

TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR CHALLENGES "BUILDERS IN A HURRY"

PROBLEM OF NEW FIRE STATION  
RIVERSIDE PARK FOR CHRISTCHURCH

C.T. June 17, 1939

**ALLEGATIONS to the effect that builders in the St. Catherine's area were flouting the building bye-laws, were made at the Town Council meeting yesterday (Thursday) by Councillor W. S. Howe, a representative for Jumpers Ward.**

**Councillor Howe suggested that bungalows were being partially erected before the footings had been inspected and before the plans of the building had been submitted to the Town Planning Committee of the Council.**

The matter arose when the chairman of the Town Planning Committee (Alderman P. E. H. Cawte) sought the Council's approval of the plan of a bungalow to be erected in Suffolk Avenue.

Councillor Howe said: "At the Town Planning Committee Councillor Pawley raised the question as to how far the construction of the bungalow in question had proceeded and I enquired if the footings had been inspected. I could get no satisfactory reply to this question, so I went to the site next day and found that the roof was ready to go on. When I subsequently saw the Building Inspector, he told me that in this case the footings had actually been inspected, but I think that these facts should have been known at the Town Planning Committee meeting.

"These people on the St. Catherine's Estate seem to be continually flouting the Council and the Town Planning Committee, and I do not think that they should be allowed to start on these bungalows before we have seen the plans.

The Mayor: "There is no reason why these builders should not proceed with buildings at their own risk."

Councillor Howe: "I am aware of that, but I do think that these people should be told about this. Some of these footings have not been inspected. I know that at the present time one bungalow is now almost completed and the footings have not been inspected.

"I think that there should be more of this kind of information at the meetings, and I think that the Building Inspector should attend them himself."

Councillor W. G. Spickernell: "If this is the case, I think that notice should be given to them to stop building forthwith."

The Mayor said that this would be done.

Councillor T. H. McArdle: "Should the Council not be informed as soon as the footings are completed and ready for inspection?"

Mr. Hart (Assistant Surveyor) said that it was the usual practice to notify the Council when the footings were completed.

It was decided that in future the Building Inspector be asked to attend the Town Planning Committee meetings.

## THE NEW "PIT" FIRE STATION.

Suggestions that the full Council had become a sub-committee of the A.R.P. Committee were made when a storm of protest was raised by a recommendation empowering the A.R.P. Committee to receive and accept tenders for the erection of the new Fire Station on Pit.

When the recommendation was made, Councillor Spickernell said that he wondered whether the A.R.P. Committee had the power to accept such a tender.

The Mayor: "I suggest that you add to the recommendation that the Fire Brigade Committee be called to assist the A.R.P. Committee in selecting the appropriate tender." He added that the reason for suggesting that the A.R.P. Committee should have the handling of the affair was that owing to certain information received it had been judged that the matter should be decided with the greatest possible dispatch. As the Council recess would coincide with the reception of the tenders, it was thought that the matter would be effected quicker by the A.R.P. Committee. If the committee found themselves unable for some reason to accept the lowest tender, they would, of course, refer back to the Council.

Alderman D. Galton said that as a member of the A.R.P. Committee he did not think that such a responsibility should be placed upon it.

Councillor Markham: "Are we to understand that this matter will not be referred back to the full Council?"

Mayor: "No, the plans and provisions have been passed by the Council, and it is now suggested that the A.R.P. and Fire Brigade Committees should consider and accept the tenders."

Councillor W. E. Newman: "Is there any need now for this Fire Station at all, the Fire Brigade seems to be comfortably housed at Quomps.

The Mayor: "The Borough Surveyor has urgent need of the accommodation at Quomps, and the present accommodation of the Fire Brigade is hindering other work."

Councillor F. D. Lane: "It seems to me that the Council is becoming a sub-committee of the A.R.P. Committee."

Alderman Norman Barnes said that he thought that the amount involved was too great to be handled by one committee and moved an amendment that a recommendation should be made to the full Council.

Councillor Lane seconded and Councillor Markham spoke in support of the amendment.

The amendment was carried, and it was also decided on the proposition of Councillor Pawley that a special meeting of the Council should be called when convenient to deal with the matter.

## EXPLANATION OF "LEAKAGE."

An explanation in answer to Councillor R. E. Gray's allegation of Council leakage was given in a letter from Mr. D. Llewellyn.

The letter, which was read by the Town Clerk, was as follows: —

"I understand that at the last Council meeting, Councillor Gray alleged that secret information had been disclosed to me by members of the Council, and I think in fairness to the Council and to myself, I should explain that the source of my information was a member of the Press who was present at the open Council meeting when the letter in question was read.

"I may add that not a single member of the Council has ever disclosed to me any committee secrets, and I certainly have never sought such information."

The Town Clerk added that he gathered from Mr. Ward that there was no leakage from his office.

Councillor Gray said that the reply was a very satisfactory one. He had, he said, made no allegations, but was merely doing his duty as a Councillor. The matter, as far as he was concerned was honourable settled.

(It is advisable but almost unnecessary to state that "the member of the Press" was not connected with the "Christchurch Times.")

#### NEW RIVERSIDE PARK.

The second step towards creating a riverside park at Stanpit Marsh was passed on the recommendation of the Beach Committee. To date only the rough foundations of the footpaths which will eventually intersect the reclaimed marsh have been constructed, and these have sustained considerable damage during the winter floods.

The scheme passed by the Council now allows for the construction of additional footpaths, planting of trees, turfing and for the supporting of, existing paths by means of timber walling and faggots. The estimated cost of these operations is £765.

The recommendation also allowed for the arrangement of a loan to cover the improvements with the Minister of Health, and for twelve months' notice to be given to Mr. A. E. Burry to terminate the tenancy of the Marsh. Mr. Burry was also to be approached with a view for him to utilise only that portion of the marsh to the north-east of Mother Seller's Channel, and to consent to the fencing of the remainder to prevent access of ponies grazing on the land.

There was no comment on the recommendation.

#### OUR SWIFT CATCHMENT BOARD.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, Councillor F. D. Lane asked when work on the training wall at Mudeford was to be started.

The Town Clerk replied that the position was that the Catchment Board were still waiting for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to approve the scheme.

Councillor Lane: "Will this be started just as the winter gales are beginning?"

The Mayor: "I think that we shall be lucky if they start by then. We have been waiting nearly three years already."

#### WATER JUMP THRILL FOR CARNIVAL.

After a letter from the Christchurch Carnival Committee had been read, it was decided on the proposition of Councillor T. H. McArdle that permission should be accorded the committee to dig a water jump on the Recreation Ground in connection with the Horse Jumping Competition, providing the committee accepted the responsibility of replacing the turf in good order.

#### "THETIS" A GOVERNMENT TROUBLE, SAYS COUNCILLOR.

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Highcliffe Silver Band requesting the loan of the Town Hall chairs for a massed band concert, to be given in aid of the "Thetis" disaster fund, organised in the Christchurch district by the Mayor.

After Alderman P. E. H. Cawte had proposed this measure be granted, Councillor Gray objected, and embarked upon a political discussion suggesting that it was the

Government's place to aid the dependants of such a disaster and not the public. Councillor W. E. Newman would have made a similar objection, but he was over-ruled on a point of order.

#### FISHERMEN FEAR CATCHMENT BOARD

A letter from the Christchurch Angling Club was read by the Town Clerk. This included the following resolution: —

" That the members of the Christchurch Angling Club, being residents of the borough, press the members of the Borough Council to do all in their power to curtail undue dredging in the local rivers owing to the damage which is being done to the natural food and haunts of the fish. Also that the members of the above mentioned club request the Council to refuse permission to the Catchment Board to dredge the river which borders the Council's property at Bernard's Mead, and to object to any scheme brought forward by the Board for river diversion for the same reasons."

The Mayor said that an appropriate committee was to consider this matter fully and undertook to see that the letter was brought before them.

#### STREET LIGHTING.

The Highways Committee recommended that the specification and plan of the proposed works of providing with proper means of street lighting Caroline Avenue, Foxwood Avenue, and Lingwood Avenue, together with the estimates of probable expenses be approved, and that owners of premises be served with copies in the manner prescribed in the Private Street Works Act.

Councillor L. J. Stevens said that he hoped that the matter would be attended to at once so that they could have the lighting installed before the winter.

This recommendation was passed, and building and refuse collection bye-laws were also approved.

#### BEACH CONTRACT PROCEEDS.

Councillor Lane asked: "In view of the serious alarm felt by many people with regard to the beach, will you give your colleagues full information on the matter."

The Mayor: "Nothing has transpired since the last record. A record of certain matters which have been discussed will, however, be given later in committee."

With reference to the strange attitude of Bournemouth Council, it was decided to continue with beach developments, and to take counsel's opinion upon the Bournemouth contention.