

COUNCIL EXPEND CAREFULLY. KEEPING THE END OF THE YEAR IN SIGHT.

C.T. May 21, 1932

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The entrance of the officers and men of the Christchurch Fire Brigade into the Council Chamber in full uniform made an unusual scene. Upon the Council centre table stood the five silver cups they had brought back from their day of competition with other teams of the Southern Area.

The Mayor (Ald. J. W. Tucker) gave them, on behalf of the Council, a hearty welcome, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to congratulate them upon their success.

What they had done constituted a record in Fire Brigade history in the Southern Area, and it was a great credit to them. They had contributed an enormous amount of work, both for the Council, the burgesses and Christchurch as a whole.

He wished them to know that the Council had their welfare at heart, for they never failed them, and their smart turn-outs for fires was most creditable. He understood that their success on Monday entitled them to now compete in the National Fire Brigade Tournament at Swanage.

Alderman Miss M. B. Robinson, in seconding the Mayor's vote of thanks, expressed how much she had always had the cause of the Brigade at heart and to celebrate such an occasion they should all be accorded a bottle of champagne.

Chief Officer Bryant thanked his Worship and the members of the Council on behalf of the Brigade, and hoped they would be able to continue along the lines they had laid out for themselves. He personally thought that on Monday they were unlucky, they should have returned with six cups instead of five.

THE STOUR ROAD CROSSING.

The danger crossing of Stour Road came under review of the members of the Town Council at their meeting held at the Town Hall on Thursday evening.

Strong representations were made by a solicitor acting for Miss Spicer of "Carfax," Stour Road, who declared that upon an occasion recently her life was literally endangered by the traffic conditions obtaining at this crossing.

Various members of the Council were in complete agreement, and the Town Clerk explained that at this particular point the County Council were responsible. He said that they have under consideration at the moment a system of automatic signals, and the question is before the Ministry of Transport.

Councillor Galton suggested that the letter of Miss Spicer should be sent on to the authorities, its drastic nature would in all likelihood hurry matters.

Alderman N. Barnes said he was in full agreement with the need for some immediate provision to render these cross roads safer. He had observed that motorists followed the tram lines straight across the main road under the impression that they had a continuous road, and they invariably increased speed just at the danger point.

FUN FAIR DAMAGE AT REGATTAS.

That the Fun Fair arranged by the Regatta Committee as an attraction on Wednesday, Aug. 24th, must not erect roundabouts on the green sward was agreed. These heavy structures and their weighty engines which hauled them must avoid cutting the turf was a condition

upon which the Council accorded permission for the Regatta Committee to use the meadows as in other years.

The Borough Surveyor supported the contention that heavy lorries caused serious damage to the preserved and tended turf.

Alderman Norman Barnes, said he had every sympathy with the spirit of sport as represented by the Regatta, but he felt that these Fun Fair trucks and vehicles ripped up that upon which the Council had spent pounds to bring to perfection. Subject to the provision that fair erections and engines only traversed and occupied the cinder tracks, permission was accorded.

"DRIBBLES," STOPPED— BUT NO WATER.

Considerable discussion arose in connection with the Fairmile Allotments. Councillor Spickernell, speaking for the Municipal Committee, recommended that the Borough Surveyor be instructed to arrange for a well to be sunk in a suitable position in the centre of the Fairmile Allotments, at an estimated cost of £25. His committee had been informed that the lack of water was a considerable hindrance to the letting of these plots, but if this well were sunk it would expediate the letting immediately.

In reply to a question, Mr. J. Nutman, Rating Officer, disclosed the fact that out of a total of 72 allotments 71 were let.

Alderman Norman Barnes said that the information first placed before them was obviously incorrect, and apparently this lack of water in no way militated against the letting of the plots. They only just covered expenditure as it was, leaving nothing in the nature of a balance.

Councillor H. J. Martin argued that if this sum of £25 be spent where no actual or definite petition for it was established, he would be compelled to vote against it. In any case it would be a continual expense, always falling in and so forth.

Councillor Spencer protested that there was a definite need. He knew for a fact that one man carried water to his allotment from Jumpers Avenue.

Councillor Shave said that for a long time past he had had numerous requests from ratepayers and allotments holders that this matter should be brought up. So far as establishing a definite need, there was that in abundance, he knew of one holder who carried water even further than Jumpers Avenue. In these days when we heard so much of home versus foreign produce, surely it was their duty to give every possible encouragement.

Councillor Clarke said that, speaking as one who knew what it was to cultivate land, a well was an absolute necessity for these allotment holders to grow produce.

Councillor Northover: If this is granted, Highcliffe allotment holders will probably expect and demand the same thing. He suggested that fine allotments were in evidence wherein good produce had been grown. In this holders must take their chance, wet or dry.

Alderman Barnes declared that he felt compelled to vote against the proposal. He at first understood that there must be a well in these allotments as they were not let as a consequence of the lack of water. They now knew this was not the case. They must stop these "dribbles," or the end of the year would find them in the cart." Therefore he should vote against it.

Councillor Wrigley finally pointed out that the facts were plainly that there had apparently been a great competition of late for these allotments, and that only one remained unlet.

In a vote which followed, the proposal for such a well was defeated.

HIGHCLIFFE LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

In response to an application from the Highcliffe Lawn Tennis Club for a reduction in the rent of the tennis courts, it was decided to reduce the rent. The club had previously paid £15, but owing to a bad season consequent upon bad weather last year they were not in a strong position financially. They had asked for a £5 reduction, but the Municipal Committee decided to halve the proposition and remit £2 10s., making the rent for the current year £12 10s.

"FUR AND FEATHER" ENCOURAGED

The question of granting permission to the Fur and Feather Society to hold a show upon the Barrack Road Recreation Ground on September 14th next, was advised by the committee, subject to the society paying a fee of five guineas, to their making good any damage, and to their clearing all litter from the ground.

Councillor H. J. Martin: We appear to be making an extreme change in the proportions of this charge, and have gone right to the other extreme to that which we generally adopt. A fee of £5 5s will assuredly have the effect of "choking off" the society. We ought to do something to encourage the members. I suggest that a fee of £1 1s. for putting the ground in condition again will meet the case.

Councillor Spickernell: The matter has been very carefully considered by the committee, and we feel that to make any less charge than that suggested would be opening the door to others for free use of the ground. We must make a sufficient charge, and that suggested under the circumstances is quite a nominal one.

Councillor A. E. Shave also protested at the magnitude of the fee proposed, he felt that £1 1s. would cover the matter amply. The Mayor concurred with this also.

Councillor Martin: Of course it must be understood that anything in the nature of swinging boats, cokernut shies and the like be distinctly barred. The ground, if granted at £1 1s., will be for a Fur and Feather Show, but no side shows of any description.

Subject to this provision, the use of the Recreation Ground was granted at the "recognition" fee of £1 1s.

FIRE BRIGADE GET PARADE KIT.

The Fire Brigade, having won their laurels so well and truly, the question of maintaining the maximum smartness when on parade became vested with added interest.

Alderman W.G. Spickernell stated that a sub-committee consisting of Alderman Barnes and his Worship the Mayor, were satisfied that it was now necessary to replace certain adjuncts of the Brigade's wardrobe, and they were of opinion that a quotation from Messrs. Winn and Co., Ltd., of Birmingham, be accepted for supplying these deficiencies at a charge of £25 11s.

Alderman Norman Barnes, in extension of this statement, stated that in his expert opinion the tunics were sadly worn, and the Brigade's trousers were beyond all repair.

The Mayor explained that of course the members of the Brigade when attending a duty call, did not wear their "best."

Councillor Spickernell also ventured to remind the Council that they would before long have to costume the Highcliffe Brigade.

The estimate being accepted, the Brigade will now revel in the possession of some parade uniforms. They were voted also some new hose and a hose patching machine.

NO MONEY FOR WALKFORD SPLASH BRIDGE.

Councillor A. E. Shave, chairman of the Highways Committee, reported that in reply to a letter asking whether the Council would agree to bear half the cost of widening the bridge over Walkford Splash (as hereabouts is the termination of the borough's boundaries), the Lymington Town Council be informed that the Christchurch Council are unable to see their way to make any contribution towards the cost of the proposed improvement.

Asked what the cost would be, Councillor Shave replied that a total of £200 was involved; their half share would be £100.

Councillor R. Oakley: £400, our share £200.

Councillor Shave: Then I am at fault. My figures are a total of £200 and our share £100.

The Borough Surveyor: That is correct.

Councillor Oakley: Sorry. I was only trying to help!

It was finally agreed not to contribute this sum.

MUDEFORD RECREATION GROUND.

The Borough Surveyor was also instructed to arrange for a temporary convenience to be erected upon the Mundeford Recreation Ground.

Alderman Dr. Hartford: Decency more than convenience demands this. At the present time people are trespassing under neighbouring furze bushes, and it is a matter that permits of no question.

Alderman Miss M. B. Robinson warmly rated the Council for studying the needs of men but ignoring those of women and children. This was a crying evil, not only at this Recreation Ground but in other parts of the borough. She was disgusted at the project to temporize with the situation by means of the provision of a "temporary structure" for men only. "If it is to be put up at all put it up for both sexes. I agree that these places are sadly misused, but that does not take away the necessity for them."

Councillor H. J. Martin: The time will come when we can discuss these places in connection with a woman attendant; when that time comes I for one will be pleased to vote for it.

The Borough Surveyor said the estimated cost of the temporary structure would amount to approximately £6, but if it was to be intended for both men and women then of course it would amount to a little more.

The Mayor explained that this question admitted of no delay and they must accept it only as a temporary measure.

Alderman Miss M. B. Robinson said that in that case she would bring the matter up again.

The Mayor: Certainly that is our own wish. But is an essentially temporary matter.

NINE PERSONS LIVING IN A HUT.

Alderman Dr. Hartford, chairman of the Public Health Committee, stated that it was necessary that the Borough Surveyor be instructed to arrange, in accordance with an Order already made by the Rural District Council, for the demolition of the premises owned and occupied by Mr. W. Parrott at St. Catherine's Hill, immediately such premises are vacated.

The Borough Surveyor expressed the wish that he be empowered to pass the work to a contractor.

Alderman Dr. Hartford explained that these "premises" must come down. Asked when this was to happen, the Alderman replied: "When the man's out of course. If it isn't pulled down when he comes out; he'll go in again. He's that kind of man."

The Sanitary Inspector stated that it was a hut of approximately 18ft. by 7ft. It had been added to in recent years, and was actually a wood and corrugated hut. Six wheels had been affixed to give it the "effect" of a caravan, but it was stationary.

Councillor H.J. Martin: why are we to go to the expense of a contractor? When we have heard of this hut before we were assured that it was in such a dilapidated condition that if a person "leaned" against it it would collapse. If this is so, then two the Surveyor's men will be all that is necessary to demolish it

Councillor Jesse Spencer said there were nine persons living in it. It had no sink, lavatory or any form of accommodation whatever. He could fetch it down in two hours himself.

The Borough Surveyor was instructed accordingly.