

# STREET LIGHTS COMING

## BUT WE MUST STILL CARRY OUR DUSTBINS

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**VERY soon now, with a little luck, you will have a few street lamps alight; for some longer period you will have to carry your dustbin down to your front gate; additionally you will soon have the privilege of carrying your own kitchen waste to one of the 250 "pig-bins" that are going to be spread around our roads and streets and finally, if you're a part-time member of Civil Defence or the Fire Guard, you may, in due course, keep certain articles of your uniform and equipment without buttons.**

**Thus we progress !**

Thursday's meeting of the Council lasted two hours. It was prefaced by the presentation of a new bicycle and a pound note to Mr. Joe Preston upon the occasion of his retirement as General Foreman.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston have also been presented by the outside staff of the Christchurch Corporation with a very much appreciated Romney Green occasional table in oak.

"Whilst we are very sorry to lose your services," said his Worship the Mayor, "we all join in wishing you a very happy retirement which has been so well earned." With the gifts was a letter on behalf of all members and officials expressing their esteem and appreciation of the loyal service over a very long period.

Mr. Preston said what a pleasant surprise it was to him to receive such a gift. He expressed his thanks and thanked also the Borough Engineer, Mr. Wise, for all he had done for him during his employment.

Further appreciation of Mr. Preston's services was expressed by Councillor Watson. Chairman of the Health and Highways Committee, and Mr. E. B. Wise.

The news about street lighting came after the Deputy Mayor had said it was astounding to pass from the lights in Bournemouth to the utter darkness of Christchurch.

The Town Clerk said the Ministry of Home Security had written to say there was no objection to our having street lights provided the chief Constable approved of the quantity of light we have. The Chief Constable has asked for a specimen lamp to be prepared and on a suitable night soon, the Borough Engineer told the Council, a gentleman from the Gas Company is coming out to take measurements with a photometer. An order was going to be placed the following morning for the preparation of our gas lamps and the work would be completed in 3 or 4 weeks. Councillor Watson said the committee was very anxious to give the Borough some modified street lighting and had considered the matter at several meetings.

Alderman Oakley and Councillor Northover both expressed dissatisfaction. The former urged hurrying on with the work: the latter said there were a lot of electric lights which could be switched on at once.

### THE DUSTBIN DEBATE.

Alderman Oakley moved that arrangements be made at once for dustbins and household refuse to be collected from all premises as in 1939. His motion was defeated by 9 votes to 5. Earlier in the meeting, on a technical point, he had been denied information as to the number of householders at present exempt from the obligation to take their dustbins to their front gates. He guessed about 200 premises might be exempt.

Therefore at that rate about 4,000 people had to muddle about with the dustbin once a week somehow.

The job, continued Alderman Oakley, should be done properly.

"This cheese-paring method of carrying on with a matter that vitally affects everyone is not right. It should be charged for properly in the rates."

He went into the question of how increased revenue could be obtained to meet any extra cost.

The proposition was seconded by Councillor McArdle.

**"I was in on this when it was decided to change to the present system," he said, "but I was not aware it was going to be done in such an unfair way. When I knew that certain members of the Council were having their dustbins collected for them I thought it was very unfair."**

Councillor McArdle referred to Bub Lane, where there was no street lamp and the road was not made up. On top of this, residents had to carry out their own dustbins. "What are they paying their rates for?" asked the Councillor.

The motion was supported by Councillors Stevens and Cobb.

"How much will it cost to make this change?" asked Alderman Tucker. He agreed that if there were anomalies as to the people who were getting preferential treatment, these should be cleared up.

Councillor Watson. Chairman of the Health and Highways Committee, opposed the resolution. Never before, he said, had so much fuss been made by so many over so little. The proposers had failed to show any concrete evidence as to a need for a change. The petrol, rubber and man-power position was still acute and anyone proving hardship, old age, illness or expectancy, was already amply protected.

He then announced there were 196 premises where dustbins were carried out by the dustmen.

As an indication of costs, Councillor Watson said refuse collection required 4 lorries and 12 men in 1941 at a cost of £2,741. Since then reductions had been made.

In 1940-41, 3,558 gallons of petrol had been consumed: in 1943-44, 1,675 gallons. Since July, 1942, only 2 lorries had been used and the staff reduced from 12 to 8. The estimated cost, this year, would be £2,720. The department had shown a loss of £80 in 1940-41, but

£1,735 profit in 1942-43. He reckoned that if the motion was carried the cost would go up from £2,720 to £4,214 per annum. Another lorry with driver and loader would be needed. He thought a thousand pounds could be better spent on public lavatories.

The Borough had been fortunate in not suffering the great sacrifices other places had endured. Surely people would be prepared to carry on with this small matter for a few more months, as any genuine hardship is adequately dealt with.

He was supported by Councillors Vaughan, Cooksey and Northover.

Responding, Alderman Oakley asked what was hardship, "Who decides whether it is a hardship or not? I tell you half the talk has been nonsense. We have been told it will cost £1,494 more to revert to the old system. I don't see how the figures are arrived at. In short, I don't believe them!" Alderman Oakley pointed out that householders had personally produced about 1,750 tons of salvage in two years, which had made the profit to which the Chairman had referred. It would be a nice gesture if it were said---" these people have done very well, we will try to do something for them in return."

As stated above, the motion was defeated.

In connection with the collection of kitchen waste it was said that the Borough was being forced by the Ministry of Food to introduce a scheme.

After considerable debate on a draft scheme, prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, it was resolved, by a small majority that this be tried for three months.

Two hundred and fifty bins are to be purchased and two men will have to be engaged for the work.

The following was amongst a series of questions put by Councillor McArdle:---

"Are any of the Civil Defence cars used by personnel to get to and from their place of residence and do these personnel live on a bus route?"

Alderman Tucker's reply was "Yes."

The Council accepted a recommendation of the Emergency Committee that part-time members of the Civil Defence and Fire Guard should, on release from service, be permitted to retain beret, greatcoat, macintosh, battle dress, jackets, skirts, slacks, overalls, boots or shoes, armbands, chevrons, badges and artificial dentures. Service buttons are to be removed.