

TOWN COUNCIL.
WHEN WILL GUARDIANS' COMMITTEES FUNCTION ?
"THAT £5,000."

C.T. March 1st, 1930.

At last week's meeting of the Christchurch Town Council, the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Abbott) presiding,

The Borough Surveyor was instructed to arrange for the necessary ditches and culverts at Waterloo Bridge to be opened, so as to carry off the surface water drainage in this locality as quickly as possible.

Coun. Emerson strongly supported, stating that many people in Purewell had complained to him about the matter.

STOURVALE AVENUE.

The Roads Committee recommended that in reply to a petition asking the Council to take action requiring Stourvale Avenue and part of Hurn Way to be repaired, the Town Clerk be instructed to state that the making up of these roads would receive further consideration when a request from the frontagers of Stourvale Avenue and Oakwood Avenue was received.

Coun. Gelsthorpe asked whether, if Stourvale Avenue frontagers were willing to pay for the work, would it be done irrespective of Oakwood Avenue.

The Mayor replied that the question had been discussed before, and the opinion was then expressed that it would be better to wait until the posts blocking Oakwood Avenue were removed.

Coun. Gelsthorpe thought that it was unnecessary to wait until the posts were removed, and remarked that Stourvale Avenue gave access to quite a large district.

Ald. Lane said that the question had been discussed many times. The Council got petitions from everybody who did not have to pay, and it was unfair to make Stourvale Avenue frontagers pay for an improvement for the benefit of others.

The resolution was carried.

STOPPAGE IN SEWER.

Ald. Martin reported that a stoppage occurred in the sewer in Avenue Road, causing great inconvenience. It was a serious matter and a contractor was at once engaged to remedy it. Fortunately, he was successful in finding and removing the obstruction.

SPEED BOATS.

Coun. Shave raised the question of speed boats in the harbour. He noticed that Poole had prohibited them and inquired whether Christchurch would follow suit. "You will have no peace on the quay in the coming season if these speed boats are allowed," he remarked.

No definite reply was given.

THE ESTIMATES: THAT £5,000.

The Town Clerk raised the question of the consideration of the estimates for the coming year, and it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Council in committee.

Coun. Shave: What about that £5,000.

The Town Clerk: There never has been any £5,000.

Coun. Shave: I am mentioning what the Press said.

The Town Clerk: It was definitely stated that it did not include the accounts submitted at that

meeting.

Coun. Shave: I am asking for information.

GUARDIANS' COMMITTEES.

Coun. Gelsthorpe said that he had heard nothing more as to the functioning of the Guardians' Committee since he was appointed as one of the members by the Council. Neither he nor any of his colleagues had been advised of any meetings.

The Mayor: It does not come into operation until April 1.

Coun. Gelsthorpe replied that he knew that other Guardians' Committees were holding preliminary meetings to prepare themselves to get into proper working order by April 1. "We have not been called to any meeting, and it seems to me it is rather lax on somebody's part."

The Mayor replied that the Guardians' committee was not yet constituted for this area, although the County Council had certain names submitted to them.

Admiral Reeves: Surely the old Guardians can be trusted to carry on until the end of March.

Coun. Gelsthorpe: Quite so, but the new committee should be brought together in order to get into the swim. I must enter my protest against nothing having been done.

The Mayor: You had better put your protest before the Clerk to the County Council.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

The Council accepted the following tenders for the furnishing of the Town Clerk's front office: Mr. F. J. Withrington, for the supply and fixing of an oak desk, book case, tables, shelving for files, and chairs, at a cost of £52. Mr. A. Webb, for supplying and laying cork carpet at a cost of £11 12s. 6d.

TOWN HALL "DIRECTORY."

The Municipal Committee recommended that permission be granted to the Christchurch, branch of the Hampshire Public Library to erect a sign calling attention to the situation of and the hours during which the library is open at the Town Hall, subject to the position being approved by the Borough Surveyor.

Coun. Russell Oakley said that the time had arrived to make a clean sweep of the miscellaneous collection of signboards which at present disfigured the appearance of the Town Hall. "They are all sizes and shapes and most of them are very dilapidated," he remarked, "and particularly the one with reference to the Art Classes. It is an ancient looking frame and the glass has been broken for five weeks."

The Mayor told the speaker that he was out of order.

Coun. Oakley: All these boards should be removed and a decent notice board erected with two panels, one showing the situation of the Council's various offices and the other showing activities carried on by the County Council. I think that it is time that the front of our Town Hall was kept in a uniform and dignified state.

In reply to a question, Coun. Oakley said that he had no objection to the matter being referred back to the committee, and he added, "I don't mind my sketch of the new board going to the committee. It isn't copyright." (Laughter.)

The recommendation was referred back for the purpose of Coun. Oakley's suggestion being considered.

SALVATION ARMY.

Captain Cooper wrote asking whether it was possible for the Council to grant the free use of the Town Hall for a musical festival by the Salvation Army Band from Boscombe on March 12,

stating that the proceeds were being devoted to the charitable work of the Army.

Coun. Mrs. Bellamy proposed, and Coun. Shave seconded, that half-fee be charged for the Town Hall.

The Mayor: When the Church Army had the hall they paid the full fee.

Ald. Barnes stated that it was a bad precedent. He was thoroughly in sympathy with the work of the Army, but the Council represented the ratepayers, and they should charge the regular fee.

Only two voted for the motion, and Ald. Martin then moved and Ald. Barnes seconded, that the application be not entertained.—This was carried.

NO CONCERN?

The Stoke-on-Trent City Council wrote asking for the views of the Christchurch Corporation on the Government's proposal to appoint Traffic Commissioners for the licensing and control of public service vehicles, whether they favoured the appointment of paid commissioners and would appoint representatives to attend a conference on the matter, to consider what action should be taken by municipalities to preserve their present powers regarding such vehicles.

Ald. Martin moved that the letter be acknowledged, "as it did not concern the Council."

Coun. Shave inquired what could be done in the matter.

The Mayor: Would you like to attend the conference at your own expense?

The Town Clerk said that it would be held at Birmingham.

Coun. Gelsthorpe thought that somebody ought to go.

Coun. Shave: And at the Council's expense.

Ald. Martin's motion was carried.

CRICKET PITCH WANTED.

A letter was received from the Post Office Cricket Club, asking for a cricket pitch in the Recreation Ground during the coming season, as they were unable to obtain one elsewhere in the town. They added that they did not wish to interfere with the Priory Cricket Club's pitch, but suggested that another site might be set aside for the Post Office Club.

Ald. Barnes proposed that permission be granted, and stated that the secretary had informed him that the club would roll and water the pitch.

Coun. Galton seconded, and the motion was carried.

MORE HOUSES.

The following plans were approved: Four houses in Avenue Road for Mr. S. Kermode; two houses in Avon Road West for Mr. W. T. Boys; house in Pauntley Road for Miss C. H. Poole; semi-bungalow in Pauntley Road for Mr. A. Harrison.

The following plans were approved, subject to their not contravening the Town Planning proposals: Seven shops and flats in Barrack Road and Portfield Road for Mr. S. Kermode; and house in Barrack Road for Mr. S. Kermode.

The following plans for temporary buildings were also approved on the usual conditions: A garage at the Stourvale Hotel, Barrack Road, for Mrs. E. Coffin; a garage in Riverlea Road for Mr. Harrison; a garage in Friars Road for Mr. Granville.