grant it once they realised that access was still available, albeit not in quite as direct a route as it had previously been. It would be a tarred way and much better for pedestrians than the present muddy footpath path.

p. 136

28th February 1924

GARDENS at MINNIS BAY

Another hole appeared in the gardens immediately over one of the caves in the cliffs. Hurdles were fixed around it to prevent the public from injury.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS at ACOL

Butterworth asked Mr Dilnot if he would give us a small piece of land to improve the view round the bend near the Chapel (Methodist) as the road had two bends and a high bank at this point. Considering the rise in traffic levels at this point (1914 = 465 /

1923 = 2,130) and the fact that this was now a constant omnibus route, something needed to be done. Mr Dilnot said he would sell the 194 feet at two guineas per each 9 feet.

PLANS

St Mary's Convalescent Home – Additions to the premises

Proposed Blacksmith's Shop in Gas Alley (opposite All Saints Church) – for Mr Kennett. Wanted to build two outside brick walls with a corrugated iron roof covering across them. It would be 15 feet from the boundary of the adjoining property and 5 feet from the nearest street. The other two sides of the building were formed by the two existing brick walls

p. 141

27th March 1924

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS in Birchington

Widening of the Canterbury Road outside Wilson's Shop (Carpenter's) opposite the church. Wilson asked such an exorbitant price for the land they required that the authorities were not prepared to sanction it – and would think again! They were also trying to find a way of widening the road beside South End Cottages.

FOOTPATH

Suggested footpath in Minnis Road from "Grenham Cottage" to the Malt Houses entrance.

STATION GATES DEVELOPMENT

Mr Sandle had submitted his proposal for what he wanted to do with his land beside Cousins old Cycle Factory. The plans included a 24 foot road leading straight from the Station Gates through to Minnis Road. (We have the drawing of his proposals which included a large bank with offices above.)

PLANS

Request for the building of the Pavilion at the Memorial Park for the Cricket Club.

p 145

April 1924

Rifle Range

Meeting held there with the Adjutant of the 4th Buffs re: closing the footpath along the cliffs when the range was in use. Reps from the Parish Council and the Birchington Improvement Co. were also present. Decided to close on Sundays only + six other days in the year.

p 159

24th July 1924

RAILWAY BRIDGE

On the northern side of the Station bridge, the Council asked Edmonds, who had premises at this end, if he would move his fence back enough for them to widen that very narrow corner. He agreed to do so.

MINNIS ROAD WIDENING

They also widened the Minnis Road beside Mr Walker's Meadow and beside the Church land, which was let as allotments at this date. This is the land on which the new Vicarage now stands (15 Minnis Road)

p 173

October 1924

Baptist Church Plans

Two sets submitted, one temporary, one permanent. First would only last 5-7 years – rejected. Permanent one accepted with a minor alteration. (Building was opened in 1925.)

Sandles Road Area

Plans submitted on behalf of S. J. Sandle for development of his land at the Station gates area (road didn't exist at this time). These are the proposals for which J. Cornford produced his plans of the bank and 11 shops with flats up above, plus an arcade for pedestrians to walk through to reach the Minnis Road. Plans were rejected, as not fulfilling rear air space and drainage bye-laws. However, the committee liked the idea of something going on this land, to get rid of the "existing ugly temporary buildings now on the land". Sadly, this didn't not happen until 2001 – and then only on the half on the Station side. The other half was turned into a garden ('Rossetti') in about 1995.

p 259

September 1926

Scavenging in Birchington

The County Surveyor had sent a letter regarding scavenging in Station Road in Birchington. It was decided to refer the matter to the Parish Council as it would need to be funded by a special charge on the Parish.

p 326

December 1927

Accident at Minnis Bay

Describes an incident when a driver Mr Rait Smith, and his two lady passengers drove down to the Bay Hotel. On leaving the hotel they wanted to get to Herne Bay, so instead of heading back to the square, Mr Rait Smith drove westwards along the prom and headed down the slope onto the lower prom. At this time it ended soon after it reached this level, so his car + its occupants went over the edge onto the sand. The two ladies were slightly injured and the car was damaged. Before it could be got up off the beach, the tide came in and engulfed it (now where have I heard that tale before?!?) The driver later had the audacity to send a solicitor's letter. The Council pointed out that the slip-road and the lower prom are privately owned and that the driver was therefore trespassing. Also that the Council were not able to fence off the access to the lower prom because this would interfere with access of the owners to their land.

(Presumably they could be asked to put up a notice concerning the private access – but as it was dark, the driver would not have seen it anyway, because there were no street lights down there at that time.)

p 365

October 1928**Beach Avenue to be adopted by the Council**

The original road and footpaths were laid out by the Monarch Land Co. some years previously, when the estate was first developed (about 1920 – see map of 1920-25 in large map formats in Museum). There was a very heavy toll on the road due to the large number of vehicles driving down the road, which were averaging 857 daily and those passing over the bridge were estimated at 1000 motors daily.

Mr George Millen's Basket Workshop near Station entrance.

Decided to re-site his workshop from just outside the Station entrance, as there was to be a new road constructed there (Sandle's Road) and the workshop was to be re-sited beside Walker's Garage in Minnis Road. In the end he had a workshop constructed right beside his home on the other side of the road, just after the terrace of three flat-roofed houses. George had been blinded in WW 1 and St Dunstan's Organisation had helped him in providing him with the original workshop for his basket-making trade.

(In my early days in Birchington, about 1963-4, George made a beautiful large oblong basket to fit onto the carrier at the back of my mother's bicycle. He continued to ply his trade until he was in his early 80's. His widow lived on in their home long after he had died and the Council tried very hard to make her pay full commercial rates for his old workshop, even though it was only being used for storage. To overcome this ridiculous situation, her son came and converted it into a 'sitting-room', with a tatty piece of carpet and an even tattier two-piece suite in it. The curtains were very skimpy net ones and it was quite obvious from the road that it wasn't a workshop any longer – so the Council had to give way.)

p 376

February 1929**Wayside Plans**

Plans were submitted for an Annexe to "The Wayside" Bungalow in Station Road for Mrs Kellett – passed.

p 416

November 1929**Coastguard Cottages – Mrs Randall-Harris**

Plans were submitted by Mrs Randall-Harris for additions at the rear of the Coastguard Cottages in Minnis Bay. – approved

p 558

26 November 1931**Mr George Millen's Workshop**

Permission was granted to George Millen to move his workshop, which is a wooden building, from its present position near Walker's Garage to a position abutting the wall of his home in Minnis Road. Millen later decided it would be better to erect a new building of concrete blocks adjoining his house. Plans for the new building were duly

submitted and approved. He also had wooden building added at the rear, to store some of the materials he needed for his work. He needed this extra area as near to his work-space as possible, because of his blindness and although this contravened bye-laws on wooden structures, it was passed, because of his disability.

PLANS

Windy Ridge – Prince Doria

Additions to “Windy Ridge”, Birchington for Mr W.J. Symons’ house, Harold Road, for His Excellency Prince Doria.

Garages in Horsa Road and Dane Road for Mr G.B. Farrar

PLANS (cont.)

Bungalow in Westfield Road for Miss Wiles

Alterations at the Birchington Club for the Committee

The plans were all in order.

p. 563

22 December 1931

Private Street Works in Birchington

The work of making up Cliff Road, Dallinger Road and The Parade at Birchington is now completed and I suggest that the Council pass a resolution recommending the County Council to take them over as highways repairable by the inhabitants at large.

Advertisements have been issued inviting Tenders for the carrying out of Private Street Works in Sea View Road, Sea View Avenue, Grenham Bay Avenue, & St Mildred’s Avenue.

Cinematograph & Stage Licences

Applications for such licences have been received from The Picture House, Birchington and The Town Hall Cinema Westgate. They also both asked for licences for Stage Plays as well along with St Saviour’s Church Hall and Church House, Birchington.

The Surveyor asked for a fireproof curtain to be hung over the door to the re-winding room at The Picture House and for the door to be hung so that it opened outwards against the operating box. The door would also need a spring fitted. The gas burners to the Exit notices were to be fitted with incandescent mantels.

Church House recommendations included – all exits were to be clearly indicated in 6” letters, 3 buckets painted red and to be filled with water were required, the gaslight over the stage must be protected by an efficient metal guard.

p. 571

28 January 1932

Plans to be passed

11 pairs of houses in Canterbury Rd, Birchington for Messrs Crow & Co.

Pair of houses in Westfield Rd, Birchington for Messrs B.G. Osmotherly

Three bungalows in Westfield Rd, Birchington for “ “ “

Alterations to “Windy Ridge”, Birchington for Mr W.T. Symons

Alterations to the **Golf Club House, Hengrove** for the Margate Golf Links Co Ltd

p. 572

24 February 1932**Private Street Works Birchington**

Albion Road - 431 feet

Cross Road – 1,138 feet

Epple Bay Road – 1,378 feet

Two men were sent from the Public Assistance Board to work in Birchington and were sent to do digging at the Sewerage Works.

Plans for a house in Kings Avenue for Mr J.W. Wilson – plans in order.

p. 580

24 March 1932**Telephone wires**

Post Office Telephone: Application has been made by the Post Office Engineer to carry an overhead telegraphic line from the existing route in Herschell Road, Birchington along Dallinger Road to a pound on the east side of Beresford Gapway, I can see no objection to the proposed work.

p. 583

28 April 1932**Grenham Bay Ave & St Mildred's Avenue, Birchington**

Mrs Kearns has written offering to give a piece of land at the junction of Grenham Bay Ave and Minnis Road for the purpose of rounding off the corner on the east side. Mr G.B. Farrar has offered to give up a similar piece at the junction of St Mildred's Ave and Minnis Road for the same purpose. The two roads are now being made up.

p. 593

26 May 1932**Plans for properties in Birchington**

Bungalow in Harold Road	for Mr L.A. Watkins
2 pairs of houses in Westfield Road	for Mr B.G. Osmotherly
Bungalow in Westfield Road	for Mr J.G. Horn
Garage for Old Bay Cottage	for Mr H.C. Jackson
W. C. at "Milestones", Harold Road	for Mr Catley
Additions to "Duncombe" in Sea View Rd.	Major de Rusett

Plans all in order.

p. 596

23 June 1932**Proposed widening of Church Street by the Pond.**

"I submit a letter from the County Surveyor re- the matter of dealing with the water from the Pond in Birchington. It is proposed to widen (p. 597) the Canterbury Road and in doing so a part of the Pond will be done away with and in order to deal with the surface water should flooding be likely to occur, he would be glad if the Council would give permission for an overflow to be put in and connected with the Birchington sewers." I wrote to Mr Bushell in the matter and submit his reply.

"After considering the matter I think that in order to assist the Kent County Council to carry out a much needed improvement at Birchington, and in view of the fact that the sewers are not at present taking the full volume of sewage for which they were

designed, the Council might agree to a 6" overflow pipe being connected to our sewer, subject to (.... several sensible stipulations laid down).

Plans for properties in Birchington

Bungalow in Harold Road	for Mrs Hawkes
Pair of houses in Grenham Bay Ave	for Mr Allwright
Garage at "Orinsby" Epple Bay Road	for Mr Fair
Four bungalows in Park Ave	for Mr Peppiatt
Plans all in order	

p. 599

28 July 1932

Acol – corner of Crispe Rd and Birchington Road

Land at the corner was being bought for £13 from the owner (who is unnamed)

Plans – including Roy Cook's stall

A coffee stall at Brooksend, Birchington	for Mr R. Cook	
Museum workshop at Quex Park	for Major Powell-Cotton	
House & Garage Grenham Bay Ave	for Mr Farrar	
		Plans all in order.

p. 604

25 August 1932

Accident at Minnis Bay

There was an accident at Minnis Bay when a car with a lady and gentleman crashed through the fencing in front of the Bay Hotel and fell 12 feet onto the Esplanade below. It was not known at the time the Minutes were written up whether the couple had been injured or not. The fence was supposed to have been repaired or checked by the local blacksmith (using a 14 lb hammer) and had been repaired or checked every three months that year – the last time only 2 ½ weeks prior to the accident (Did he use a 'toffee' hammer perhaps?!)

Mr Broadley

In a note about the building of some lock-up garages in Canute Road, it also mentions "a Mr Broadley of 'The Stone House', Minnis Bay has extended an existing garage and the extension, which is of timber construction on one side and concrete blocks on the other side, is about 91ft 8ins from the nearest house, i.e. 4ins short of the required distance. This is a small matter, and I suggest that no action be taken."

p. 612

27 October 1932

Epple Road Bridge

Flooding under the bridge was causing problems – on 23rd of October it was 2 feet deep – suggested that a drain be made that connected to the sewer. It was stated that the Railway Company lowered the road at this point in 1863, so are legally responsible for the problem, but negotiations on this are ongoing.

Temporary Offices in The Square for Messrs Watson & Co. (on the site of Darby's house.

p. 620

24 November 1932

Queen Bertha's School – Plans

Garage and Engine Room for Queen Bertha's School

Sea Wall Damage – Minnis Bay

Considerable storm damage to sea wall and The Parade and Esplanade on 27th November. 22 unemployed men were immediately put onto repairing the damage - £540 worth estimated costs.

Thanet Way

The Coastal Road from Herne Bay to St Nicholas-at-Wade was completed.

p. 627

26 January 1933

Widening Canterbury Road Birchington

In widening the Canterbury Road, the County Council is planning to do away with the Pond at Birchington and could they have permission to discharge the water from the pond into the main sewer? A soon as the pond has been emptied, no further water will be discharged into the sewer at this point. (I wonder where they thought the water that always previously drained into the pond was going to go in future?)

N.B. The opinion of the local people does not seem to have been sought at any point during these decisions!

The next batch of **roads** were listed **to be made up**:

Canute, Dane and Horsa Roads, with King's and Queen's Avenue.
More bungalows in Westfield Road.

p. 632

23 February 1933

More new streets

Proposed new streets in Birchington by Messrs G.B. Farrar & Co.

Streets to be 36 ft and 40ft in width – to be laid on land to the rear of Walker's Garage off Minnis Road, now used as a meadow and on land to the south of the meadow. There follows a detailed description of how the roads are to be constructed.

Kent Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Sussex Gardens, Devon Gardens, Rutland Gardens and Lincoln Gardens. Plans approved.

House Plans

Pair of houses in Quex View Road for Mr Peppiatt

Conversion of an outbuilding into a dwelling house in Mill Row for Mr Offen

Three pairs of houses in Westfield Road for Mr Osmotherly

House in Reculver Avenue for Miss Tatham
 Bungalow in Park Ave for Mr Foley
 Garage at 'Rest Haven' for Mr Hill
 Four cottages in Crispe Road, Acol for Mrs Hutchinson
 Additions to 'The Hall' (Halt?) for the Jewish Friendly Societies. Passed

p. 634

23 March 1933**DARYNGTON ROAD**

Messrs Clutton, Agents for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agree to call the road that will go across the Rifle Range site Daryngton Road and will make up the road. They also say they will make up the track that leads to the Sewage Works (at the end of Dane Road as it is today). The road was named after a local resident who worked for the Charity Commissioners, I believe.

Approved

Complaint about rain lying in Station Road after a downpour.

PLANS

8 houses in Quex View Road

Garden Room at 'Sunset View' for Miss Lawrence (probably to be used for her little school).

Mrs Offen's bungalow in Mill Row still going ahead, but she must sign an agreement to share a drain with the 'adjoining' cottage which she also owned. Passed

p. 640

27 April 1933**St John's College land**

St John's College Cambridge was asked to relinquish a small amount of its land bordering Minnis Road, so that the narrow lane could be widened. They also stated that the roads that were to be built on other land of theirs (possibly part of the Garden Estate?) must have its roads adopted by the Council immediately they had been made up and not wait until the properties were constructed on them. The Parish Council were happy for this to happen, but the County viewed it differently. Butterworth was trying to convince the County that their stance was unjustifiable and would delay development badly.

"Welford" in Station Road. This property was owned by the Council who were negotiating with someone to rent the property at £1 a week.

ROADS to be made up –

Third group – Lyell Road, Epple Bay Road, Cross Road and Albion Road now completed.

Fourth group – King's Avenue, Queen's Avenue, Horsa Road, Dane Road and Canute Road (these names are not mentioned in this section, but they appear on p. 654, so I have inserted them now).

Fifth group – Park Avenue, Brunswick Road, Mill Row and Mill Lane to be done next.

Much discussion about the naming of Mill Lane, as it was not officially given that name until the following meeting.

Sewage pipe trench subsidence – in Canterbury Road, opposite the Vicarage (now Hatch End and Folly's End)

PLANS

Quite a long list, but ink has blurred and it is difficult to read. There is one comment that Farrar wanted to add another name to his roads – Essex Gardens. Approved

p.653

24 May 1933

Congregational Church

Proposed Congregational Church at Minnis Bay. It was proposed to erect the church on the site of the present wooden building abutting Ethelbert Road.

PLANS

Two pairs of houses in Park Avenue for Mr Weston
Bungalow in Hereward Avenue for Mrs Izard (She was still living here when she died in 2006)

Estate Office on corner of Minnis Road and Surrey Gardens for Garden Estate

The little building was to have a rustic appearance, with a roof of sheets of corrugated iron, over which was to be laid thatch. This caused some concern, but it was decided that the sheets of iron would stop any fire spreading too quickly – and the building was also in a very isolated position, so not a hazard to anyone else.

Approved

p. 658

22 June 1933

Trees in road

Two residents, one in each of Kings and Queens Avenue, offered to pay for and plant trees in their roads, providing the Council left appropriate spaces for them to do so.

County Council were about to enter into a new agreement with the Railway Company concerning the maintenance of roadways over railway bridges. The company were to pay the Council 4d per super yard per annum, instead of the present rate of 3½d per yard.

PLANS

A longish list of plans, including 12 semi-detached houses and one detached one on Farrar's estate. There is a clear description of the way the drains were to be set - because they were dug so deep under ground – from 13ft to 22ft. – it was proposed that two houses were connected together to one sewer entrance at a time. On the corner of Kent Gardens and Rutland Gardens, they proposed to link all four houses to one entrance as this part is 22ft deep. This was to be done via a 6in pipe shared between each pair of houses on each side of the road. Agreed

Telegraph pole in Minnis Road.

Due to the widening of Minnis Road near Mr Walker's Garage, it is suggested that the telegraph pole further down the road be given a red reflective disc and white wooden battens at ground level. With very specific provisions, this was agreed.

SEWAGE WORKS

Reported that the engine at the sewage works which pumps the sludge pump had broken down and could not be worked during the Whitsun holidays. Cannot discover the cause of the breakdown. A man was sent down with several different spare parts. In the meantime, the stand-by pump was brought into service, which allowed the workers to keep the sludge well clear. Mr Butterworth had advised the Council to invest in the extra pump some time ago (which they obviously did rather reluctantly!) His foresight was now proved right.

p. 663

27 July 1933

Demolition of cottage in Acol

Acol – Thatched Cottage – Was demolished to make room for a greenhouse. Owned by Mr Sayer – there was a 6ft wall of 14ins thick, which 'provided some protection to users of the highway'. Where was this I wonder? Butterworth took photos of this before demolition and afterwards – also of another similar demolition that was agreed.

PLANS

For bungalows and houses all over Birchington.

5 pairs of houses in Lincoln Gardens for Mr Farrar.

New streets to be named Cornwall and Norfolk Gardens, plus his plan for the layout of his new estate. (see our plans in the Museum, which came to us via Bernie Rayner from Benefield and Cornford Estate Agents. Agreed

p 667

August 1933

New Streets on Garden Estate

The Council was asked by the Surveyor to sanction the adoption of the new streets in the Garden Estate "so that Station Road may be relieved of some of the traffic on it."

This was still being thrashed out in March 1934, as the width of the road was not quite what the County Council recommended. Mr Butterworth was still advocating taking over these roads, as they will "form such an excellent road which will enable traffic from Minster and Manston to proceed to Minnis Bay without passing through Station Road.

Roads again!

Butterworth was pleading with the Council to take over the maintenance of the new roads in the Garden Estate, in order to relieve the huge congestion that was always clogging up Station Road.

ROAD CLOSURES

Certain barriers had been placed across the end of the portion of Egbert Road leading from Minnis Road to Athelstan Road. Butterworth wrote to the secretary of the

London and County Estates Ltd. Apart from any private rights, owners of the property on the estate may have the use of the road and to rights acquired over it by use of the road by the public, by reason of user extending over a long period of time for use of the access from Minnis Road to the Public Pleasure Gardens in Athelstan Road. After a visit from the secretary, he promised that the barriers would be removed. At the time of writing this note, they were still in place.

In the Street Plans making up – 5th phase, part of Station Approach was also included.

A.G. Pointer was General Foreman of works (other than highways) and had been employed by the council since 1931 – ‘proved to be a very useful man’ – wages of 42/6d a week to be raised to 45/-. He had made himself acquainted with the workings of the machinery at the Westgate Pumping Station and also the Birchington Sewage Works at Plum Pudding Island. And was capable of running the engines and plant in emergency. He was therefore to be put forward for inclusion in the newly managed Superannuation Scheme.

PLANS

Bungalow for Mrs Kearns in Grenham Bay Avenue.
Additions to ‘Windcliffe’ (his spelling) for Mrs Hellyer(?)

Congregational Church – request for a short wall to be inserted, to be part of an extension to the church at a later date – p. 671, lower half of plans notice.

p. 672

28 September 1933

Mr Pointer

Mr Pointer had to be dismissed. He had been taking cement and other materials from the stores at Birchington and Westgate. It was proved that 11 bags of cement were missing. After it being reported to the police, Pointer went round to Butterworth’s house (in Semaphore Road) on the Sunday and confessed that he was ‘the culprit’. He sold the cement on to a Mr W. Osborne of Westgate, who swore he had ‘no idea where it had come from’.

Butterworth, with the agreement of the other Councillors, decided not to prosecute, but had a notice placed in both depots to say that anyone else found taking unauthorised materials would be prosecuted. He also offered a £1 reward for information leading to a conviction.

He then stated what an excellent workman Pointer had been. He was married with two children and had retired from the army with a good record and a pension after 20 years of service. He has returned the cement and other materials taken away. W. Fright has been given the job on a temporary basis.

PLANS

House I Epple Bay Road – for Mr E T Kitchener (?)
Pair of villas, Park Avenue – for Mr T G Weston
Pair of houses, Quex View Road – for Mr J Thompson
Bungalow Tea Rooms, Canterbury Road – for Mr F Manship Passed
There is a report on several separate sheets included at this point in the Report, dated 27th Feb. 1930, detailing changes in the way the department was to be run. At the end

of the report there is a list of all the people who were employed by the Highways, Sewers, Pleasure & Recreation Grounds and the Building Department. (43 names)

p 678

35 October 1933

MINSTER

Notes on a meeting with the Surveyor and others to discuss inserting a proper footpath in Tothill Street. When they had surveyed the situation, a report was sent to the Kent County Highways Department – a reply was awaited.

WIDENING PLUMSTONE ROAD

This was to be done at the site of the old cottages recently demolished by the Council. Contacted Mr Sayer to ask him to give up a strip of land beside the road. He said that he had in hand a scheme to erect a slaughterhouse and pig pens on the site. He was not prepared to give up the land at that moment – and anyway, he needed to discuss it with his wife. Left in the ‘pending tray’.

ROADS

The Work on the roads listed below was completed.

Canute (part), Dane, Horsa Roads, King’s and Queen’s Avenues

The next batch to be dealt with were –

Alpha Road (both halves) and Prospect Road

They also decided to close the road across the aerodrome from Pouces corner to World’s Wonder, so that the aerodrome could be improved. This was still shut when I first began cycling across to Newington in 1961. They had made it possible to cut across from just the other side of the Spitfire Museum, past the Control Tower and joining the end of the old road just before World’s Wonder, but I had to get a signed pass each six months, which occasionally I was asked to show.

PLANS

Additions to Orion for Lt Col Phillips

Bungalow in Harold Road for Mr F W Fry

Bungalow in King’s Ave for Mr J J McIntyre

Pair of houses in King’s Road for Mr F Twigg

Addition to “St Audries” for Mr A Alfred

p 682

23 November 1933

ROADS

The next batch of roads to be tarmacked were –

Brunswick Rd (part), Mill Row, Park Ave and Station Parade (part)

FIRE HYDRANT - Woodchurch

Mr Quested has asked for a fire hydrant to be placed near his farm at Woodchurch. As there was a 3 inch main there, the hydrant should not be a problem. It was noted that apart from the farm and its buildings, there were also some cottages there, all of which might be in need of the hydrant at some time.

PLANS

Addition to Nelcot, Kings Avenue – for Mrs Spurrett
 Pair houses in Canterbury Rd - for Mr Neame
 Additions to “Lynton” Minnis Road – for Mr Edmonds
 48 houses on the Garden Estate – for Mr Farrar

p 688

21 December 1933**CINEMATOGRAPH Licences**

For the Carlton at Westgate and The Picture House at Birchington.
 Requests for licences to perform plays were also made for the two cinemas –
 In addition St Saviour’s Church Hall and All Saints Church House were included. This
 was before Granville Sharp arrived and started the All Saints Guild of Players, so it
 would appear that there were acting groups already in the village before his arrival.

Materials used in making up the roads were
 Tarmacadam, flints, granite chippings, brushed pebbles and Tar.
 The County Council suggested that all the services e.g. gas, sewers, water and
 electricity, should be laid under the footpaths, to prevent the need to dig up the roads
 once they had been surfaced.

p 694

25 January 1934**DANGEROUS CORNER**

There was a problem with the corner of Manston Road and Park Lane and although
 Major Powell-Cotton had given up a small piece, they now realised that there needed
 to be greater visibility at this corner. Mr Butterworth proposed that either a larger
 piece was cleared and the fence dropped further back, or that a small triangular piece
 of land opposite Quex Farm Cottages (where Derek and Sonya Howlett now live) so
 that a one-way system could be installed. The traffic from Manston would go into Park
 Lane a few years further south, while the old opening would be entry only.

PLANS

A pair of villas in Crispe Road Acol – for Mr W C Hutchinson
 Shop & flat in Minnis Road – for Mr Johnston (I think it should read Johnson)

Approved

p 697

22 February 1934**LEVEL CROSSING**

“Three years ago (1931) the owner o the land between Hollydene and Highfield,
 abutting Alpha Road, endeavoured to enclose it and we had a little trouble making him
 Take down that portion of the fence which obstructed the public path leading from the
 Alpha Road over the Railway Level Crossing.

“I always understood that this strip of land was reserved by the present Owner’s
 predecessor in title to enable a bridge to be constructed over the Railway at this spot.”

He then said that he would warn the present owner that if he insisted on pressing his claim to enclose the strip, he would end up with a bill for the frontage onto Alpha Road when the charges were levied for the making up of Alpha Road, shortly to be started.

Dangerous Corner

Major Powell-Cotton did not want the alterations to the corner to go ahead yet, as there were still possibilities that the Coastal Road (Thanet Way) might not be completed. If that happened then he thought he would be able to give the all clear for the alterations to the corner.

Spurgeon's

There is a note in the margin where the Committee were advised to ask the Spurgeon's Homes to lower the wall on the Park Road corner of the homes.

Foden

As the licence for the running of the Foden (large lorry for carrying the heavy loads of materiel in road works) would cost £170, Mr Butterworth suggested they scrapped the vehicle. He suggested replacing it with a diesel driven one. The old Foden was driven by a steam engine, with a firebox situated underneath it. Approved

p 701

22 March 1934

Spurgeon's corner

The Surveyor wrote to the Trustees of Spurgeon's Homes to ask them to lower the corner of the wall of their gardens on the corner of Canterbury Rd and Park Rd.

Footpath to of Brooksend Hill

"When the Air Ministry constructed the railway from Birchington to Manston (1917) they raised the public footpath running from Mill Row to Brooksend, in order to take the railway across it at a proper level. This railway has now been dismantled (1925-6) and I understand that the land over which it ran has now been conveyed back to its original owners. But the path has not been restored to its original level."

The Surveyor tried to get the Air Ministry to undertake this, but they suggested that the Council went to Capt. Friend who is the owner of it. Butterworth pointed out that the footpath is the Council's concern, but since it was the Air Ministry who altered it, they were liable for reinstating it to its former condition – stalemate - for the time being!

Surface Water in Acol

The water should have been draining into a cesspit, but half a brick was blocking the flow. It was still felt that an extra cesspit should be dug on the edge of Summerfold's Nurseries.

Roads in Garden Estate

Surveyor expressed regret that the developer did not own enough land along the Essex Gardens stretch to make it a full width road. Suggested that the road be constructed as a half width one with a proper footpath on the eastern side, then when the owner of the land on the other side of the road decided to develop, he would have to provide the of the half of the road width. The council were also in the process of

making up Park Avenue and Brunswick Roads, which would then mean that traffic from Minster and Manston could avoid the Square to get to Minnis Bay. Likewise the traffic from Canterbury could avoid the “dangerous corner at the Square”. In the work on the roads, it was also stated that Station Parade was now being made up.

PLANS

Several sets of ‘villas’ in the Epple area but unspecified.
Additions to Dilkoosha, Spencer Road for Mr N.C. Macnamara

p 707

26 April 1934

Spurgeon’s Corner

The Trustees agreed to the wall being lowered and topped with railings, also to s shrubbery being plated behind to provide privacy, though not hide the view for the exit from the road. All the work to be done by and paid for by the Council!

Sewage outfall pipe at Minnis

Managed to inspect the full length of the pipe (an earlier attempt was hampered by the tide not being low enough) – the pipe needed some of the bags of cement to be replaced and the warning beacon needed painting in black and yellow paint.

Roadmen’s working hours

The men were allowed half an hour in winter for lunch and an hour in summer. However, none of them could get home for their meal so brought a snack with them. They would prefer to only have half an hour in summer and then go home half an hour earlier. As this then tallied with the county rates, it was agreed to make this new arrangement.

PLANS

Additions to Coast Cot at Minnis Bay (corner of Arthur Rd and Minnis Rd) for Mrs O’Hara May
Addition to Gunnersbury Stores (later Powell’s) in Canterbury Rd for Mr W. Powell.
Addition to Wingham Lodge Canterbury Road (Mrs Hudson’s home in the early part of the century) for Mr R.W. Morris (he married on of the Hudson daughters) Passed

p 711

23 May 1934

Roads

Alpha Rd – from Station Road to Albion Road corner – to be made up – also from Albion Road to Epple Road and from Alpha Rd to the corner of Prospect Rd.

PLANS

Pair of shops at Minnis Bay for Mr G. Farrar
Shops with flats in Minnis Rd for Mr G. Farrar
House and Offices at Minnis Bay for Mrs K. Hawkes Passed

Addition to "Duncombe"

Eight houses in Ethelbert Rd

for Mr C.J. Hawkes

Passed

p 732

22 November 1934

Minnis Road Repairs

Some years ago (prior to the roads being taken over by KCC) the Minnis Rd from the Coastguard Cottages at Minnis Bay and along the Sea Front was full of pot holes and in a very dangerous condition. Motorcars extensively used the road, even at the time, as it was the only trafficable road, and the most direct route to the sea at Minnis Bay. The Estate Co. had previously made up the road in a satisfactory manner and Mr Warrington of the Bay Hotel subsequently (in about 1926) carried out some repairs to it. The road, however, again got into a bad state and many complaints were made about its condition.

In view of the importance of this route to the Sea, the Council instructed me to keep this road in repair – this I have done. Nothing, however, was done to the footpaths at the side of the road and these are now in a bad condition, particularly in bad weather.

A Mrs Parvis whose house abuts the road and she has complained to me about the state of the paths and also that Cyclists were using the footpaths. I told her that the paths are not repairable by the Council, but as soon as possible, we would get this job on the Private Street Works list. The problem with the cyclists needed to be referred to the Police. Apparently, she is not satisfied and she has now written to the Ministry of Transport on the matter. If the Council agrees, I will reply to the lady giving her the information that the road and footpaths will be attended to under the Private Street Works and the problem with the cyclists will be referred to the Police.

p 740

20 December 1934

Licences

For the Carlton Cinema, Westgate and the Regent Cinema Birchington.

Licences for plays at Westgate and the Church House and Regent Cinema Birchington.

All granted

PLANS

New properties were to be built in Canterbury Road, St James's Terrace and Shakespeare Road.

Passed

p 744

24 January 1935

Road Traffic Act 1934 - Measures to be taken

Street lights to be not more than 200 yards apart.

Road signs were to be erected where the roads were under the control of the County Council.

There were also to be speed limits on roads not lit, but within residential areas, eg, from Acol to Birchington, from Minnis Bay to the top of the rise where the 'observatory' houses begin & from Epple Bay along the cliffs to Westgate boundary.

PLANS

New properties were to be built in Park Avenue, Canterbury Road, Minnis Road and an office and showroom in Station Road. Passed

p 747

28 February 1935**Road sign**

To be placed on the telegraph pole at the top of Minnis Road, near the corner with Surrey Gardens. The Post Office set a series of 4 conditions (all very OTT) but the Parish Council was prepared to comply. The sign was to state "To Canterbury"!

Testimonials

Mr B.G. Longmore and Mr R.C. Thomlinson asked for Testimonials, which were granted. (Presumably the two men were wanting to leave their present employer and seek another one, though this is not stated in the request)

PLANS

New properties were to be built in Alfred Road (bungalow), Devon Gardens, Reculver Ave, Quex View Road, St Mildred's Avenue, plus additions to the Minnis Bay Hotel and Cliff Guest House (now Grenham Court Home). Passed

p 750

21 March 1935**Proposed High Tension Electric Cables**

The new lines were to carry 11,000 volts to Minster, to Hill House, to Monkton, Sarre, St Nicholas and to the east they were to supply Cliffsend via Way and Thorne. They were to be carried on wooden poles at this date.

PLANS

New properties were to be built in Quex View Road, Park Avenue & Grenham Bay Avenue. Passed

p 752

28 March 1935**MORTUARY**

"I have to report that the approximate estimate of £75 submitted to and approved by the Council on Dec. 20th last for the provision of a Public Mortuary at Birchington Churchyard has been erected and I shall be glad if the Council will approve the additional expenditure, making the total cost say £100."

PLANS

Words of George Butterworth, the Chief Surveyor:- "Garage to new house in Canterbury Road submitted by Ideal Homes Ltd of Margate – the plan is in order."

His last comment in this huge Minutes Book is:-

"I have recently received a plan for 20 semi-detached bungalows to be erected on the Sandwich Road at Cliffsend – I have not had time to go into this matter and propose

