

THE COUNCIL IN A BUSINESS MOOD.  
SURVEYOR & RATING ASSISTANT APPOINTED.

C.T. July 23, 1932

NEW BARRACK ROAD LIGHTING.

At the meeting of the Christchurch Town Council, held on Thursday evening last, applicants were interviewed and selected for the vacant posts of Surveyor's Assistant and Rent Collector and Assistant Rating and Valuation Officer.

For the post of Rating Assistant there had been received 150 replies.

Mr. W. F. Larn, of 11, Portesbury Road, Camberley, Surrey, was appointed in this connection, his duties to commence from August 8th next at a salary of £180, rising to £220 per annum. Mr. Larn was the first assistant in the Rating and Valuation Department of the Frimley and Camberley Urban District Council, and since 1925 has been associated with Messrs. Hankinson and Sons, Camberley. He is 25 years of age, and was educated at the Farnham Grammar School. His experience of Local Government matters total four years.

SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT.

Mr. E. B. Wise was the successful applicant of 21, North Square, Dorchester. He is 23 years of age. He is at present the senior assistant to the Borough Surveyor of Dorchester and is an Associate of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers. He commences his duties in four weeks' time at a salary of £145 per annum.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

At the invitation of the Vicar (Canon Gay) the Mayor and Corporation will attend a special service at the Priory Church on July 31st, at 11.15 in the morning. The occasion being known as "Hospital Sunday."

LEGATE'S CHARITY.

Arising from a statement of Councillor Gelsthorpe that two years had elapsed and nothing had been done in the matter of this charity, the Mayor explained to the Councillor that he was in error in making this statement.

"Then the least thing they could have done would have been to courteously inform us of the fact. Councillors should have been supplied with details of the administration and placing of the funds, and whatever was done we should have been advised," added the Councillor.

The Mayor: This has in no way hindered the operation of the trust and full particulars will be distributed at this meeting.

The Town Clerk: The local Press have already had some details passed to them for publication. (These appear in this issue of the "Christchurch Times.")

NEW COUNCIL CHAMBER FURNITURE.

Before proceeding to the business of the agenda, the Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate the Council upon the very big bargain they had secured in the Chamber furnishings.

(The disposition of the Councillors now is not unlike that of a school, some Councillors being seated in small solo desks, highly reminiscent of scholars facing a tutor).

#### A "WEIGHTY" MATTER.

Some considerable time was occupied over the disposition of penny-in-the-slot weighing machines, now displayed by the Council upon their own sites for the luring of the public's coppers.

There are two machines, one on the Quay and one placed in a public convenience at the rear of the Town Hall.

Naturally the machine placed in the obscure position earns nil as compared to its well placed brother, and the company owning the machines have applied for permission to have the two machines on the Quay.

The British Automatic Company sought such permission, the matter having been already approved by the Chairman of the Municipal Committee (Councillor Spickernell) and the Borough Surveyor.

Councillor Martin: Yes, if we are to get an additional revenue for it. On the Quay it will earn more money and we ought to get more.

The Town Clerk: The position is rather that the present situation is entirely unremunerative.

Councillor Gelsthorpe: I believe we get 25 per cent, of what is in the box don't we? If that is so, the more the machine earns the more we get as rent.

Councillor Spickernell: The company sought to get a rental reduction, and this we could not grant. Then they, alternatively asked for permission to place the poor-yielding machine in a better position, and proposed additionally a sharing system, and this we could not accept.

Councillor H. J. Martin: We are receiving, I believe, £5 for two weighing machines. If one is transferred from the back of the Town Hall and both are placed on the Quay, either a fair profit sharing basis or an additional revenue should be forthcoming, because, I know that these machines take an enormous sum of money.

Councillor Spickernell: The situation is, I fear, that if we do not agree to this transfer of a machine the Company will remove one entirely.

Councillor Shave: As business men, if a proposition does not pay we should be all out to equalise it, and naturally this Company is acting accordingly.

A proposal made by Councillor H. J. Martin to increase the machine rental on the Quay was lost on a vote being taken, and the original proposition adhered to for permission to erect the machine on the Quay.

#### A "WIRELESS EXCHANGE" FOR THE DISTRICT.

Councillor A. E. Shave, Chairman of the Highways Committee, recommended that permission be granted to the New Forest Broadcast Service to carry wires across the non-county highways in the Borough in connection with a proposed wireless exchange, provided that such wires are not less than 20 feet above the ground, and subject to such crossings being at points previously approved by the Borough Surveyor.

Councillor Shave explained that this company proposed to set up certain direct connections with householders for the provision of wireless programmes for 1s. 6d a week. He was not familiar with radio phraseology, and would ask the Town Clerk to explain.

The Town Clerk detailed that the scheme simply explained meant that the company now seeking these permissions would by means of a special reception station provide a

picked wireless programme per day. Householders would be connected to their district exchange by wires, and the company would provide the service and upkeep and a loudspeaker for 1s. 6d. per week.

Actually he understood that house-to-house wiring was not entailed, one line to a district would suffice. This service would in no way affect the usual users of the national radio services and broadcasts; it was to appeal mainly to those who have not yet for various reasons installed a wireless set. This service obviated all personal bother. They had apparently an agreement with the Postmaster-General; of course the usual licence was necessary.

Councillor A.E. Shave: There are in all probability a very large number of people who are not users of the wireless broadcast programmes because they do not understand it, and because they will not bother with battery upkeep and maintenance. Another very vital factor will eventually, under this system, be the disappearance of those unsightly wireless masts and poles which now disfigure the back gardens of residential districts.

The Borough surveyor: I'm not frightfully impressed, if it means the removal of such unsightly poles and masts then it's a good thing, but I am doubtful. One in sixpence per week is a lot of money, and already 85 per cent. of the people are enjoying a system which meet with their requirements. It must mean in addition that certain poles are erected at points to carry the exchange wires down the back ways of houses.

Councillor A.E. Shave: You quite understand that no arrangement has been arrived at; it may prove to be only "hot air."

Councillor Russell Oakley: Has any enquiry been made at Lymington where this system is claimed to be in operation and is giving general satisfaction? Inquiries should have been made as to how it works and its benefits. We are informed that it has long been in operation there; it would have been a simple matter for the Highways Committee to have found this out.

Is it appreciated by the Lymington people generally? I shall propose that this matter be referred back for further information and inquiries.

^Councillor Donovan Lane: The promoters of this scheme offered to convey us to Lymington in order that a thorough inspection could be made. There would be no objection to the traders in wireless in the district, as it would tend to increase an interest in wireless programmes rather than detract from it.

Upon the amendment as suggested by Councillor Russell Oakley, it was referred back for further investigation.

#### PLOT OF LAND PURCHASED.

It was decided to purchase a plot of land in Jumpers Avenue, required to connect Elm Avenue with Jumpers Avenue, and so provide for a communication between Fairmile and Barrack Roads, from Mr. Martin for £80. The plot has a 50ft. frontage and a depth of 120ft.

#### BARRACK ROAD LIGHTING.

Councillor A. E. Shave: I need not explain the next item, it explains itself. We ask that the Borough Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the existing 19 lamp standards along Barrack Road, between Jumpers Corner and the Fountain Corner to be replaced by 38 six-light Rochester upright lanterns and posts, at a cost of £177 13s., as provided for in the annual estimates, and in accordance with the tender on hand received of the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co.

Dr. Alderman A. H. Hartford: This is treating us with scant courtesy indeed. These present standards you might at least tell us if they are worn out or what? To simply say that the cost is provided for in the estimates is treating us with scant courtesy.

Councillor A. E. Shave: I am sorry. I might perhaps explain. This is the main entrance to Christchurch and is very badly lit, and these new lamps, I understand, will shed a much broader light than those we have at present; they are certainly very badly needed and we are anxious that the work should go forward now so that when the dark evenings arrive the necessary lighting can be provided.

Councillor H. J. Martin: Are the existing lamp standards to be done away with, or are these standards now proposed an addition to the already existing ones?

The Borough Surveyor: The present 19 standards will be removed, and the Bournemouth Gas Co. will credit us with a sum of £5 per lamp standard. These new lamps are held by the Gas Company to be the best lighting system there is.

Alderman Norman Barnes: This £177, is that a total cost? Is it spread over a number of years?

The Borough Surveyor: It would be extended over a period of five years.

Alderman Norman Barnes: What, £177 13s., or an annual payment of £177 13s.?

The Borough Surveyor: An annual payment. Here the matter resolved itself into a careful study of the Bournemouth Gas and Water Company's proposals and estimates, which however could not be passed to the Council in any degree of clarity.

The Mayor: The setting out here (referring to the documents in question) and the manner in which the proposal is set forth in the agenda is quite a different matter. The best thing to do is to reconsider it, and for that purpose refer it back to committee. This was agreed

#### OFFER ACCEPTED.

The offer of Mr. E. A. Young, of Iford Stores, of the Grove, to give a portion of the forecourt of his premises (about 6ft. by about 50ft. in length) for the purpose of road widening, provided that the Council made up the remaining portion of his forecourt, was accepted.

Councillor Shave explained that his committee felt it was a very genuine offer, and the forecourt was not a big proposition to make up. At this point there was no sidewalk for pedestrians.

#### NO. 2, POUND LANE.

It was proposed that an offer be made to the executors of the late Mrs. Dowden for the purchase of this property, and that a sum of £50 be offered.

Councillor Galton: If it can be got at this figure it is a bargain for its site value alone.

Alderman Barnes: I shall vote against it. We keep spending eighties and fifties; we shall be landed in the end.

Councillor Donovan Lane: I look upon Pound Lane as the site of a future arterial road, so I am in favour.

Councillor Martin: £50 is rock bottom, and it would be well worth that to the Borough. It will be money well spent. We have bought No.1, Pound Lane in order to demolish it, if we do so No.2 will fall down with it. It is our duty to improve Christchurch.

Councillor E. Wrigley: Then we have four more to buy in this manner to clear the nuisance. Where do we stop?

Councillor Oakley: In a maelstrom.

It was decided to offer the sum of £50 for the property.

## BEACH STALLS.

The Beach Committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Norman Barnes) proposed that permission be granted to Mrs. W. Derham, of 9, Livingstone Road, Christchurch, to erect and maintain for the period from July 22nd to September 30th this year, a stall for the sale of confectionery, minerals and fruit. Subject to her agreeing to pay £5 in respect of such stall by two equal payments of £2 10s., the first instalment to be paid on the 22nd of July, 1932, and the second on 31st of August, 1932.

Councillor Martin: We are very good at spending money, but here is a proposition where we are failing to earn it. For this valuable monopoly a fee of at least £20 should be paid for the remainder of the season. You will have no difficulty whatever in getting this amount. I move an amendment that £20 be charged.

Councillor F. Clarke: You talk of a monopoly. Can't there be more than one stall? Is this to be the only pebble on the beach?

Councillor Spickernell: I have recently paid two visits to Mudeford Beach, and I shall support Councillor Martin's proposition. Will the stallholder be allowed to charge as much as she likes? If they make these exorbitant charges it will certainly tend to kill the great popularity of this beach; 3d. for an apple and 2d. for a banana is what is charged on neighbouring beaches. Cannot we accompany the permit with some addition to regulate charges.

Councillor Shave: We cannot be buyer and seller too. No man can. There is no guarantee that although this beach is popular that the weather is going to be propitious. The permit is only for this year. I'll go so far as to say that to my mind that it will be a very great query if we can get as much as £20 for this year. The stallholder has a big outlay additionally; £20 for perhaps five weeks' trade. I support the resolution as it stands.

Councillor Wrigley: I quite agree. We none of us know what it is worth. Why 90 per cent. of the people who use Highcliffe beach take with them their own provisions. It is only two months to go, and it may be worth more or less.

Councillor Lane: We must not allow the sandbanks to get commercialised, once we start that it will be difficult to restrain. The place is quite popular as it stands.

Alderman Norman Barnes: Twenty pounds is far too exorbitant, if this figure is insisted upon we shall lose the lot. It is no question of monopoly, there are other tea places.

Councillor Spickernell: I propose a further amendment. That is that no beach stall shall be allowed on this site. It should have been advertised, and then we should have gleaned some idea of its value. To give this right to the first applicant is the wrong thing to do.

The original resolution was carried.