

# **COUNCIL DESIRE EMPLOYMENT FOR LANE.**

## **COUNCILLORS ON "VAGUENESS." A BANDSTAND BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION? Highcliffe Councillor Provoked.**

C.T. October 21, 1933

A strange atmosphere pervaded the Council on Thursday; a distinct "eve of poll" sense being acute, and dainty little gestures and presentations were made, which it would be wiser to ignore for the moment. The item of importance, however, being the unanimously expressed desire of the Council to give Wm. Lane the first vacancy which occurs on the outside staff of the Council, and for which he is deemed capable. Good to a point, but as several Councillors indicated, a reprehensible vagueness attaches to the two provisions, i.e., the first vacancy and the right of someone (unnamed) to decide Lane's suitability and capability. Hence, until further honest desire is shown, the resolution means but little. In this matter the Council may be assured that their masters, the burgesses, will insist upon no prevarication, if such is intended, and the efforts of this journal to see that fair and honest treatment is meted to Lane, must perforce, under this half-hearted decision, continue.

Councillor A. E. Shave was the first to enter the arena on behalf of Lane. He said it was his desire "that William Lane, a former employee of the Council, be offered the first vacancy on the outside staff of the Council for which he is deemed capable," and in these words the motion stood upon the agenda paper. Continuing, the Councillor said: "I have purposely waited for the necessary period to elapse before I could rightly bring this matter forward, and I know there is some feeling about regarding this case. Therefore I do hope you will all see your way clear to pass this as I have framed it. There is plenty of work for the man, and as the matter stands it is not a question of re-instating him to his former post."

Alderman Barnes: I have pleasure in seconding it.

Councillor Wyatt: I am glad to see the matter has been brought forward. I intended to bring it for discussion myself, but I was mistaken in the period in which I might do so. But as the matter is now presented it appears to be rather indefinite, there is no definite undertaking. I'll vote for it as the next best thing. Certainly there are plenty of jobs this man can do.

Councillor D. Galton: I, too, should like to support this, although I regret there is no more definition. "If there is a vacancy going" and "if he is suitable," is vague.

Councillor F. Gelsthorpe: It is not going to be a kindness to Lane as the matter stands here. If he applies to any other employer for a job, they may very properly say: "Oh no, you have a job promised you with the Council—or at least you have the promise of the first vacancy." As I see it, and as the matter is now presented, if Lane waits for this he may wait for ever. It's too vague to pass such a resolution. There is nothing admitted or provided, and on top of it all it will be a distinct unkindness to the man.

Councillor Shave: I purposely framed it like this, knowing the feeling of the Council. I did want to put a motion saying he should be given the first job right away. As a public body we have a vast number of jobs. Look upon it as vague if you like, but I hope the Council will pass it as it stands.

Councillor Gelsthorpe: I should like to ask the Borough Surveyor if he has a job to offer Lane—and I know what the answer will be.

Many Voices: Then why ask?

Councillor Wyatt: If this is passed as it now stands, will it prohibit me from framing another resolution later?

The Deputy Mayor: It all depends on the resolution.

Upon a vote by show of hands the resolution was passed, and the matter therefore now remains to see how far this will take the man who is waiting for work.

### A BAND STAND BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION?

At the invitation of Councillor Spickernell, Councillor Spencer was invited to give a statement of the matter of a proposal to erect a bandstand on the Quay.

Councillor Spencer said: "As you all know, the Town Band, which we started in 1924, within a few months' time will be nine years old. I may truthfully say that the band is now a first-class one, through the enthusiasm of the men and their conductor, and the kindness of Mr. David Llewellyn.

"To allow a band to sit upon a road, or sit upon grass when performing in the open is fatal, the music is deadened and the effect spoiled. "What I wish to propose is a band stand to be placed upon the Quayside and to that end I have prepared a little model."

Here the Councillor produced a scale model of a band stand. Oblong in shape and providing for a railed and covered platform, approached by a short flight of steps.

Open ends and sides additionally provide for shielding from inclement winds, if desired.

"I think." continued the Councillor, holding aloft the model, "this is something that is very much required. It is my intention to raise all the money required by public subscription. Let me tell you straight that I can't give it, but I'll raise it, all I wish you to do is to give your permission to the scheme. -

Deputy Mayor: If it is put up by public money do you intend to let the town take it over?

Councillor Spencer: Oh, yes. It is my intention to give it to the town.

Deputy Mayor: Have you any idea of the dimensions?

Councillor Spencer: It is 10ft. from the base to the top of the supporting pillars, and then the ornamental roof surmounts that. This, of course, is only a model, the design of the roof is left for later consideration.

Councillor Gelsthorpe: I move we give this our whole-hearted support; it is a thing that matters in the town, and if it can be put forward for accomplishment without taxing us, it is good. It will, I understand, be dedicated to the town, and we shall have control. What could be better? We ought to thank Councillor Spencer.

Councillor Donovan Lane: I support this.

Councillor Shave: I am quite in favour of it, it will be a great asset. The band have shaped remarkably well, but what with the cost of their uniforms and their instruments, we can't expect them to provide their own band stand. I'm sure the public will come forward and support it.

Deputy Mayor: It is all very public-spirited, and personally I hope it will prove a big success.

Councillor Spencer: I will be responsible in case of failure from any reason, every penny the public may have subscribed will be returned in full.

It was decided that the scheme go forward for a band stand to be erected by public subscription.

## OMNIBUS SERVICES.

Councillor Shave brought forward the recommendation of the Highways Committee to the effect that the Bournemouth Corporation Transport Department be asked to arrange for their omnibuses to turn at Mudeford Lane instead of at Purewell Cross.

This turning location, said the Councillor, was a most unfortunate one for two reasons. It was decidedly dangerous to both pedestrians and road traffic, and was more often than not in a deplorable condition, by reason of the fact that it adjoins cow sheds. The buses in turning have to carry out the manoeuvres right across the highway.

Alderman Dr. Hartford: That is quite right, this particular piece of ground is often in a deplorable condition, 50 cows pass there twice a day—and it is very dangerous too. I have often seen motorists stop their cars and shoot back to avoid a collision as these yellow buses, ponderously turn; but if the suggestion that they should turn in Mudeford Lane is any better, I know nothing.

Councillor Clarke: I suggest that they should go on to Somerford Bridge, there's plenty of room up there.

Councillor Oakley: I fail to see any advantage at all, it is very awkward for traffic and the spot now used is admittedly unsanitary. I also think you should be chary in asking them to go further along the road. They have no powers to run their buses further than Purewell Cross.

Councillor Gelsthorpe: It is a very ill considered scheme. I vote it is referred back to the Highways Committee and let them give us a scheme we can support.

After further discussion it was decided to allow the recommendation to stand as advanced.

## HIGHCLIFFE COUNCILLOR AROUSED.

Arising from the proposal that as and from the 1st April, 1934, the additional charge for permission to use, for sleeping purposes, a hut erected on the Mudeford Sandbank, be increased to 30s. per annum, some lively discussion arose.

Alderman Barnes: The present charge is 10s., and I propose we make that 30s. Many families lived at Mudeford Beach for weeks at a time, and others have used it for week-end sleeping. Goodness knows, its very cheap.

Alderman Dr. Hartford: There is a school of thought which says we should not allow people to sleep in the huts, but as you and I know, Mr. Mayor, the less they sleep the more wicked they may be. (Laughter.)

Councillor Clarke: I shall go against it. I'm dead against it. There are families sleeping down there while there are plenty of apartments going begging.

Councillor Gelsthorpe: If residents have a hut and wish to sleep there, all well and good, but to let Tom, Dick and Harry use huts for sleeping is to open the whole matter to abuse.

Councillor Galton: I quite agree with Councillor Gelsthorpe. If you're going to increase the charge there should be a different charge to residents and outsiders.

Deputy Mayor: There is no evidence at all that there is any misuse of the huts.

Councillor Oakley: This question of sub-letting. I think the Beach Committee should go into this very carefully. It doesn't seem to be hardly the game that anybody should be able to sub-let them at any price they like. That's not the way to carry on the beach properly. What's to prevent a man who has capital putting up six or seven huts. A gramophone and a couch with springs, and he'd get any amount, of money.

Councillor Wrigley: I think that is a gross insinuation. These huts are mainly the output of personal enterprise. Householders furnish them with surplus furniture of their houses.

Councillor Oakley spoke in ignorance, he knows nothing about it. I do know. I've made money on that beach! I've got a hut there now, and I'm willing to wager—"

The remainder of the Councillor's statement was lost in the laughter and hubbub. The Councillor was next heard declaiming: "I've got spring mattresses in my hut."

Deputy Mayor: What do you want spring mattresses for?

Councillor Wrigley: Taxing a man's enterprise, I call it.

This followed cries of "pin pricks " and "sword thrusts" (a reference to Alderman Cawte's complaint about pin pricks).

Councillor Wrigley: Remember, I'm not talking like this because it is the eve of the election. I'm denouncing what I feel to be a rank injustice. (Cheers and laughter).

Amid a mild uproar the Councillor continued in the finest oratorical style, declaring and gesturing with vehemence.

Alderman Dr. Hartford: Thanks to Mr. Wrigley I now feel much younger.

Councillor Wrigley: Has anyone seconded my amendment? (Laughter and a voice: "What was it?")

Alderman Cawte: I think 5s. extra is plenty to charge. Remember you are still punishing the ratepayer. These huts are an absolute necessity in order to make the beach a success, and there are not sufficient Council huts. You'll kill the ratepayers' interest.

Councillor Shave: I shall support the recommendation of the committee, and this applies to Mudeford as well as Highcliffe. It is admitted that money is being made by the letting of these huts and the charge proposed is very small.

Deputy Mayor: This charge is a small one; personally I would put on a bigger tax. I believe in one man one hut. Remember, Alderman Cawte, the Council can make huts and let them.

Alderman Barnes: Highcliffe is flourishing, there is no doubt about it, and those people who take huts can well afford the charge made.

The resolution was carried.