

WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER

Birchington items

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RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

Feb. 1892

The Minute Book for this authority

Some of the material in these minutes tallies with information we have gleaned from Birchington Parish Council Minutes, which are also held at Whitfield.

2 June 1892 p.33 Plans were approved for the erection of stables near Birchington Railway Station for H.H. Powell-Cotton Esq.

23 March 1893 p.115 Plan for a new estate was received from Mr Lewis Shrubsole. Declined to approve plan as it was not in accordance with the bye-laws.

13 July 1893 p.152 Dr Flint proposed, Mr Ralph seconded – Managers of Birchington Schools be recommended to close them, due to an outbreak of scarlet fever.

Plans were approved for the erection of 2 houses for Mr A. Wing.

24 August 1893 p.162 Mr F H Watson asked if the schools could be reopened on 4th Sept. Dr Robinson approved, as the scarlet fever appeared to have abated.

5 October 1893 p. 178 Mr G H Pettman submitted plans to build two shops in Station Road. Plans were returned with the request that the alleys be made 8 feet wide. The proposed shop at the rear of the premises was rejected as it would be too near the cesspool.

2 Nov. 1893 p.183 Letter from engineer to the Post Office asking permission to erect telegraph. Agreed.

30 Nov. 1893 p. 196 Plans submitted by Mr G H Pettman for an addition to the Queen's Head were rejected as they did not conform to the bye-laws.

11 Jan. 1894 p. 210 G H Pettman submitted plans for building two houses 'with 12" hollow walls up to the roof plates'. These were rejected as not being in line with the bye-laws.

(This is odd, because the law for cavity walls came in the following year and several properties in the village already had cavity walls before this date – eg. The old Vicarage. Maybe it was because the walls did not project through the roof as those in Westfield Road do.)

Albert Wing submitted plans for 5 villas in Station Road. Plans were returned for 'several particulars to be marked on them'.

8 Feb. 1894 p.224 Mr E Pover submitted plans for additions and alterations to the sea View Hotel. These were accepted. (Name as written)

22 Feb. 1894 p. 226 Plans approved for two dwelling house in Albion Road, submitted by G H Pettman.

8 March 1894 p. 232 G H Pettman asked 'to be allowed to lay a kerb with brick and concrete paving adjoining his new shop at Station Road, Birchington, for a length of 25 feet on the public footpath, repairable by this authority, and the entire footage of Station Road, and that he also be allowed to erect a verandah with iron columns on the edge of the kerb, and roof of O. G. Corrugated iron, such verandah to be placed at least 7 feet above the footway.' Passed. (This now Blue Monday's shop)

19 April 1894 p.248 Albert Wing of Birchington asked if he need carry the party wall of his new houses through the roof, if it was brought up to the underside of the slates. He was told that he must comply with the bye-laws. (See comment for 11the Jan.)

3 May 1894 p. 253 G H Pettman was assured that if he made up the path in front of his shops to the authority's satisfaction, they would keep it in repair afterwards.

17 May 1894 p. 256 G H Pettman stated he did not want the authority to keep up the pavement outside his shops. He also asked to be allowed to put gravel on the pavement on the side (Paddock Road) of his corner shop.

A report from Dr Robinson, Medical Officer of Health stated that the houses occupied by Emptage, Brockman, Love, and Brook at Birchington Bay had defective roofs, through which the rain penetrated into the bedrooms. The houses also had no fireplaces or ventilators. He had analysed a sample of water at No. 20 and found it fit for drinking purposes. 'Mr Lewis Shrubsole of Faversham, the owner of the above houses was required within 28 days to repair the roofs, introduce ventilators in the bedrooms and execute such other repairs as may be necessary to put the said cottages into habitable condition.'

There is also a minute about houses at Minnis Bay

31 May 1894 p. 261 Mr Shrubsole acknowledged the letter and promised that he would attend to the matter.

14 April 1894 p.269 The authority passed requests for alterations to:

"Mirama", Spenser Road, Birchington by A. Wing

William H. Cozens-Hardy was living here at the time.

"Highfield", Alpha Road, Birchington by G H Pettman

Rev. Arthur Thomas Banister M.A. owned the house at this time.

9 Aug. 1894 p. 286 Letter from Mr A. Wing Builder of Birchington, offered to give for public use a piece of land, 4 feet wide and 100 feet long, tapering at both ends, situated at the main approach to Birchington, providing that the authority made a curbed footpath and maintained it.

Resolved that the offer be accepted and the ground be dedicated in 'perpetuity for the public use'.

20 Sept. 1894 p.295 Because of the possibility of an outbreak of cholera, the Sanitary Inspector was particularly active during this period. He ordered that provision was to be made for the disposal of sewerage, especially in Westgate and Birchington and where cesspools were allowed, to insist upon their being watertight and ventilated. Also to cause houses to be inspected to discover defects in their drainage. He also ordered that as soon as possible they were to do away with cesspit privies and provide the regular removal of excrement and refuse.

An application for a licence to become 'a Purveyor of Milk' was received from F T Perrins of Birchington. (No indication re- result the of this request)

1 Nov. 1894 p.308 A letter was received asking whether the Authority had considered the question of 'carrying out scheme of sewerage for Westgate and Birchington'. The clerk was ordered to reply that 'the matter was receiving attention'!

Table of rateable values =

Parishes	Rateable Value	Highways			Sanitary		
		£	s	d	£	s	d
Acol	3,818	13	11	10	9	5	6
Birchington	10,448	37	3	9	25	3	9
Minster	17,600	62	12	10	42	15	1
Monkton	4,871	17	6	9	11	16	8 ½
St Johns	26,210	93	5	8	63	13	4
St Lawrence	3,193	11	7	4	7	15	1
St Nicholas	6,040	21	10	0	14	13	5
St Peters	5,012	17	16	9	12	3	6
Sarre	1,830	6	10	3	4	8	11
Stonar	1,155	4	2	3	2	16	1

The birth rate was 23.6 per 1,000 per annum and the death rate was 8.8. On 13 July of 1893, a minute note that the birth rate per 1,000 per annum was 18.1, while the death rate at that time was 8.4. It is interesting to see that the death rate is higher, but with such a high birth rate, this is not surprising.

13 Dec. 1894 p.320 Resolved that there was to be a taxation of Cycles.

3 Jan. 1895 p.325 Water supply certificates were issued for 2 houses erected in Albion Road by G H Pettman.

A letter from Mr Orlando Stone, Brooksend, Birchington, complained about the state of the footpath from Brooksend to Birchington. (His Brother took over Upper Gore End Farm at about this time.)

17 Jan. 1895 p. 329 Letter enquiring about the result of the consideration of the drainage of Westgate and Birchington by the Rural Sanitary Authority.

Decision to make up the footpaths between Birchington and Brooksend with chalk and gravel, with oak posts put at the commencement of the path.

Plans approved for 2 villas to be erected in Albion Road by G H Pettman. Plans approved.

31 Jan. 1895 p. 334 Birth rate per 1,000 per annum was 23.8 and the death rate was 12.7, but the zymotic (contagious diseases) death rate was only 1.6. Report from Dr Robinson, Medical Officer of Health.

14 Feb. 1895 p.336 Letter from C R Haig of Birchington, (leader of the Congregational Church at Minnis Bay) complaining that the road to Birchington Bay had not been cleared of snow. The surveyor reported that he had now attended to the matter

28 Feb. 1895 p. 342 A letter was read from Birchington Parish Council drawing attention to the dangerous state of the kerbing on the footpath leading from the Railway Station to the Post Office, and to the bad condition of the said footpath.

Resolved – on the motion of Mr Tomlin – That application be made to the County Council to declare the road leading from Birchington Square to the Railway Station to be a Main Road, repairable by the County. (This road would include the footpath above named)

Further, that the Clerk inform the Parish Council what action had been taken.

The rateable value of	Birchington at this time was	£12,894
	Westgate was	£27,659
	Acol was	£2,169
	Minster was	£17,696

28 Mar. 1895 p. 350 In accordance with the notice given, Mr Tomlin moved, "That an application be made to the Local Government Board, to declare that the Provisions contained in the Private Streets Works Act 1892 (55 & 56 Vict. C. 57) shall be in force in the Parish of Birchington and to invest this Rural District Council with the powers, rights, duties, capacities, liabilities and obligations which an Urban Authority may acquire by adoption of the said Act."

In reference to this matter, a letter was read from Birchington Parish Council giving their unanimous support to the proposal and stating their opinion that the adoption of the Act would greatly benefit the parish.

Carried unanimously.

A request for a Water Supply Certificate for No 3 House at Station Road, Birchington, erected by Mr A. Wing, was received and necessary certificate was ordered to be issued.

25 Apr. 1895 p. 359 A letter from the Local Government Board stated, with reference to this Council's application to be invested with powers under the Private Streets Works Act of 1892, in respect of the Parish of Birchington, that it was not their practice to invest Rural Authorities with the power to require owners to sewer the streets. The application should therefore exclude the power to require sewerage and the Board should be furnished with a plan showing the streets, their names, lengths and the position of the sewers.

Ordered that the necessary plans be prepared And that the Board be furnished with a list of the streets which the Parish Council required to be made up and that they did not require these streets to be sewerage.

9 May 1895 p. 363 Two letters were received from Birchington Parish Council.

Letter 1 – They unanimously agreed “that the time had not yet come for tubular drainage.”

Letter 2 – Enclosed a copy of correspondence between A.R. Rayden and the Council respecting an alleged obstruction and diversion of a footpath crossing the line of the railway at Birchington by that gentleman and referring the matter for this Council's consideration.

Clerk to write to Mr Rayden asking for his views and that two members of the Council inspect the said footpath.

23 May 1895 p. 366-7 Footpath inspected and found that it had been diverted, but the houses that it led to had been demolished. Mr Rayden said that he had moved the fence so that the path did not cut off a triangle of his land. Pedestrians now had to skirt his land round the fence – adding some 25 yards to the distance. Mr R. also stated that the path was merely an accommodation track from one farm to another. The fence had been up for at least 8 years without complaint and as the path only had a limited use, it was decided to take no action on the matter.

20 June 1895 p. 374-5 Birchington Parish Council asked for a report on the footpath issue. The Committee refused to agree.

An application to be registered as a Cowkeeper and Purveyor of Milk was received from Mr Herbert Dennis of the Red House, (Mill Row) Birchington. Certificate issued.

4 July 1895 p. 379 Clerk ordered to apply for Main Road status for Station Road Birchington (still not given a name – just described as the road linking the Railway Station with the Canterbury Road.)

A second request from Birchington Parish Council received asking for the Committee to water the streets of B'ton. (This was to lay the dust at the height of summer on the unmetalled roads.) Reply said they did not object to doing it but suggested that they wait to see the result of the application above (which it then calls “Station Road”)

18 July 1895 p. 384 Letter from Local Government Board asked to be informed when a Drainage Scheme for Westgate had been decided. With regard to Birchington, they thought that as Dr Bruce Low had reported that the

place was in urgent need of sewerage, that the reason given by the Council for not taking any action did no relieve them of their responsibility under Sec. 15 of the Public Health Act 1875. Dr Flint gave notice that on Thursday 1st August next he would move a resolution that it was desirable that steps would be taken at once for the drainage of the parish of Birchington.

Birth Rate was 25.2 per 1,000

Death Rate was 10.8 per 1,000

No deaths from zymotic (see 31 Jan.) diseases

Infant mortality extremely low

1 Aug. 1895 p. 387 Letter from Mr J. Newing of Quex Park pointed out the need for a fingerpost at the corner of the Park, by the cross roads.

Ordered that pointed post be erected.

15 Aug. 1895 p. 390 Letter from Birchington Parish Council disagreeing with Committee's decision re-Rayden and footpath. Letter acknowledged.

Letter from Mr Drury and Mr Bigglestone of Canterbury - asked this Council to pay half the cost of their cleansing of certain earth closets at Birchington. Council declined to offer any help.

Mrs Susan Gray of Birchington Hall submitted plans for building a house in Alpha Road Birchington.

26 Sep. 1895 p. 400 Applications from Mrs Elizabeth Busbridge of The Square, Birchington and Drayson Golder of Park Lane, Birchington for Licences under the Petroleum Acts. (This would almost certainly have been for the sale of Paraffin) Clerk to give Public Notice that such licences should now be made by the Committee.

Letter from Birchington P. C. stated that as the earth closet system was such a success at Garlinge, they recommended its adoption in lieu of tubular drainage. Order enabling the cost of cleansing of earth closets, privies, ash pits and cesspools and the removal of house refuse at Birchington to be charged as "Special Expenses" to the parish.

On a motion of Mr Tomlin, seconded by Mr Matthews, resolved that the water from all the wells at present existing in Birchington, Minster and Garlinge be analysed and reported this Council.

Ordered that a charge be made for each licence issued under the Petroleum Acts.

Plans were passed for the erection of a house at the Cliff Estate Birchington by Mr Albert Wing.

10 Oct. 1895 p. 403 Application for an explosives licence received from J.A. Johncock of Birchington, applicant having been referred to this Council by the Justices' Clerk in Margate. A similar application was received from Mrs E. Busbridge. Council replied that the powers to grant these licences had now reverted back to the County Council and to the County and Borough Justices. (Was this to do with the sale of fireworks for Nov. 5th ?)

Plans submitted by H. H. Powell-Cotton for erection of 5 cottages at Southend, Birchington (builder Mr Cecil Hunter, 2, Basinghall Street, London EC.

7 Nov. 1895 p. 412 Resolved that the owner of the well from which sample No 40 was taken be required to close the said well forthwith & provide a pure supply of water for the occupiers of the houses (Eden Villas, Canterbury Road Birchington) within 14 days. (Eden Villas stood on the frontage of Yew Tree House - almost opposite the gates of Birchington Hall.)

A letter from Mr A.R. Rayden, Birchington stating that the County Council had granted this Council's application for the Station Road to be made a Main Road.

21 Nov. 1895 p. 417 Well water samples:

The samples from Crippens Cottages Birchington (owner Miss Hollands), Farm Cottages, Gore End (owner G. Webb), Nos: 8, 11 12 Prospect Rd Birchington (owner Mr Tomlin) - all the owners were ordered to close the wells and to supply their tenants with fresh water within 14 days.

Bushell and Son of Sea Street, Herne Bay stated they would give immediate attention to the well at 2 Malt House Cottage, Birchington. This was beside the Malt Houses in Minnis Road, beside the site of the Roman Catholic Church.)

A letter from Mr A. B. Pilcher, Grosvenor Place, Margate, stated that water would be laid on to Nos: 1 - 6 Dennett's Cottages, Birchington and the well closed.

5 Dec. 1895 p. 421 More wells were ordered to be closed, including one of those at Birchington Hall belonging to Mrs Susan Gray. Some were 'poor', but not bad enough to be condemned yet!

19 Dec. 1895 p. 428 Station Road was officially declared "**Main Road**". The whole road to be regulated and coated. Footpath on the west side from the Powell Arms' lamp to Pitman's house (except opposite Stone's premises) to be made a uniform width and coated. On the east side from opposite Pitman's house to the Post Office to be treated the same. All the catchpits to be deepened to intercept the road grit. Work estimated to cost £281

(We should have had a celebration of Station Road's 100th anniversary in 1995!!!)

16 Jan. 1896 p. 440 Ordered that the Clerk enquire of Mr Stephen Holness, Birchington, upon what terms he would let a piece of land at the rear of Mill Cottage - 50 feet x 30 feet - for the purpose of erecting a shed for a scavenging cart etc., or whether he was disposed to sell such land & if so, at what price?

30 Jan. 1896 p. 442 Letter from Mr S. Holness of Station Road, Birchington said he was not prepared to let or sell the land for sanitary purposes at Birchington.

27 Feb. 1896 p. 450 Sanitary Committee were still looking for land to rent and had approached Mr J.T Friend of Northdown, who owned land in Birchington. He said that all his plots in B'ton were let and so was unable to help. They eventually managed to acquire a piece at the Square end of Park Lane.

Mr Rayden attended the meeting and introduced Mr Robert Grant, a candidate for the seat on the County Council, rendered vacant by the resignation of Basil Hodges. (Mr Grant lived at 'Fernleigh', which later became part of Queen Bertha's School on the Canterbury Road. In 1909 he donated the fountain in the Square in memory of his wife. By this time he was an Alderman.)

5 Mar. 1896 p. 453-4 Last entries in this volume.

Last entry reads :

“Further that the Sanitary Inspector visit all schools in the district once in six months for the future.”

(This was mainly because the provision of toilets and drinking water were still not very hygienic - to put it mildly!)