

# CHRISTCHURCH to HAVE FIFTY PRE- FABRICATED HOUSES

## No Council Comment on Government Allocation A Bicycle policy wanted

Christchurch Times Jan. 20, 1945

**IN complete silence and without any questions, comment or observation, the Borough Council was informed by the Town Clerk at this week's Council meeting that the Government had allocated fifty prefabricated houses to Christchurch.**

**Once this important piece of information had been heard, the Council proceeded immediately with the next business.**

After deciding to purchase a bicycle for the use of the Refuse Collection-Foreman, members of the Council thought it would be a good idea to settle on a definite policy on the question of buying bikes. Before the close of a 25-minute meeting, the Council decided to buy another; this one for the use of the Assistant Rodent Officer.

### IS BIKE - BUYING GOING ON & ON?

The purchase of a bicycle for the use of the Refuse Collection Foreman was said to be necessary because the Health and Highways Committee of the Council considered that the Joint industrial Council rate of cycle allowance which had hitherto been paid to the foreman whilst he had been using his own machine was "hardly adequate in view of arrangements which had been made in another department."

This information was given in response to Councillor Stevens, who asked if the purchase were necessary and how the Council had managed without it in earlier years.

The Deputy Mayor asked if an assurance could not be given that the buying of bikes was not going on and on.

**"If we are going to have to buy any more," continued Councillor Markham," can't we deal with them all at once? Every time we grant an increase or buy a cycle it is followed up by fresh demands."**

Councillor McArdle wanted the Council to "adopt a principle," and the Deputy Mayor added that he felt the whole business should be gone into.

It was pointed out that the committee had already very fully discussed the matter. This particular bike was not for the sole purpose of transport from home to work. It was required by the foreman for his work all day. The purchase was approved.

Putting forward a recommendation of the "Rodent Officers Sub-Committee," Councillor E. J. Slinn asked that a cycle should be purchased for the Assistant Rodent Officer. Mr. J. R. Smith, of 2, Mill Road, who had been appointed to the position, appeared to be an eminently suitable person; but in the early stages of his duties it would be necessary for him to make a survey of the Borough and would need a cycle at least in the early part of his work.

The purchase also was agreed.

### **New Councillor Welcomed.**

At the commencement of the proceedings, his Worship the Mayor welcomed Councillor J. P. Armstrong, who takes the seat vacated by ex-Councillor Watson. Councillor Armstrong, said his Worship, had been known to most for some considerable time. All knew the good work he had done as Headmaster of the Church of England Schools, and realised he would be of very great assistance as a member of the Council. Councillor Armstrong expressed his thanks for the welcome he had received, and for the very kind remarks which the Mayor had made. "I am sure my term of service which I realise may not be very long will be very pleasant and happy." said the new Councillor. "I never talk merely for the sake of making a noise; but I know how to be a very patient listener. I have no room for prejudice and none for personalities and when the time comes for me to leave I shall leave in as good a spirit as I join to-day. In the meantime I have only one ambition—to be of some service to the town."

### **Questions by Councillor McArdle**

Councillor McArdle had a number of questions to ask about the use of Civil Defence cars. It seems that so long as Civil Defence still has anything to do. Councillor McArdle will cling to Standing Order No. 6. On Thursday he wanted to know if Civil Defence cars were still being used for transport to and from places of residence. Alderman Tucker's reply was, "Yes, but only in the case of personnel returning to duty the same evening and unable to get home again by the bus service.

Councillor McArdle: "Why is a car used in the middle of the day?"

Alderman Tucker: "Because of the irregular hours of duty and no bus being available at that time."

Councillor McArdle: "There are 40 buses a day there, and 40 back. How much petrol has been used between October 1 and December 31?"

Alderman Tucker: "An average of 7 gallons per week: 91 gallons for the period: but owing to new arrangements this is being reduced."

Two more questions were asked by Councillor McArdle as to the issue of petrol chits. He was told that this was normally done by the Transport Officer, who was in charge of petrol issued, but on one occasion two units had been issued, in the absence of the Transport Officer, to Mr. Salter a First Aid volunteer at Barton.

### **The Next Rate.**

The Council has appointed a committee to deal with the estimates for the next financial year, and to make a recommendation to the Council as to the amount of the rate to be levied for the year commencing 1st April next.

The members of the Estimates Committee are Aldermen Barnes, Cawte and Tucker and Councillors Cobb, Lander and Slinn.

A tender submitted by Messrs. Bryant and Trowbridge at £300 has been accepted for the erection of public conveniences at the Grove Recreation Ground.