

**TOWN COUNCIL.**  
**LACK OF COURTESY IN SENDING IN ROUND ROBIN.**  
**TO STOP DOING PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.**

C.T. January 1930

The monthly meeting of the Christchurch Town Council was held on Thursday, the members present being the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Abbott, C.C.), the Deputy Mayor (Coun. Miss Robinson), Aldermen. Frank A. Lane, J.P., F. Clarke, N. Barnes, H. J. Martin, Councillors W. G. Spickernell, Douglas Galton, J. C. Wyatt, E. Russell Oakley, A. R. Tiller, F. Gelsthorpe, A. E. Shave, Mrs. Bellamy, F. C. Emerson, Major Martin, Major Bellairs, Vice-Admiral Reeves, with the Town Clerk (Mr. W. D. Platt, LL.B.), and the Borough Surveyor (Mr. H. J. Farmer).

**PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.**

The Roads Committee recommended that the Borough Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the repair of the carriage way within the Churchyard, leading from the west gate on Quay Road to the west door of the church, and to charge the cost to the Parochial Church Council.

The Mayor said that he did not oppose this recommendation, but the Council had been in the habit of doing similar work for private individuals for some time. What he did wish the Council to consider in the future was the principle involved. How far ought the Council to undertake private improvements?

Coun. Douglas Galton agreed with the views of the Mayor, stating that he did not consider it was fair to private traders who were able to do the work.

Ald. Lane said that this place was more or less a public thoroughfare. The Mayor's comments, however, ought to be considered in future.

Ald. Martin explained that the cost to private individuals of getting small quantities of material would be very heavy, and that was one reason why the Council were asked to do it. If the Council undertook the work, however, they ought to get a satisfactory profit and not do it at 5 per cent. over cost.

The committee's recommendation was carried.

**KING'S AVENUE ROUND ROBIN.**

There was a long discussion on a report of the Roads Committee regarding King's Avenue, the condition of which was made the subject of a round robin petition by the property owners. The committee recommended that "inasmuch as King's Avenue has been made up according to the specification, to which no objection was lodged by any of the frontagers, no action be taken with reference to the petition."

Coun. Spickernell agreed with the recommendation, and declared that the residents had cause for complaint, for grass was growing up in the roadway and on the paths. It was said that in a short time a mowing machine would have to be sent to the avenue. He moved that the question be referred back.

Ald. Martin, in seconding, said he did not understand why the Roads Committee did not receive the deputation of residents. When any body of ratepayers sent a request for a deputation to be received, the request ought to be acceded to. He personally knew that the road was not in a satisfactory condition. He asked whether the Roads Committee had any reason for not receiving the deputation.

Ald. Barnes, in seconding, said that a curt reply of this sort would not satisfy the ratepayers. If the road had been constructed according to the specifications issued the sooner the Council stopped that particular specification the better. Everybody who had been there knew that the avenue was in a bad state. It was a green winter, and King's Avenue was very green.

Coun. Russell Oakley (Chairman of the Roads Committee) said that the petition was in the

form of a round robin, and it was difficult to select a responsible resident with whom to communicate. The Roads Committee, he declared, had no objection to receiving a deputation, but they could not see what useful purpose would be served.

"The condition of the avenue," he continued, "is due to the fact that this Council is always straining to put private street works into operation at the lowest cost to the owners." If a specification had been brought forward to make a really good road, the cost to the frontagers would have been three times the amount which had been charged. As it was the work was carried out entirely according to the specification, and none of the owners objected to it at the time, when they had the right to do so. He suggested that if a deputation were to be received, it should be by the Council.

The Mayor said that the petition was sent to Coun. Spickernell personally, and in a sense the Roads Committee were out of order in considering it.

Ald. Martin, however, replied that the Council referred it to the Roads Committee.

Ald. Lane said that if repairs were required to the avenue now, the town as a whole would have to pay, as the road had been taken over by the Council.

Coun. Spickernell said that burgesses did not examine specifications, but left them to the Council, who were guided by their officials.

Coun. Shave contended that the development of the rear portion of the Homelands estate, necessitating heavy traffic, was responsible for a great deal of the damage to King's Avenue.

An amendment was proposed that the Council receive a deputation.

Ald. Lane said that the view of the Roads Committee was that the petition, taking the form of a round robin, it appeared that nobody would take the responsibility for it. "If a petition is sent in, the Council ought to be treated with courtesy," he commented, "and the name given of somebody to reply to. In this case, it seemed that everybody wanted to repudiate responsibility for the petition. Not only was it signed in a circle, but it was sent to an individual member of the Council. That is hardly treating us with the courtesy that we have the right to expect. We had better drop this matter, and if another petition comes along in different form we can consider it."

Coun. Tiller asserted that a certain amount of work was cut out of the scheme to meet the objection of cost by one of the frontagers. It was cut down to the level of "a cheap job," and now the town would have to pay for it.

Coun. Russell Oakley said that he had gone into the matter thoroughly himself, and had gone out of his way considerably regarding it. The last thing that he wanted to do was to "cut off short" any communication from a body of ratepayers. He concurred with the amendment.

The amendment that the Council receive a deputation was carried, and Coun. Spickernell gave the name of a signatory to whom to write.

#### ITEMS.

The Council accepted a quotation of Messrs. G. Ferrey and Son to supply a suit and cap for the hall keeper at £5 15s.

It was decided to offer £3 10s. for seven ballot boxes and five stamping instruments, belonging to the Bournemouth and Christchurch Union.

The Council decided to ask the Public Works Loan Board to arrange for all future Loan Charges to fall due for payment on the 21st February and 21st August in each year, Ald. Martin stating that it would cost £2, but would facilitate matters a great deal.

The Borough Surveyor was empowered to purchase timber for the purpose of converting a portion of the cartshed in the yard at the rear of the Town Hall into a workshop for the handyman, at an estimated cost of £9.

The Southern Fire Brigades' Association have been unable to arrange to hold their district competitions on Whit-Monday, 1930, in Christchurch, and the Captain of the Fire Brigade has been authorised to extend the invitation for Whit-Monday, 1931.

## PREPARING FOR THE CENSUS.

The Borough Surveyor was instructed to arrange for the names of all streets in the Borough to be indicated by proper name plates; to re-number the houses in Barrack Road, from the Fountain to Iford Bridge; and to re-name the lane leading from Barrack Road along the north side of the Recreation Ground.

Coun. Oakley said that these improvements were necessary, preparatory to the next national Census. He suggested that the name of the lane off Barrack Road might be left to the Mayor and other residents to decide.

## BURNETT'S MEAD.

In reply to a letter received from the agents of Mr. George Day, regarding the making of a road giving access to Burnetts Mead, the Town Clerk was instructed to state that the Council are prepared to consider making a road from Barrack Road to Burnetts Mead, providing the cost is charged on the adjoining land, so that it will be repaid to the Council as the land is developed.

The notice of the County Council is to be called to the urgent necessity for taking steps for Barrack Road railway bridge to be widened so as to enable a footway to be provided for pedestrians on both sides of the carriage way, Coun. Russell Oakley stating that the necessity for this was all the greater since the new school had been opened.

The Council decided to issue a statutory notice upon Mr. A. Lewis, of 44, Grosvenor Street West, Ladywood, Birmingham, to take down or remove the temporary building erected on his land at Jumpers Common; and that in the event of his not complying with such notice, the Borough Surveyor be authorised to remove the building and to charge the owner with the cost.

## NO UNEMPLOYMENT GRANTS.

Application is to be made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to the borrowing by the Corporation of Christchurch of the sum of £1,220 for as long a period of years as the Minister will allow, for the purpose of extending the sewerage system 227 yards along Street Lane to Stroud Park Avenue; for extending the sewer for 157 yards along Mill Road; and for sewerage Beaulieu Avenue, to connect up with the sewer in Somerset Road.

Coun. Tiller said that these proposals had been in abeyance pending consideration of securing unemployment grants, but the latter were not warranted by the conditions. The work was necessary, as quite a number of houses had cesspools, and the work should be done as quickly as possible.

Application for tenders for the work is to be held up pending sanction of the loan.

## LOAN OF OFFICIALS.

A letter was read from the Christchurch Rural District Council, asking the Town Council whether they would make arrangements for the loan of the services of the Borough Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector to deal with any urgent matters in the rural area, pending the appointment of a new official.—Agreed.

## TRAIN SERVICES.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Southern Railway, stating that full consideration had been given to the Council's application for an improved train service to Christchurch. It was found impossible to arrange for the 3.30 train from Waterloo to stop at Christchurch. The Town Clerk wrote again urging better facilities, pointing out that there was no train stopping at Christchurch

between the 1.30 from Waterloo, arriving at 4.45 and the 4 o'clock arriving at 7.19.

It was decided to ask the Southern Railway to receive a deputation.

#### BROTHERHOOD APPLICATION.

A letter was read from the Christchurch Post-War Brotherhood, asking for the free use of the Town Hall and kitchen for a tea to be given to the Old Folks on February 5.—Agreed, on arrangements being made with the Town Hall keeper.

#### THE SISTERHOOD.

The Christchurch Sisterhood wrote stating that, owing to their largely attended meetings, it was necessary to secure the use of a larger hall, and they asked that they might be allowed to meet at the Town Hall. —It was decided to accede to the request on similar terms granted to the Welfare Centre, providing the hall is not needed for other purposes.

The Sisterhood also asked for permission to keep a piano at the Town Hall when they bought one, and it was decided to approve of this request on the understanding that the Council hold themselves in no way liable for damage, etc.

#### NEW ROAD TO CEMETERY?

The Roads Committee recommended approval of an application by Mr. Miller, of Bournemouth, to the making up of a carriage way 16 feet wide along Gardner Road.

Coun. Russell Oakley caused much laughter by declaring: "It leads to nowhere. I mean it leads to the cemetery. I qualify that by saying that you cannot get into the cemetery, so that it is really a road that leads to nowhere.

The Mayor: Some members are rather mystified as to what it means. (Laughter.)

Coun. Oakley replied that the matter was rather technical.

Ald. Lane said that there was once an idea of making an entrance into the cemetery through Gardner Road, but it was turned down. If the road was made up to the full width it would be of no use to anyone except the few residents there.

Coun. Shave said that as a member of the Burial Board, he knew that this road would give access to the extension to the cemetery, and looking to the future, Gardner Road might provide another entrance to it.

On the motion of Ald. Martin, who said that other members could in the meantime better acquaint themselves with the facts, the recommendation was referred back to the Roads Committee.

#### DANGER OF SAFETY?

Coun. Gelsthorpe said that the tram standard near the Fountain constituted a grave source of danger, as a "fat man" could hardly squeeze himself through the space between the standard and the shop, while anybody who was in a hurry and had to overtake a man at that spot was forced to go into the road. It was a death trap for pedestrians, and he moved that the Bournemouth Tramways Corporation be asked to remove the pole and arrange with the property owners to fix the wires overhead to the houses. If they refused the responsibility for any accident would rest upon Bournemouth.

Ald. Barnes: The standard keeps the traffic off the pavement.

Ald. Lane was appealed to, and caused laughter by remarking that he could get through the space.

"It is too dangerous to be dangerous," remarked Coun. Shave, who said that the standard had prevented traffic from going into the shop.

The proposal was referred to the Roads Committee.

## SCHOOL MANAGERS.

Coun. Gelsthorpe said that heavy rates were paid for education, but the Council did not seem to have much control in the matter. They had school managers, but he was afraid they were neglecting their duties.

The Mayor: That is not a matter for this Council.

Coun. Gelsthorpe: We elect the managers.

The Mayor stated that it was not a matter that could be discussed.

## ROADS.

Coun. Shave said that he understood the County Council would be taking over the maintenance of the whole of the main roads in April, from Somerford to Iford Bridge, and he asked how that would affect the Town Council's roadmen.

He was told that there would be "no change."

Coun. Shave: What will these men be given to do? Will they put our by-ways in order?

The Mayor: You had better take it up, with the Roads Committee.