

## **Extracts from the Minutes of Middleton Parish Council, 1914 – 1931**

### **From two minute books, held in the Derbyshire Record Office**

#### **March 31<sup>st</sup> 1914**

Members: J R Birley, F H Gratton, G Brace, S Doxey, Hy Letherland

...lectures on nursing would be better appreciated ...Dairy School.

#### **June 10<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Mr A Doxey, Water Bailiff attended the meeting and reported that the reservoirs were practically full. He was instructed to proceed with the collection of the rates as quickly as possible.

#### **June 24<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Amount collected £13.00.

#### **August 24<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Instruction was given to Hopton Stone Firms to repair tap at Rise End and any other requiring attention.

#### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1914**

That appreciation be made for A Doxey's salary that 10/6 should be paid him for cutting grass and cleaning tops of reservoirs.

#### **October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1914**

Resolved to locate and repair burst pipe situated somewhere on hillside...and decided to set Mr Barker on with the work at the rate of 5D/½ an hour.

#### **December 16<sup>th</sup> 1914**

Resolved Parish Council inspect property adjoining A Spencer property to investigate cause of dampness.

#### **January 20<sup>th</sup> 1915**

Mr Wilson be asked to give a list of the recipients of Bagshaw's Charity. Resolved to flush the main pipes.

#### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915**

That A Doxey salary be increased to £8-10-00; he having asked for £10-0-0.

It makes a levy of 2/- per tap and sixpence a house to meet expenses for the water supply.

**October 6<sup>th</sup> 1915**

The vicar was interviewed re the Ward Map to make arrangements that the Clerk of the Council should hold the key. The Council agreeing to pay a small rent for the custody of the map in the vestry. The vicar promised to interview his church wardens on the matter.

**March 29<sup>th</sup> 1916**

The clerk was instructed to apply for payment for 20 loads of water at 6d a load from the County Surveyor.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> 1916**

Mr Brailsford be requested to examine the reservoir to locate a suspected leakage.

**May 24<sup>th</sup> 1916**

Mr Jepson be organised to repair woodwork of pump. £2-12-1.

The Water Bailiff reported reservoirs full, and reported that trespassing was taking place some persons causing nuisances.

Recipients for John Douglas Charity were chosen and approved.

The names of the recipients of John Bagshaw's Charity were submitted by Mr Gratton to the trustees.

**February 7<sup>th</sup> 1917**

Owing to Mr Wm Millward, an overseer being called to the colors, it was proposed ... that Wm G Millward be appointed assistant overseer to collect the outstanding rates for the remainder of the year at a salary of Two Guineas £2-2-0.

Mr Chandos Pole Gell was recommended by the Council as the most suitable candidate to fill the vacancy in the County Council.

Resolved to take up allotments if supported by the Parish.

It was resolved to form a committee to find suitable land for allotments and to take necessary steps and to form a scheme to work as much land as possible and to obtain the number of people willing to take up plots.

The following resolution proposed by Wm H G Letherland and Sec by Wm Doxey that this meeting records its profound admiration for the honour Private John Spencer has done his nation and village by the gallantry displayed in receiving the D.C.M.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1917**

...the assistant overseer present a draft of new valuation list before the Parish Council for their inspection...that the sum of Fifty Shillings be granted to assistant overseer as remuneration for making out new list.

A letter was read...asking for the removal of tap, situated at corner of graveyard, to a more convenient place.

**August 4<sup>th</sup> 1917**

Proposed ...that the Assistant Overseer bring to the notice of the Overseers, several cases where improvements may be made to the complement of New Valuation list.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> 1917**

Resolved that the clerk write Ashbourne re "Housing of the working classes" stating that many houses are at present void in the village showing that no additional housing accommodation is necessary.

**November 21<sup>st</sup> 1917**

Clerk write...re letter received from Secy of Food Economy Committee asking what the duties of representative on that committee would be and also as to who is the representative of the Parish on the Food Control Committee.

...Mr D Slack and Samuel Doxey approach the vicar, concerning the Parish Award.

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 1917**

...the clerk to write to Mr J concerning ashes etc deposited near the reservoirs on Hillside, the Council maintaining that the refuse may lead to contamination of the water.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> 1918**

A letter was read from the Executive Officer of the Local Food Control Ashbourne asking whether two representatives from the Parish Council would accept election to the committee. It was resolved that the Clerk write in reply, stating that owing to the distance no one would accept the offer.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> 1918**

Resolved that the clerk write Mr xxxx informing of the bad condition of road leading to Cromford (through late Anthony Doxey's ground.)

...the clerk be paid the sum of Fifty Shillings per annum for duties as clerk.

**Annual Meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> 1918**

JR Birley FH Gratton, G Brace, Wm Doxey, Wm Slack

Samuel Hallows be appointed Overseer. All charities be brought before Parish Council for defining recipients.

...the fee for inspection of the Ward map be:

Parishioners 1/=

Anyone from outside Parish 2/-

**July 27 1918**

A letter was read from the National War [xxxx] Committee concerning the celebration of the Fourth Anniversary of the War.

It was resolved that the clerk approach officials of the several denominations in the parish with a view to arranging an open air meeting on the Green, (in the case of inclement weather, in the Congregational Chapel). The vicar and laymen from other denominations to take the service through in unity, and also the Bandmaster be asked to arrange for a procession headed by the band to start from the Rise End prior to the service.

### **September 7<sup>th</sup> 1918**

Resolved that a letter be sent to Mr Wheeldon (acting surveyor) asking whether something cannot be done as regards repairing the highway.

A letter was read from the Institute Committee requesting the use of passage leading to disused well near Institute for the purpose of building urinal thereby checking the nuisance so prevalent.

It was resolved that the committee should be asked to draft a plan of the premises concerned and submit same to Parish Council after which application should be made at Ashbourne.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> 1918**

Resolved that the Assistant Overseer and Clerk of Parish Council be paid the salary of Fourteen Pounds £14-0-0 per year exclusive of remuneration allowed by Registration Officer (for compilation of Electors List).

Resolved that the Executive Officer of local Food Control (Ashbourne) be asked if he cannot make it possible for parishioners to get sugar from a dealer in the parish (in cases where a permit is granted) instead of having to make a journey to Ashbourne for same.

Resolved that the Minister of Food (The Right hon J R Clynes) be written informing him of the growing discontentment caused in the village by the meagre allowance of the staple foodstuffs, particularly cheese, making mention of the fact that the Quarrymen cannot carry on their laborious duties on the amount at present allotted to them.

### **January 20<sup>th</sup> 1919**

Members JR Birley, GE Brace, F Hy Gratton, Wm Slack, Sam Doxey

It was resolved that a parish meeting be called for February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the purpose of discussing the prospects of a memorial to the soldiers of Middleton who have fallen in the war.

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1919**

It was resolved that the Clerk post up notices asking for tenders for post of Water Bailiff.

### **May 26<sup>th</sup> 1919**

In reply to a letter from the County Clerk re Destruction of Rats, it was resolved that Mr Wm Gratton be appointed to issue warrants for the Parish thereby adopting the scheme as put forward by the County Council the price fixed by the Council for each rat presented (with tail intact) being 2d, A notice to be put out informing all interested as to the adoption of the responsible person.

Correspondence were put before the Council re the Housing Question from the Medical Officer of Health.

After consideration ... it was resolved to reply to the following effect.

That the Council is of the opinion that additional houses are necessary in the Parish to the extent of 12, with a view to affording more and better accommodation and checking overcrowding.

With regards to the site, the following was suggested as being the most suitable.

The land opposite the Co-operative Society Premises, recently taken over by the Ecclesiastical Comm as Glebe Land or

The land known as Stile Croft belonging to Mr Chas Spencer Sen of Main St, making note of the profitability of the site needing the necessity of a New Road being constructed as a means of approach to same.

### **June 20<sup>th</sup> 1919**

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the foundation of "A Peace Celebration Committee" It was resolved to leave it in the hands of the Clerk to watch events, in case of Peace being signed a Parish Meeting to be called immediately.

### **September 5<sup>th</sup> 1919**

Scale of fee for election 10/-

Proportionate share of cost of forms 2/6

Total 12/6

It was resolved to write responding same to the effect that the Council do not consider the election fee can be justly claimed, as the returning officer had no duties to perform on behalf of the parish, there being no election.

...in view of the bad condition of the Main Street to write to County Surveyor drawing his attention to same.

### **November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1919**

...again write the county surveyor re Main Road stating that complaints continue to reach the Parish Council from ratepayers with regards to bad state of roads and footpaths.

...that the Election Fee be paid by a cheque.

### **December 20<sup>th</sup> 1919**

...the authorities report that they cannot recommence same, owing to the fact that the revenue from the village falls short of covering cost. (re Saturday Postal Collection)

A letter was read from \_\_\_\_\_ re "German War Trophies" in which it was stated that Mr \_\_\_\_ J Hughes Hallitt had them in his care, that any parish councillor may call at his office and choose from the whole. It was resolved that Mr Hallitt be informed that as none of the

Councillors expected being in Derby, the Council were prepared to accept what may be allocated to the Parish.

Having received information from the English Barytes Mining Co to the effect that they hold the Council responsible for any damage which may be caused to their vehicles in consequence of the bad state of the road.

It was resolved that the letter having the information as above stated should be forwarded to the RDC and also that the clerk inform the EBM Co that all complaints must be forwarded to the proper Authorities viz the Rural District Council.

In view of complaints from the ratepayers in Hillside that there had been no water supply for a considerable period the clerk was instructed to inform Mr W\_\_\_\_\_ "Water Bailiff" of same asking him to give it his attention, stating that in the opinion of the Council the cause may be attributed to the failure of properly maintaining the stop taps, particularly drawing his attention to the one opposite Mrs Jemima Beeson.

### **January 15<sup>th</sup> 1920**

The clerk was instructed to write Surveyor of Ashbourne District, respecting condition of roads, stating that the man employed was seldom to be seen on the roads, consequently the roads are in anything but a clean state.

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> 1920**

The resignation had been handed in by the Water Bailiff... The clerk was instructed to publish notices asking for tenders for the post, the salary to be £10-0-0 per annum.

An account amounting to 6d was for allowing public water tap to be placed in fence (as per agreement by Council) was handed to the Council from Mr Chas Birley, the same was passed for payment

The clerk was directed to make complaints to J Twemlow (Surveyor) re refuse on Hillside, the same having been standing for about five weeks, being both a nuisance and an obstruction, also to ask as to whether it was his intention to repair footpath leading from Hillside, to the Moor, and also to draw attention to bad repair of road and drain in Chapel Lane facing Mr E Gxxxx House, the same having undergone repairs, but very unsatisfactory.

It was also resolved to draw Mr FH Gratton's attention to the fence around property @ the Rise End, asking him to please have same attended to, in order to avoid any mishaps

### **Annual Meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> 1920**

Present: Messrs JR Birley, Geo E Brace, S Doxey, D Slack, F H Gratton

...Proposed that Mr Harry Jepson Jnr be appointed Overseer for ensuing year. Carried unan.

It was resolved that a letter be sent to Mrs G Walker (Wirksworth) informing her, that unless the water tap, in house on Hillside be put in proper repair within 14 days the supply will be cut off.

The clerk was instructed to write Mr Webster (Plumber) asking him to repair the tap opposite Mr W Wheeldon at Rise End, also the one opposite Mr R Batterley, The Lanes.

Br Birley proposed Mr G E Brace, Seconded, That Mr S Doxey Mr FH Gratton be again appointed as representatives on Joint Committee (Charity) carried unan.

The clerk was instructed to write the district Surveyor (Mr Metcalfe) asking that attention be given to the fence round Mr F H Gratton's property at Rise End, stating that Mr Gratton will repair the fence above foundation immediately the foundation is put under proper repair.

Proposed by Mr J R Birley Seconded by Mr D Slack That the Salary of Assistant Overseer remain as last year viz £14-0-0 exclusive of remuneration allowed by Registration Officer for Revision of Elector's list.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> 1920**

The clerk was instructed to write the County Surveyor re Mr Gratton's Fence at Rise End having received a reply from Mr Metcalfe (District Surveyor) to the effect that he considered it a matter between the County Council and the property owner, that he declined to take any steps to have same repaired at foundation (as requested. Mr Horton to be asked to give attention to it.

The Clerk placed before the Council a tender received from Mr Joseph Harrison for post as Water Bailiff...it was carried "That Mr Joseph Harrison be appointed Water Bailiff as from April 1<sup>st</sup> 1920 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 1921 at a salary of £10-0-0 per annum with insurance paid quarterly.

It was resolved to write R Holland re nomination of representative on R D Council stating that since the letter of March 3<sup>rd</sup> in which the death of Mr S J Sheldon was mentioned, no forms of any description have reached the council, the clerk was directed to write to the effect as here mentioned and ask Mr Holland to put the whole thing in order, to allow for nominations to be sent in.

...That Mr S Doxey be reappointed Treasurer for ensuing year.

### **Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 1920**

It was resolved that Mr Birley inform Mr J Harrison re bursts in water pipes, and direct him to investigate as to where the bursts lie and have same put in repair.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr J Beeson ie tenant of Pump House, depositing refuse in ground near pump. Also to inform Mr Hawley (Duffield) re same, and mention @ same time the fallen fence on same property.

Resolved to ask R Holland for statement of Water rates, up to date.

The following a/c were passed for payment

5/- for Parish Ward Map (rent) 2 years ending Apl 3<sup>rd</sup> 1920

The sum of £7-10-1 to J Webster for repairs etc connected with water supply.

Mrs GE Brace and D Slack were appointed to inspect fence round water allotments and take steps to have same put in order.

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 1920**

The clerk was instructed to obtain permission from the County Surveyor to open up the main road, in order to locate a burst which is thought to exist, and in receiving same, to instruct Mr Harrison to find the leakage.

As nothing appears to have been done to repair the fence around Mr Hawley's property (Hillside) the Clerk was directed to again draw Mr Hawley's attention to the exceedingly bad state of same, and failing reply, to write the district surveyor.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> 1921**

Having, on two occasions written Mr Hawley (of Duffield) with regards to the dangerous condition of fences round property on Hillside, and noting the fact that nothing has been done towards putting in repair, the clerk was directed to place the matter in the hands of the R D Council.

A letter was read from the clerk to the RDC, stating that at the audit of the R D C accounts, the auditor raised the question of discontinuing the levying of water rents to meet the expenditure in connection with the Middleton Waterworks, the total Water rents for the year only amounting to £15-0-0, the auditor remarked that under present methods it costs too much in printing and collecting, and suggested raising the money by means of a Special Expense Call.

The clerk was instructed to write in reply to the effect that the Members of the Parish Council do not deem it necessary or wise to adopt the Auditor's suggestion, and that there seems to be a wrong impression with regards to the expense incurred in collecting the Water rents, pointing out that the collecting of the rents is only about one-twelfth of the duties of the Water Bailiff the chief duties being the regulating of supplies.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> 1921**

Chair – Mr JR Birley

Vice Chair Mr S Doxey

Treasurer Mr S Doxey

Overseers Mrs J B Birley, Mr J Slack

Joint Committee for Charity Mr S Doxey and Mr F H Gratton

Water Bailiff Mr Joseph Harrison

...that the salary of Asst Overseer be raised from £14-0-0 per year to £16-0-0 to cover audit journey expenses, as requested by the Auditor.

A letter was read from the Manager of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd requesting that the Council sanction a connection from Main Pipe, for supply of water to new bungalow which the firm anticipate building at Rise End on land just above Railway Arch at Middlepeak on

West side of Main Rd. The clerk was directed to inform the Manager that the Parish Council have not the power to sanction Water being supplied out of the village.

As a consequence of complaints reaching the Council with regards to Rowdyism and Nuisance near Mr Gregson's shop, the clerk was directed to acquaint the Police of same.

The Main Road in the Village not having received the attention asked for, it was resolved to write Mr Wm Harrison of same (enclosing the letter received from Mr Metcalfe) asking his assistance in the matter.

It was resolved to again draw the attention of the County Surveyor to the fence at Rise End, stating that Mr F H Gratton is anxious to put fence in repair, but just requires the repairing of the foundation.

### **April 26<sup>th</sup> 1921**

With reference to a letter from the R.D.C. asking for the Parish Council/s opinion, as to the advisability of connecting water main for supply to bungalow which the H-W Stone Firms Ltd propose erecting at Middlepeak, the clerk was directed to write to the effect that the Water Supply in the village does not merit conveying same out of village.

It was resolved to ask Mr W Harrison's assistance towards getting Mr J H Gratton's fence put in order at Rise End, having received a reply from the County Surveyor referring to his letter of Apl 23<sup>rd</sup> 1920, in which he stated that the Council were not responsible for same.

A letter was read with reference to the destruction of rats and mice in the village, asking for the Parish Council's co-operation in the matter. The clerk was instructed to reply stating that the Parish appears to be fairly free from the pests, and that to the best of their knowledge, immediate steps are taken to eradicate same, should they put in an appearance.

### **June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1921**

In consequence of the shortage of water, the clerk was instructed to direct the Water Bailiff to cut down the Water Lane supply to the same extent as the remainder of the village, pointing out the existence of stop tap in Mr Slack's field, also to further restrict the supply, and to have overflow pipe in reservoir put in repair, to apply to Mr Birley for pipe. It was also resolved to put out notices warning the public against using parish water for anything other than Domestic purposes, failing adherence to notice prosecutions to be put in effect.

### **Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1922**

That a letter be forwarded to Mrs F H Gratton conveying the sympathy of the members of the Council in the sad bereavement sustained by her, in the loss of her husband. The clerk was instructed write accordingly.

### **March 13<sup>th</sup> 1922**

A Parish Meeting was held in the C of E Schools ... to receive nominations for Parish Councillors for the ensuing 3 years.

The nomination was then read out by the Chairman each form having been duly passed as valid

No 1 Mr John Richard Birley Quarry Proprietor, Middleton by Wirksworth

No 2 Mr Samuel Doxey, Clerk, Middleton by Wirksworth

No3 Mr George Edward Brace, Mason Middleton by Wirksworth

No 4 Mr Daniel Slack, Quarryman, Middleton by Wirksworth

No 5 Mr Josiah Slack, Grocer, Middleton by Wirksworth

No 6 Mr Thomas Buxton Walker, Gentleman, Middleton by Wirksworth

As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of persons to be elected the Chairman declared the Candidates elected.

### **Annual Meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> 1922**

..that Mr Ernest Wheeldon be appointed as Overseer for the ensuing year.

It was moved .that Mr D Slack be appointed Overseer

Mr S Doxey and Mr T B Walker were duly elected to represent the Parish on the Joint Committee for Charities.

A letter was read by the clerk in which Mr R Holland asked the Parish Council to attend to matters relating to the Water Rents viz that in future the collection of Water Rents shall enter in their prospective columns – the name of occupier, owner, description of property, situation, area and rateable value.

The letter also stated that the Auditor required the collection to give a Bond in the sum of £25 for the due performance of his duties.

The Clerk was directed to reply stating that the Council could see absolutely no necessity for either extra entries in Rent Book or Bond. The Water rents not being based on a Rateable Value, and the moneys collected being immediately deposited with the Treasurer.

As a consequence of repeated complaints as to the state of the Roads and the short hours worked by the Roadman (Mr W Johnson) and in view of the various state of the village sanitation it was resolved that “The Clerk draw the attention of Mr R Holland to the several matters and express the Council’s opinion that neither the Roadman nor the Surveyor are doing their dutys in the village.

An account of 6d due to Mr Birley for tap installed in fence was passed for payment.

The account due to Mr R Holland as election fee, amounting to 13/8 was passed for payment.

Mr S Doxey moved that a letter be forwarded to the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd, complaining of the excessive charges made for gas and the inferior quality of same, as the Parish are not consumers of the commodity in question it was deemed inadvisable to take the matter up.

## **May 1<sup>st</sup> 1922**

A letter was read relating to the sewerage pit at Rise End, in which the clerk to the R.D.Council asked for the opinion of the Council as to the best plan to adopt towards getting the shaft clear, or finding other means of disposal.

It was resolved to suggest that the Council meet Mr Wheeldon (Sanitary Surveyor) at Middleton some evening @ 6 o'clock or otherwise Saturday afternoon with a view to going into the matter together.

The clerk was instructed to write the Post Master @ Matlock in the question of recommencing the Second Postal Delivery in the village.

After discovering the inconvenience suffered by business people in the village, through the stoppage of goods delivery by the Midland Railway Co, it was decided to approach the authorities with a view to them re starting deliveries, and the clerk was directed to write accordingly.

Mr Doxey reopened the question relating to the price and quality of gas supplied by the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd, after due consideration it was resolved that the Clerk write the Manager of the firm, stating, that whilst the parish itself is not a consumer, the Council ask on behalf of the inhabitants of the village, who are actual consumers, that consideration be given to the possibility of a reduction in price, and also that a better quality be supplied.

As there was no nominations sent in for representatives on the R D Council at the time of the election, it was resolved that Mr R Holland be asked to put things in order for nominations to be effected now, also asking for nomination forms to be supplied for the purpose.

## **June 26<sup>th</sup> 1922**

A letter was read from the Post Master, in reply to the request made by the Council for second Postal delivery, in which it was stated that a second delivery would not be warranted.

The chief goods manager of the Midland Ry Co, in reply to a letter from the Council asking for delivery of goods from Wirksworth goods yard to Middleton, stated that the Company found it impracticable to undertake the service.

A letter from the Clerk to the R D Council was read (dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June) stating that the Surveyor, after several days work in the sewerage system, had been unable to find the main shaft of the mine, though on one occasion he had noticed that there was a tendency for some of the liquid to disappear. He had however suspended operations so as to get the opinion of the Council as to the advisability of proceeding with his present operations. The alternatives put forward were to find another mine shaft, or if this proved to be impracticable to consider the question of going in for some sewerage scheme.

It was resolved to reply to the effect that the members of the Parish Council believe it to be practicable to proceed with the present operations, but suggest that the surveyor get the help of practical old miners of whom there are several in the village, naming Messrs B Spencer, Jacob Doxey, Alfred Doxey, D Slack Senr, making mention that plenty of timber will be necessary.

## **July 27<sup>th</sup> 1922**

Having received a letter from the Mayor of Derby making request for someone to undertake the organisation of a Flag day on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in aid of the proposed Memorial to the Sherwood Foresters which is to be erected near the site upon which Crich Stand originally stood, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Clerk.

## **December 20<sup>th</sup> 1922**

An application from Mr A Abbot (Church View) for connecting water to Bathroom was submitted to the Council, but as he appeared to have proceeded with the work, the council instructed the Clerk to notify him that an application did not entitle him to proceed without consent, asking @the same time for full details of the connections installed, consequent upon the Councillors hearing of more than was mentioned in application.

An application by Mr J E Stevens Rising Sun was granted for connection water to 2 WCs.

It was decided to fix the charge in both cases, @ 5/-

A letter was from Mr R Holland, stating that he had received notification from the Derbyshire and Notts Electric Power Co, to the effect that they intended making application to the Electricity Commissioners for a special order relating to supply electricity for all purposes in an area in which the Parish of Middleton may probably be included. Mr Holland asked for the views of the Council on the matter, saying that the council could oppose the inclusion of Middleton in the scheme.

The clerk was instructed to state that the council would, so far as could at present be judged, have no opposition, but that they would like details as to what it may be likely to entail in the way of expense for parish.

The question of nursing in the parish was raised owing to the inability of Mrs Gregson to carry out her duties through illness, Mr Birley arranged to see what could be done, when @ Ashbourne on Saturday.

## **March 20<sup>th</sup> 1923**

The undermentioned applications for Water Connections were sanctioned

Mr H Jepson Water Closet

Geo Killer Wash House Tap

It was resolved to examine Pump reservoir on Saturday aft to meet about 2.30pm, Mr D Slack volunteered to see that the tap was removed in readiness.

Mr S Doxey re-opened the question relating to the price of Gas charged by the Hopton-Wood Stone Firms Ltd.

Mr Doxey moved, seconded by Mr J R Birley, that the Clerk again write the firm on the matter, expressing regret that no reply was received to the Council's last letter asking for a reduction, and expressing a further hope that due consideration be given a reduced charge,

pointing out that Middleton Gas charges appear to be far in excess of the charges made in the surrounding district.

After some little consideration on the question of flushing the water mains it was decided to let the matter lie in abeyance until after Easter.

### **Annual Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> 1923**

Mr Joseph Harrison was re-appointed as Water Bailiff, salary to remain as last year viz £10.0.0 per an

Mr H S Flint was re-appointed Asst Overseer, salary as previous year viz £16.0.0 per an

A reply was read from the Hopton-Wood Stone Firms Ltd, regarding the price of Gas, to the effect that whilst the firm fail to see what cause the Council had to complain, not being consumers, effect will be given to any possible reduction, when the question of costs have been gone into @ the end f the financial year.

The Clerk was directed to ask the Water Bailiff to arrange the flushing the Water Mains, when it was suggested that notice in some form or other be given to the public, at the same time asking that all pipes be drained before stop taps are opened for flushing, in order that the best effect may be obtained, the Bailiff to carry out the flushing operations at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr DI Slack suggested that in order to ascertain the exact number of taps, water closets etc liable for charge in the parish, with a view to stabilising the charges, it would be advisable for members of the Council to accompany Mr Harrison on a tour of inspection, booking all possible details connected with the water supply and consumption , which when tabulated should be submitted to the Council for perusal, thereby enabling the council to give individuals pertaining for Water Rate charge purposes.

It was decided to adopt this course, and the clerk was directed to prepare books and notify the Water Bailiff as to what was being done, Mr D Slack volunteered to accompany Mr Harrison on his first round of investigation.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup> 1923**

After further discussion concerning reservoir (@pump) it was decided to instruct Mr J Brailsford to do the necessary work and put the reservoir in good repair...

The Clerk was instructed to give notice to Mr W Gregson that unless the burst in private water pipe opposite his home and owned by him was repaired on or before Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Water Bailiff would be instructed to cut off the supply.

The revision of Water rate charges was next gone into, with the following results:

It was proposed by Mr D Slack seconded by Mr S Doxey that private water taps be increased 50% viz 3/- where previously 2/- and that an increase of 100% be put on users of public taps viz 1/- where previously charged 6d. Carried unanimously.

Mr S Doxey moved that Water Closets be charged 4/- each, but this found no seconder.

Mr D Slack moved and Mr G E Brace seconded that the charge for Water Closets be 2/-, this was carried unan.

It was further resolved that in case of Butchers a charge of 4/- be instituted and 5/- for Bakers. Concerning Baths it was decided to treat these as second taps viz 1/6 each.

### **October 12<sup>th</sup> 1923**

A letter was read from Mr W F Weskett Postmaster @ Matlock stating that they had under consideration a proposal for giving the postman who serves Middleton a half holiday, which would mean that the last collection on Saturdays would be made @ 12.55.

It was resolved to reply to the effect that whilst the Council wish to see the postman secure his half holiday, they are afraid inconvenience would ensue from taking last delivery @ the time specified, and ask if it is not possible to find a substitute to take the postman's place for the Saturday collection, or arrange for the half holiday to take place on Wednesday when the office is closed.

A letter from Mr G Hall of Cromford asking permission on behalf of the British Legion, to hold a flag or Poppy Day in the village on Nov 10 was placed before the Council and a reply was ordered to be sent granting the request.

Mr Doxey suggested that a charge be made on the County Council for Water used during steam roller operations in the village, it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until next meeting. Mr Doxey promising that in the mean time he would make enquiries as to how long they would be using the water.

### **Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1923**

The clerk was directed to write Mr Twemlow (surveyor) respecting material used for the roads, to the effect that it was totally unsuitable.

It was decided to write Mr Metcalfe lodging complaints about the condition of the Main Road @ top end of village.

In further reference to charge upon County Council for Water used during Road rolling operations the clerk was instructed to send a bill for £3-0-0 to the Surveyor.

### **January 11<sup>th</sup> 1924**

As no reply had been received from Mr Metcalfe concerning state of road at top end of the village, the clerk was directed to write the County Council representative (Brig Gen Walthall) asking him to take the matter up.

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924**

A letter with further reference to "Half Holiday for Postmen" from the Postmaster @ Matlock was submitted to the Council, it was stated that the consent of all other Councils in the Rural D of Wirksworth had been obtained and that the preproposal must be dropped unless the consent of this Council be given irrespective of the Conditions mentioned in previous reply.

The Clerk was directed to state that in view of the fact that less populated parishes were given better better Postal facilities than Middleton and that the Council agree to the proposal providing the same facilities are granted to Middleton as are enjoyed by them. (Parishes referred to included Carsington and Brassington, with two deliveries daily)

### **Annual Parish Council Meeting April 11 1924**

Chair Mr J R Birley

Mr Birley remarked that he did not feel it was fair for him to retain the position for so long a period and expressed his desire to be excused, but after further requests from the Council he gave way, and was duly appointed.

Vice Chair Mr D Slack

Treasurer Mr S Doxey

Overseers – Mssrs John Brailsford and William Bateman

Joint Committee for Charities – Mssrs S Doxey and T B Walker re-appointed

Water Bailiff Mr J Harrison

Assistant Overseer Mr H S Flint

The clerk brought to the notice of the council the fact that the stop taps still remained covered after road rolling, he was directed to instruct Mr Harrison with a view to uncovering and putting in order, and to have tap @Rise End put right at same time.

A complaint from Mr E Birley in reference to sewerage at Rise End was laid before the Council by the Clerk, but as Mr Birley had knowledge of progress towards putting the sewerage in order nothing further was done concerning the matter.

As the pump (Hillside) has been out of order for some little time it was decided to have same repaired and the clerk was directed to see to it being put right, the chief need being re-leathering.

Very emphatic complaints were made in reference to the dirty condition of the Main roads in the village, and it was particularly mentioned that the roadman had removed dirt items etc, from one point and deposited same in a place where a notice was to be seen forbidding the public to deposit refuse. The Clerk was directed to notify the County Surveyor on the matter and failing attention to write Mr Walthall rep on (County Council).

The a/c of £3-0-0 for Water claimed by the Council from County C had been returned with questions as to how the charge was arrived at – whether by Water Cart loads or by the thousand gallons? – it was decided to return the claim drawing the surveyor's attention to the fact that whilst previously claims had been based on Water Cart loads, it was impossible on this occasion, as they had attached the hose direct to the taps in some instances, also to point out that the reservoirs were almost emptied, not merely on Middleton Roads, but that the Water was used on the Porter Lane. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Surveyor that the claim must stand point out the points here stated.

## **June 13 1925**

Water Charges on C Council – these had been received

A letter was read from the Ministry of Health stating his (the Minister's) intention after the expiration of ten days, from the date of the letter viz June 6 1924 – to represent to His Majesty in Council that, for the protection of the public health, the opening of any new burial ground in the civil parish of M by W, save with his previous approval should be prohibited, and that except as hereinafter provided, burials should be discontinued forthwith and entirely in the Church of Holy Trinity, M by W, and in the Churchyard attached thereto: Provided that-

- (a) In any walled grave now existing in the said Churchyard, burial may be allowed subject to the Condition that every coffin buried in such grave be separately enclosed by stonework or brickwork properly cemented
- (b) In any earthen grave now existing in the said churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons heretofore buried in such grave, subject to the Condition that no part of the Coffin containing the body shall be at a depth less than three feet below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave, and subject to such burial not involving the exposure of human remains.

It was stated that, in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3 of the Burial Act 1855 as amended by Burial Act 1900, it is now necessary that a Parish Meeting be forthwith convened for the purpose of determining whether a burial ground shall be provided for the whole or part of the parish, under the Burial Acts.

After due deliberation on the matters Mr D Slack proposed – the Burial Act be adopted.

It was deemed wisdom to write Mr R Holland for details of procedure prior to calling a Parish meeting – the Clerk was instructed accordingly and as Mr Walker volunteered to convey Mr Birley over to Ashbourne, for an interview with Mr Holland, the Clerk was directed to arrange same if possible for Wednesday aft.

A letter from Mr R Holland – gave the estimated cost of the sewerage @£120-0-0, and he wished to know whether the parish would prefer a loan, or pay for same direct by a special rate spread over 12 months. He pointed out that in the event of a loan the period for repayment would be 30 years, and the amount of principal and interest would necessitate a special rate of about 1d in the £ per an for the whole of the 30 years.

It was decided to ask if a loan could not be arranged with the local Treasurer for a period of about 2 years or so?

Mr S Doxey moved that complaints be made to Mr Twemlow, re dangerous condition of Walls on the Alley and near Mr J W Ferns House, the clerk was instructed to write him.

## **June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Further discussion took place in reference to Burial Ground and it was decided to convene a Parish Meeting for July 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30 and notices for same were duly signed.

As the Assessment Committee had ordered a new Valuation List to be prepared for Middleton, Mr J K Birley moved that the Asst Overseer (H S Flint) be authorised to carry out the work... allowed £4-0-0 for making new Valuation List.

#### **July 4<sup>th</sup> 1925**

... to consider the question of providing a Burial Ground for the Parish of Middleton by Wirksworth.

Mr J R Birley put the following resolution to the meeting –

“That a Burial Ground be provided for the Parish of Middleton by Wirksworth under the Burial Acts 1852 – 1906

..After time for discussion had been allowed the Chairman asked for any amendment to the resolution, as there was none forthcoming – the resolution was put in substantial motion, and was carried unanimously.

The meeting was then deemed by the Chairman to be closed, thanking the ratepayers for their presence.

#### **August 8<sup>th</sup> 1924**

The Clerk reported to the Council that Mr E Mather found the pump irreparable and as a consequence it was deemed necessary to make immediate effort towards securing another – either new or second hand. Instructions were given for the clerk to see Mr Twigg of Matlock to see if he had anything suitable in stock.

With further reference to Loan for Sewerage works, the Council decided to obtain the money by means of two special rates, and the Clerk was directed to notify Mr R Holland to that effect.

#### **Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1924**

The Clerk reported his inability to find a suitable pump at Mr Twigg's Matlock

It was decided to leave it to Mr Mather to make further investigations towards obtaining suitable pump, and also ask him to examine Valve Connected with pump overflow.

Letter from the Hopton Wood Stone F Ltd was read asking for terms and conditions under which the Council would supply them with Water – stating that they did not think the quantity would exceed 5-600 gallons per week.

Considering the existing shortage and curtailed supplies, the Council felt it would be unjust to offer to supply the firm for the moment, but suggested that further consideration be given to the matter when more normal supplies had been reached.

A letter in reference to replicas of Memorial on Crich Hill, after being read, was allowed to lie on the table.

#### **Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 1924**

A letter was placed before the council asking for the water tap now situated in Mr J L Fox's boundary wall in Chapel Lane, to be removed and placed in a more convenient place, the

letter was signed by the following ratepayers – Mssrs Chas Birly, Wh Birley, J Brace and Mrs R A Axe.

After consideration it was decided to comply with the request, and the Clerk was directed to ascertain as to whether Mr W Howard has any object to the main laid by him being taken out and relaid by one with bigger bore, if agreeable, the clerk to get estimates for the job from Messrs Webster and also Mr Stevens both of Wirksworth.

As matters relating to pump appear to be moving very slowly, it was decided that Messrs D Slack and S Doxey take the whole business in hand until completed.

News having reached members of the Council, of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd attaching hose pipes to tap on property tenanted by Mr Joseph Brooks, for the purpose of filling tank in quarry, the clerk was instructed to write the firm and warn them again a re occurrence of same without permission from the council

As there was no reply from them to letter re disposal of land – it was decided that the clerk ask them to please reply, and express the Council's surprise at their dilatory attitude.

#### **Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1924**

The clerk intimate that he did not mind withdrawing his resignation for the time being, providing the council were prepared to remunerate him for extra duties viz collecting special rate. Mr D Slack proposed that the Asst Overseer be allowed £3-3-0 for collection Special Rate.

The Clerk reported to the Council that Mr W Webster was quite prepared to allow main put down in Chapel Lane at the expence of Mr W Howard, (now controlled by Mr Webster) to be raised and a bigger one put in by Council, to supply other householders, but that he should expect to retain old pipe in his possession.

An estimate was also submitted by Mr J R Webster of Wirksworth for taking up present main in Chapel Lane (between Chapel Yard bottom and end of S School, relaying with larger bore and completing the job of removing tap to the satisfaction of the Council for the sum of £22-17-6 ... it was suggested that Mr Doxey ask Mr W Webster if he would allow a connection to be made from his pipe if the Council remunerated him for doing so.

Messrs S Doxey and D Slack reported that Mr E Mather was waiting for designs and prices of pump suitable for erecting on Hillside.

#### **Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1924**

..reported that the New Pump was now completed, but regretted to say that the spring which feeds reservoir for pump, appears to be lost, it was decided however, to give it a good trial before doing anything further in the matter.

There was some little discussion regarding electric current for the village, and the clerk was directed to approach the Company with a view to initiating some movement in the matter.

#### **Dec 2 1924**

A letter was read from the manager of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Co, stating that the Manager would be pleased to meet a deputation to discuss the matter

referred to in a letter from the Council re Electric Lighting. The Clerk was directed to write asking whether he could possibly come over and meet the Council some event, or failing that, some Saturday afternoon.

Instructions were given to the Clerk to enquire to Messrs Twiggs of Matlock as to whether they had any coverings in stock, suitable for coverings of stop taps.

### **January 16 1925**

...

Mr D Slack reported that the Pump and spring are now in order and working satisfactorily.

A letter was read from Rev C J Cottle, complaining that the Council fail to give due notice to the Manager of meetings it intends holding in the school, also that no payments have been made for the use of the schools (by the council) for the past 20 years, and asks what the Council are prepared to offer.

The clerk was instructed to reply stating that the Council have never wished to evade payment, and are prepared to pay from March 31 1924, when the terms of charge are to hand and the claim duly received.

The business in reference to the Electric Supply in the Village, was allowed to lie over for the time being.

..A further a/c was passed for payment to Mr J Harrison for getting out trial holes on site for new Burial Ground and other duties connected with same - £2-15-0.

### **Febby 10<sup>th</sup> 1925**

A letter was read from the Clerk Mr H S Flint stating that, owing to the heavy demands made upon his time by his own business, he was reluctantly obliged to ask the Council to accept his resignation as Assistant Overseer...

### **March 9<sup>th</sup> 1925**

Mr D Slack reported that Mr W Webster was quite prepared to allow a connection to be made to his main near corner of Chapel (in Chapel Lane) providing the council purchased Main Pipe to where connection would take place, at prices ruling today for lead piping. The Council considered Mr Webster was asking too much, remembering that the pipe was laid when lead was cheap and also remembering that the age of the pipe must necessarily render it of less marketable value, it was decided that Mr Slack approach Mr Webster again, and ask what his price would be, reminding of these points and see it would be possible to buy it at its original cost.

March 16 1925 Annual Parish Meeting

The following were duly elected

Mr John Richard Birley – Stone Merchant

Mr Daniel Slack – Quarryman

Mr Samuel Doxey – Clerk

Mr George Edward Brace – Stone Mason

Mr Thomas Buxton Walker – Engineer

Mr Josiah Slack – Grocer

**March 27<sup>th</sup> 1925**

Only one application was received for position as Asst Overseer Viz Mr Memmott, and after consideration the appointment was made in his favour by a unanimous vote. Salary to be £17-2-6 per annum plus £3-3-0 for Special Rates (£16 plus guarantee annual subscription)

A letter was submitted to the Council in which the R D Council asked as to whether additional houses were required in the parish, and if so, how many, the clerk was instructed to reply to the effect that the question was receiving the Council's attention.

**April 17<sup>th</sup> 1925**

(Confirmation of appointments)

**May 6 1925**

The Clerk was requested to see Mr Gratton re Dorothy Lees Charity, and to remind him that no money had yet been received by Trustees, payment being due at Easter.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr Holland to ascertain what amount of balance of Water Rate was in hand, also to acquaint Mr Wheeldon of state of drain/chain fence in front of Mr Killer's House.

**26 May**

Lees Charity – the delay in payment was due to the absence of an incumbent at Wirksworth, and that when the new vicar was installed, he would move in the matter.

Re balance of Water a/c, the Clerk presented letter from Mr Holland stating that balance in hand was £3-7-2 giving details of receipts and payments for the year.

**June 10 1925**

Mr D Slack moved that a letter be sent to Mr Macbeth re non payment of Dorothy Lees Charity which was due at Easter, and to notify him that unless the money was forthcoming promptly, a letter of complaint would be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

**June 30**

The Clerk reported receipted of £4-15-0 from Mr Macbeth re Dorothy Lees Charity which he had duly handed over to Trustees. Mr Walker (Trustee) reported that the money had been distributed forthwith.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr Holland asking for details of Housing scheme as to probable cost of erection, accommodation, probable rent, etc so that the council could adequately consider the advisability or otherwise of having houses built under the subsidy scheme.

**July 30 1925**

A letter was read from Mr Wheeldon (Sanitary Inspector) suggesting the advisability of lining the mine shaft in the fields with stone and covering with concrete so as to prevent any further falling in of sides causing a block. It was decided to inspect the shaft, which was done after

the meeting, and the clerk was instructed to write Mr Wheeldon advising the gauging up of shaft as suggested.

The Clerk produced a bill for 14/- received from Mr Barnes to cover expenses for 13 meetings held by the Council from April 11/24 to March 16/25.

As at least four meetings were held during summer months when no gas was used, and also, as no heating expense has ever been incurred specially for the Council meetings, the council considered the amount excessive, and instructed the Clerk to interview Mr Cottle, and ask for details of expences

The Clerk, having obtained permission from the Co/Op Main Management, asked permission of the Council to connect a pipe with the stores supply pipe, to be carried through house gable wall on to sink. Permission was granted.

The Clerk complained of offensive smell arising from drain opposite his house caused by foul water being thrown down drain by inhabitants. A number of other residents round about also having made complaints the Council advised further communication with Mr Wheeldon on the matter with view to a remedy.

#### **Oct 9 1925**

A letter was read from Mr Holland, asking for early reply as to number of houses required under the subsidy scheme, and the council decided before committing itself, to issue posters inviting Parishioners desirous to become tenants to give in their names before the 16<sup>th</sup> next. Posters were accordingly distributed by the Clerk.

..The Clerk was instructed to enquire from Mr Holland the cost of journey of Water Bailiff to Ashbourne.

The Clerk, having brought up the question of liability or otherwise of Parish Council to pay employer's share of Health and Unemployment Stamps on his behalf, was instructed to seek official advice on the matter.

Bills of account due...to Mr Barnes from School Managers for cost of heating and lighting for Council Meetings 14/-...

4/- to Mr Silkstone For conveying M of Health Inspector (Mr North) from station to Burial Ground

#### **Oct 20 1925**

The Clerk reported that he had received, in reply to posters, six applications for houses under the subsidy scheme, with a further application if the houses should be built at Rise End.

The Council discussed the matter at some length and provisionally agreed to ask for six new houses but before giving their final approval, the Clerk was instructed, on the motion of Mr Birley sec Mr D Slack to ascertain from Mr Holland if in the event of any house or houses being empty, the loss would fall on Middleton or on the whole Rural District. Also to ask if the site had been already chosen.

The large reservoir having run dry on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, after being reported nearly full at the beginning of the week the Council were unam of t opinion that some large waste had occurred somewhere, and Mr Birley suggested, with view to ascertaining the cause of waste, that, with the Council's approval, he himself should interview Mr Salmon on the matter.

#### **Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1925**

In consideration of the Clerk not being engaged in any other employment it was resolved ...that the employers share of contribution towards Health Insurance stamp on his behalf be paid by the council.

A letter was read from Mr Holland stating that the request for six houses for Middleton was being submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Jan 26 1926

Members complained that, during recent snowstorm, no attempt had been made by the Authorities to clear the footpaths, only the snowplough being used for the roadway. In view amount of traffic, pedestrians were often obliged to wade through deep snow or slosh as a consequence. The Clerk was requested to write Mr Horton, County Surveyor, and draw his attention to this.

Four inhabitants of Middleton were chosen as recipients of the Taylor Charity of 5/- each,

#### **Feb 13 1926**

The Clerk presented demand note for Land Tax, due viz 4/9 and was requested to pay the amount forthwith.

#### **Feb 24 1926**

It was reported that tippers were complaining about the unsatisfactory state of the tip, it being dangerous and almost impossible to reach the edge of tip on account of cart wheels sinking in.

The Council decided to inspect the tip before making any complaint to the Hopton Wood Stone Fs who, by agreement, are responsible for keeping tip in satisfactory condition.

#### **March 3 1926**

The question of appointment of Asst Overseer and Clerk was discussed and in view of extra duties involved re Burial Board, it was proposed...that the salary as Clerk and collector be increased from £16 to £18 per annum, plus extra for special rates and Registration work. The clerk was requested to issue posters inviting applications for the post in accordance with above.

#### **March 16 1926**

Mr Doxey reported that the pump on Hillside was again out of order.

Mr J Slack stated that Mr Herbert Slack desired water to be laid on at his address which was agreed to.

#### **March 30 1926 Annual Meeting**

Chairman Mr J R Birley

Vice Chair Mr D Slack

Treasurer Mr S Doxey  
Water Bailiff Mr Harrison  
Overseers Mr Jas F Beeson Mr Geo Killer

Three applications were received for post of Clerk and Asst Overseer  
Mr F R Mountford, Clerk to UDC of Wirksworth was unanimously elected.

#### **14 April 1926**

The minutes of the last Burials meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The Clerk read a letter from the Minister of Health stating that he would be prepared to approve the payment of £3 to Mr Memmott for extra services in connection with the Burial Ground.

That the Clerk be instructed to order from Messrs Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss Ltd one pair of Gates No H 2174 in Catalogue, 5' high to suit opening 7'5" fitted complete at £15-10-0 net cash delivered Wirksworth Station.

...resolved that the conveyance of the Burial Ground to the Council be signed.

#### **14 April 1926**

The Clerk read extracts from and explained the Scheme forwarded by the Charity Commissioners in connection with the Anthony Gell Almshouses.

The Council objected to the naming of the Co-optative trustees in the draft scheme and also to the receipt of Poor Law Relief being a disqualification, ...the Clerk was instructed to forward these objections to the Charity Commission.

..that the Clerk be authorised to purchase the necessary books in connection with the Burial Ground

Permission was given for the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Trustees to open up the road in Chapel Lane for the purpose of making a connection.

It was resolved to make a Precept on the Overseers of the Poor for £41 to cover the estimated expenditure in connection with the Burial Ground for the half year ending 30 September 1926.

#### **18 August 1926**

The Clerk read a letter from the Charity Commissioners replying to the objections raised by the Council to the Anthony Bunting Almshouse Charity Scheme and reported that Mr S Doxey had been elected a representative Trustee of the Charity.

The following hours were fixed for interments in the new cemetery:-

Ladyday to Michaelmas 1 to 4pm

Michaelmas to Ladyday 1 to 3pm

Mr J Slack reported that the fence at the Cemetery had been erected the Council being involved in no expenditure beyond the purchase of the wire and posts.

It was resolved that the Minister's fee for an Interment in the cemetery be 2/6 in each case.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain the cost of purchasing 8 planks for use in the Cemetery. He was also instructed to write the County Surveyor re the Level Crossing in Main Street and also ask him whether a footpath could be made in front of the Burial Ground.

### **6 October 1926**

That a precept on the Overseers for £34 be signed in respect of the amount required by the Council as Burial Authority for the half year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 1927.

The Clerk was instructed to write the Ministry of Health enquiring whether the Council or the Church Council were liable for the £3-3-0 charged by Mr Holland for correspondence incidental to the consecration of a portion of the Cemetery.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 1926**

The Clerk read the following letters

- a) From the Home Office stating that they were not prepared to advise the Council as to whether the Parochial Church Council were liable for the £3-3-0 charged by the Clerk of the RDC for correspondence with the Home Secretary
- b) From the Ministry of Health stating that there would be no necessity for the council to make a Scheme to enable them to make precepts on the RDC
- c) From the Agricultural Organiser for the County Council with reference to the proposed lectures on "Horticulture"

That the Clerk be instructed to write Mr Twemlow with regard to the delay in the preparation of the lay-out plan of the grave spaces at the cemetery.

The Chairman read a letter which had received from the secretary to the Parochial Church Council stating that "Council holds itself responsible for the fees of the Consecration of the New Cemetery" This letter was not considered satisfactory and the Clerk was instructed to draft a resolution and send it to the Parochial Church Council and if a satisfactory answer were received, to take the necessary steps for the consecration of that portion of the cemetery which it was proposed to consecrate.

Mr D Slack reported that the water in one of the troughs was polluted by men washing their boots in the same and the Clerk was instructed to prepare a notice with respect to the same.

...it was resolved that the erection of the chapel at the Cemetery be deferred until the Spring of 1927.

Mr D Slack reported that the sum of £8 had been allocated from Elizabeth Bagshaw's Charity for distribution in Middleton.

### **8 December 1926**

The Clerk was instructed to write the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Co as to the possibility and probable cost of lighting the streets of Middleton by electric lights.

## **26 January 1927**

It was resolved to inspect a wall which was partly broken down near the Reservoir.

The Clerk reported as to the approximate terms of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric power Co for the lighting of the streets in Middleton by electricity. It was decided however that nothing could be done until the terms in writing had been received from the Electric Power Co.

...That the Clerk be instructed to ask the Clerk to the Rural District council for particulars of the Water a/c to date.

The Clerk was instructed to again call the attention of the County Surveyor to the bad state of the level crossing in Main Street.

It was resolved to agree to the proposal of the R D C to allocate £4pa as the salary of the Clerk to the Parish Council

## **30<sup>th</sup> March 1927**

Mr J R Birley - Chairman for the ensuing year

Mr D Slack Vice Chairman

Mr S Doxey re-elected Treasurer

Messrs S Doxey and J B Walker be appointed to represent the Council on the Joint Charities Committee.

The Clerk was instructed to enquire as to the reason why Gisborne's Charity monies had not been handed to the Parish Council for distribution.

Mr J Harrison re-appointed Water Bailiff

Messrs D Slack and J R Birley appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Rating Committee of the Ashbourne RDC when the valuation of properties in Middleton by Wirksworth was being considered.

The Clerk was instructed to write the Sanitary Inspector of the RDC re a heap of refuse near the tap on the Hillside.

Mr F R Mountford be re-appointed Clerk to the Parish Council at a salary of £4 per annum.

## **10<sup>th</sup> June 1927**

Clerk instructed to write to the Charity Commissioners with regard to Gisborne's Charity.

## **29<sup>th</sup> July 1927**

A letter was received from the Ashbourne RDC enquiring

- i. Whether the Parish Council though the basin on the Green should be removed
- ii. Whether water should be laid on for WCs to the new houses
- iii. Whether gas should be laid on to the new houses.

The Clerk was instructed to reply as follows:

- I. That the Parish Council did not agree with the removal of the basin and that they were arranging for it to be kept clean.
- II. That water should be laid on to the new houses and suggesting a meeting between the Sanitary Inspector and Messrs JB Walker and J Slack
- III. That gas should not be laid on as electricity would shortly be brought into the village

**27<sup>th</sup> September 1927**

A letter was received from the Sanitary Inspector to the Ashbourne RDC giving the list of applicants for the six new Council houses.

It was resolved that the following persons be recommended as tenants

Mrs A Gregory, Water Lane

Frank Shelley, Hillside

James Else, Middleton

Chas L Doxey, Main Street

Anthony Boden, Hillside

Mrs Mary Tyson? Hillside

Mr Walker reported as to his interview with Mr Wheeldon re the laying of water to the new houses

Mr J Slack promised to see Mr W Jones with regard to the question of the water reservoir.

**27 September 1927**

Accounts passed for payment

**15 November 1927**

The Clerk was instructed to write to The Clerk to the Ashbourne RDC as to whether the recommendations of the Parish Council with regard to the laying of water to the new houses were to be carried into effect.

That Mr J Ruddock of Water Lane, Middleton by Wirksworth be recommended as the tenant for the vacant house.

That the money received from Bagshaws charity be distributed as follows:

Miss Fearn, Mr R Spencer, Miss Brooks, Mrs A Batterley, Mrs Edith Doxey, Mrs Axe, Mrs Wheeldon, Miss Mary Spencer

### **15<sup>th</sup> November 1927**

The Clerk was instructed to write the Derbyshire and Notts Electric Power Co with regard to street lighting and also as to the cost of electricity for private supplies.

A letter was received from the Rev C J Cottle asking for permission to connect the new Hall with the water supply to the Schools. It was resolved to grant the necessary permission.

The question was raised as to the need of a telephone call office in Middleton and the Clerk was instructed to make enquiries concerning the same.

The Clerk was directed to write Mr Twemlow with regard to the repair of Spunger? Lane and the widening of Chapel Lane.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1928**

The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk to the Rural District Council with regard to the supply of water to the new houses. This letter was not considered satisfactory and the Clerk was instructed to write again the Rural District Council enquiring whether the suggestions of the Parish Council were to be adopted.

A letter was received from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Co from which it appeared:

That the Power Co would extend their mains through Middleton by means of overhead cables, provided that not less than 20 consumers combined with a public lighting supply of 12 or more lamps, could be obtained.

No charge for connecting consumers' premises by overhead cables if within 60 feet of low tension cable

Charge for supplying, erecting, lighting and maintaining street lamps would be £4-15-0 per lamp per annum – each lamp would be of approximately 100 candle power and lit from ½ an hour after sunset until 11pm each evening from 20 September to 20 April in each year.

The Clerk was instructed to write enquiring what the additional cost would be for 200 candle power lamps and what the charge would be to consumers for connecting beyond the 60 feet limit.

A cheque was received for the amount due under John Taylor's Charity.

Quotations were received for furniture for the Burials Chapel by Mr Walker undertook to obtain further quotations from Mr Jepson.

### **17<sup>th</sup> February 1928**

...resolved unanimously that a Parish Meeting be convened for the purpose of adopting the Lighting and Watching Acts.

The Clerk read a letter from the Post Office with regard to the establishment of a Call office in the Sub Post Office but as a substantial guarantee was required, no action was taken.

A quotation was received from Mr H Jepson for the provision of a Reading Desk for the Chapel for the sum of £1-17-6 ...accepted.

Mr J B Walker kindly promised to obtain estimates for a revolving table and pews.

That a Precept on the Rural District for £31 in respect of Burial Expenses for the half year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 1928 be signed.

That a "Brown's Stove and a short length of piping be ordered for the Burials Chapel.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Clerk to the Rural District Council with respect to the following matters

- a. Statement re Water Rents
- b. Deposit of Refuse on Hillside
- c. Fences near new houses

That the land in Main Street, now let to Mr Birley, be let to Mr Samuel Slack of Rise End at the same rent as from the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1928.

### **12<sup>th</sup> March 1928**

A letter was received from Messrs W Gallimore & Sons asking for a payment on account of the work done in connection with the erection of the Burials Chapel.

...resolved that a cheque for £250 in favour of Messrs W Gallimore & Son be drawn and signed on account of work done.

Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Meeting for election of Councillors for the ensuing three years...

Resolved that the Rev C J Cottle be appointed Chairman of the Meeting for the purpose of the election.

Nine nominations were made, and after allowing the allotted 15 minutes to elapse, the Chairman stated to the Meeting the names of the Candidates and other particulars included on the forms and declared all the candidates to be validly nominated. There were no withdrawals and the election by show of hands took place as follows

Brace, George Edward - Stone Mason 25 votes

Birley, John Richard - Quarry Owner 20 votes

Walker, Thomas Buxton - Engineer 29 votes

Slack, Josiah - Grocer 21 Votes

Killer, Harold - Foreman Mason 11 votes

Brooks, Job - Quarry Foreman 15 votes

Slack, Daniel - Quarryman 24 votes

Doxey, Samuel - Retired Business Man 11 votes

Flint, Harry Speake - Grocer 20 votes

The Chairman declared Messrs John Richard Birley, George Edward Brace, Harry Speake Flint, Daniel Slack Jnr, Josiah Slack and Thomas Buxton Walker to be duly elected Councillors for the ensuing 3 years.

Mr Birley proposed and Mr J Slack seconded

That the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 W 4 C 90 instituted an Act to repeal An Act of the Eleventh Year of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, for the Lighting and Watching of Parishes in England and Wales, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof be adopted

Particulars were given for the proposed Street Lighting of the Parish.

Rev Cottle proposed as an amendment and Mr Harold Killer seconded

That as a scheme for public scavenging was more urgent than street lighting.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost. 8 persons voting for and 20 persons against.

The original proposition on being put to the meeting was declared to be carried by more than the requisite 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority – 25 voting for and 7 voting against the resolution.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March 1928**

The Clerk read 2 letters he had received from the Electric Power Co with regard to street lighting and he was instructed to write the Company informing them that the Lighting and Watching Acts had been adopted at a Parish Meeting.

A quotation was received from Mr H Jepson Junr, for the supply of 11 seats for the Burial Chapel for the sum of £9-0-0...accepted

Mr Walker undertook to obtain prices for staining and fixing the seats and was authorised to accept a reasonable quotation.

Mr Walker also kindly promised to obtain from Mr Jepson a quotation for the construction of a revolving table approx. 3'4" in diameter and 2'6" height to be made of oak.

Mr Gallimore...had offered to construct a wicket gate at the Burial Grounds for the sum of £3 approx...accepted.

The Chairman promised to see Mr John Harrison re clearing up the Cemetery.

The Clerk was instructed to write again the Rural District Council with regard to the nuisance on the Hillside

### **25<sup>th</sup> April 1928**

Mr J R Birley elected Chairman for the ensuing year

Mr D Slack elected Vice Chairman

Mr H S Flint – Treasurer

Messrs J B Walker and J Slack be representatives on the Joint Charities Committee

Messrs J R Birley and D Slack be appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Rating Committee of the Rural District Council.

Mr J R Mountford be re-appointed Clerk and Mr Harrison re-appointed Water Bailiff.

The Clerk reported that the Electric Power Co had acknowledged receipt of his letter re street lighting.

...Mr Jepson's price for the construction of seats for the Burials Chapel be increased to £11-5-0 to allow the backs of the seats to be filled in.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr Twemlow offering him the stone in the Cemetery and also to Dr Ash complaining that the midwife had refused to attend certain cases.

### **11<sup>th</sup> May 1928**

The Clerk read a letter from Dr Ash with regard to Mrs Gregson's refusal to attend midwifery cases and stating that Mrs Gregson had given 3 months notice to terminate her agreement as a subsidised midwife under the County Council.

Letters were received from the Clerk to the Ashbourne RDC and also the Sanitary Inspector stating that complaints had been received alleging that Meerbrook Sough Water was polluted by the Middleton sewage which was discharged into a mine. The Clerk was instructed to reply stating that the Parish Council deems it impossible for the Meerbrough Sough water to be polluted by the Middleton sewage it being contended that the sewage matter would have to percolate through the ground to a considerable extent before it reached the Sough and that such percolation would act as a filter.

It was decided to instruct Mr W Jones to repair the heading at the Water Springs.

### **24<sup>th</sup> May 1928**

The Clerk read letters from the Ashbourne RDC and the County Medical Officer of Health with regard to the alleged pollution of the Meerbrook Sough. ...The Clerk be instructed to write to the Ashbourne R.D.C. suggesting an interview with the County Medical Officer.

The Clerk promised to obtain a copy of the Ilkeston and Heanor Water Bill.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June 1928**

... a meeting had been arranged with the County Medical officer of Health with regard to the alleged pollution of the Meerbrook Sough.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr Gallimore giving him 7 days to complete the work at the Burial Ground.

That the sum of £12 be paid to Mr Jepson on account of work done by him.

The Burial Certificates as presented were signed.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August 1928**

The Clerk was instructed to draw the attention of the Rural District Council to the serious position of the water supply to the Hillside where the supply had failed entirely owing to the quarrying operations of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms.

A letter was received from the Post office Authorities enquiring whether the Parish Council would agree to an earlier collection at Middleton on Saturdays. It was resolved to reply that the Council could not agree to the alterations, which, if made, would be most inconvenient to the people of the village.

The final account for the work at the Cemetery was submitted by Mr Gallimore. The work, however, was not considered to be satisfactory and the Clerk was instructed to arrange a date with Mr Gallimore for an interview...

### **August 31<sup>st</sup> 1928**

The Clerk was instructed to point out to the Clerk to the Rural District Council that the Parochial Committee is the same body as the Parish Council of which Mr Birley and Not Mr S Doxey is the Chairman and, also to say that it was observed from the Press that the Sanitary Inspector was to enquire into the question of the water supply to the Hillside but nothing had been seen of him.

It was resolved to ask for a copy of the Water Rate a/c.

The Clerk read a copy of a letter from the Ministry of Health re Middleton Sewage. He was instructed to reply stating that it had not been proved that the Meerbrook Sough was polluted by sewage from the 18 houses in the vicinity of Chapel Lane and that the Parish Council did not consider a sewerage scheme necessary for these houses. It was decided to ask for the approximate cost of the main scheme suggested by the ministry.

Mr Slack raised the question as to a grave which had been dug recently on a Sunday. It was resolved that in future no Sunday labour be allowed except in very exceptional circumstances. The Clerk was instructed to arrange a meeting with Mr Gallimore for the following Tuesday at 7.30 pm.

### **11 September 1928**

The Clerk reported on an interview he had had with a representative of the Derbyshire & Notts Electric Power Co and explained the prospective positions of the brackets and poles for the electric cable. He was instructed to write to the Hopton Wood Stone Firms enquiring whether they would grant the necessary wayleaves where it was proposed to erect poles &c on their land.

A letter from Mr W Pashley was allowed to lie on the table.

The Clerk was instructed to see Mr Joseph Harrison and ask him whether he would hold himself responsible for grave digging and other work done in the Cemetery.

A letter was received from Mr W Buckley of New Road, stating that his wife had injured her ankle by catching her foot in a hole in the road. The Clerk was instructed to forward the

letter to the County Surveyor informing him that in the opinion of the Parish Council, this matter was the liability of the County Council.

The Chairman undertook to see Mr Harrison re the trimming of paths and the Clerk was instructed to write Mr H Slack asking him to mow the grass.

In response to a circular letter, the Clerk was directed to apply to the Agricultural Department of the County Council for a course of 3 lectures on Horticulture.

### **27<sup>th</sup> September 1928**

A letter was received from the Ashbourne R.D.C. stating that the Ilkeston & Heanor Water Board had been asked whether there was any pollution from the mine shaft in field No 332 and that the Council were awaiting a reply.

Mr Slack undertook to obtain the price of manhole covers.

No action was taken on a letter from the County Surveyor relating to an accident to Mrs Buckley on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 1928. Mr J Slack also undertook to see Mr Jos Harrison and ask him to lift the manhole cover.

A letter was received from the Rural District council of Ashbourne stating that they are of opinion that a new scheme to supply the whole of the Parish should be formulated. A report of the Sanitary Inspector on the matter was enclosed.

That a letter be sent to the Rural District council asking for the liability of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd for the loss of the water to the Hillside to be ascertained.

A letter was received from the Ashbourne R.D.C. with regard to the nuisance caused by rats from the tip and suggesting that the Parish should pay one half the cost of destroying the Rats and the Hopton Wood Stone Firms the other half.

It was resolved to ask the Rural District Council for the sum of £20 to meet parochial expenses during the ensuing half year.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Electric Power Co enquiring whether the low tension cable could be taken underground in the event of the permission of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms to erect poles being refused.

### **16<sup>th</sup> November 1928**

A letter was received from the Ashbourne R.D.C, suggesting a meeting with representatives of the Hopton Wood Stone Firms to discuss the question of the loss of water to the Hillside.

The Clerk read a letter from the Ashbourne R.D.C. enclosing copy of a letter from the Hopton Wood Stone Firms denying any liability for the rats on the tip. The Parish Council agreed that this was a matter for the Sanitary Committee but took objection to the Report which had appeared in the press that the tip had been given to the Parish by the Sone Firms and the Clerk was instructed to inform the Press that the Council acquired the tip in exchange for a valuable piece of land which the firm required in connection with their quarrying business.

It was resolved to have the taps on the Hillside repaired by Mr Webster.

It was decided to instruct the Water Bailiff to sink the overflow pipe at the reservoir and to cut down the ash tree near thereto.

The Clerk was instructed to ask the R.D.C. for a statement of the Water Account.

### **18<sup>th</sup> December 1928**

That the Council deem it expedient to give their consent as required by Section 13(1) of the Local Government Act 1894 to divert and turn a portion of the now existing public highway hereinafter described and situated wholly within the Parish of Middleton-by-Wirksworth and Rural District of Ashbourne aforesaid commencing from a point marked "A" on the said plan and proceeding in a northwardly direction over & along part of the said highway called the Occupation Road and terminating at a point marked "B" on the said plan which said highway contains in length 265 feet or thereabouts should be diverted and turned by stopping up the same and in lieu thereof to make a certain new highway commencing at the point marked "C" on the said plan and extending and running in a westwardly and northwardly course or direction over and along part of the Close Nod 377 and Close Nod 376 on the Ordnance Map (Second Edition) and terminating at the junction of Samuel Lane with the said Occupation Road at a point marked D on the said plan which said new highway contains in length 300 feet or thereabouts.

And it was further resolved that public Notice of the above Resolution be given as required by the said Act and also that a Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1929 for the confirmation of the foregoing Resolution.

The Clerk read a letter from the Derbyshire & Notts Electric Power Co stating that they hoped to have a portion of the low tension cable laid before the end of the year. The Clerk was instructed to write the R.D.C, re electric light to the new houses.

Mr Mountford tendered his resignation as Clerk to the Parish Council but was asked to reconsider the same.

### **19<sup>th</sup> February 1929**

That the Resolution passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1928, relating to the diversion of a road in the Parish of Middleton by Wirksworth be duly confirmed.

The Clerk was instructed to write the Ashbourne R.D.C. re electric light to the new houses and also the proposed meeting with the Hopton Wood Stone Firms re the Hillside Water.

### **21<sup>st</sup> March 1929 – Annual Meeting**

J R Birley elected Chairman for the Council for the ensuing year

Mr H S Flint - Vice Chairman

Mr D Slack Treasurer

Messrs J Slack and J B Walker – Council's representatives on the Joint Charities Committee

Mr J R Birley and D Slack - Council's representatives on the the Rating Committee of the Rural District Council.

The Clerk to the Parish Council tendered his resignation but on being pressed to retain the office, Mr Mountford consented to continue as Clerk for a further 6 months.

Mr Joseph Harrison – reappointed as Water Bailiff.

The Clerk reported on an interview that Mr Walker and he had had with representatives of the Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Electric Power Co and the Post Office Engineering Dept and explained the present position with regard to street lighting.

A letter was received from Mr Holland the Clerk to the R.D.C. with regard to the loss of the Hillside water and the Clerk was instructed to reply pressing for an interview with the Stone Firms and Representatives of the Rural District Council and Parish Council.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Rural District Council asking for a Statement re Water.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May 1929**

Accounts passed for payment

### **27<sup>th</sup> June 1929**

The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk to the Ashbourne R.D.C. giving the present position with regard to water supply and sewerage.

A letter was received from the Post office stating that arrangements were being made for the introduction of telephone call office facilities at Middleton-by-Wirksworth Post Office.

That the Clerk be instructed to enquire from the Rating Authority what is the present produce? of a penny rate, and if this is sufficiently high to warrant it, to enter into negotiations for the lighting of 3 street lamps on the Hillside by the Electric Power Co.

The Clerk was instructed to send a letter from the Hopton Wood Stone Firms Ltd to the Ashbourne R.D.C. as the Sanitary Authority – the letter making certain complaints re the refuse tip.

Messrs D Slack and J B Walker were deputed to see Mr H Slack with regard to the mowing of the grass at the Burial Grounds.

It was decided to return the account for the hire of the Schools to Mr Cottle for amendment.

That the Clerk write to the Rural District Council for a statement as to the position of the Water Account and to obtain a price from Mr Webster for the supply and fixing of new stop taps.

It was left to the representatives on the Joint Charities Committee to raise the question as to the distribution of Gibson's Charity.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the county Medical Officer of Health, pointing out that Middleton is practically without the services of a midwife and enquiring whether he could assist in any way towards the provision of this service.

It was reported that Mr Herbert Slack who lived opposite the Church had closed up a public well. The Clerk was directed to write to him on the matter.

It was resolved, on the advice of the District Auditor, to take out a fidelity guarantee policy to cover the clerk in the sum of £100.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> September 1929**

A letter was received from the County Medical Officer asking whether the Parish Council could approach Mrs Gregson and persuade her to resume practice as a Midwife. No action was taken in view of the fact that midwifery services would, in the near future, be provided by the Wirksworth Cottage Hospital.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Herbert Slack stating that the well opposite the Church had been restored to its former condition.

A letter was received from the Clerk to the Ashbourne R.D.C. giving the present position with regard to sewerage and Hillside water.

A quotation was received from Mr J R Webster for the supply and fixing of Stop Taps but the Clerk was instructed to ask for an amended tender to provide for metal covers.

The Clerk (word missing) the Street Lighting Agreement for the Parish and it was resolved...that the Agreement be signed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman and Clerk.

That the R.D.C. be asked to raise the following amounts which will be required to meet the expenditure by the Parish Council during the current half year and that the amounts be spread over 2 half years:-

General Expenses £25

Street Lighting £66-10-0

That the Clerk be instructed to write to the County Surveyor drawing his attention to the dangerous narrowness of the Main Street in some parts of which it was almost impossible for 2 vehicles to pass.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> November 1929**

A letter was received from the County Surveyor with respect to the dangerous narrowness of the Main Street, stating that he would look at the places specially mentioned by the Parish Council.

A statement was received from the Clerk to Rural District Council showing a balance in hand on the Water Account at 31<sup>st</sup> March 1929 of £39-3-9

That the repair of the walls of the reservoir be left in the hands of Messrs Birley, Walker and Slack.

A letter was received from the county Council with respect to the provision of Evening Lectures but no action was taken.

The Clerk read a letter from the Charity Commissioners stating that Gisborne's Charity was a Parochial Charity and that the List of Beneficiaries should be settled by the 3 Trustees.

A letter was also read from the Revd A L Edwards, the Chairman of the Trustees, asking whether the Parish Council wished to make any recommendations as to suitable recipients of the Charity. A list was compiled and handed to Mr J B Walker, one of the Trustees of the Charity.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Electric Power Co complaining of the flickering of the electric lights in the village.

### **January 7<sup>th</sup> 1930**

The Clerk undertook to communicate with the Electric Power Co with regard to three street lamps which had not been lighted for several nights.

The Clerk read a letter from the County Council dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 1929 and a letter from the Wirksworth Council dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 1929, both dealing with the question of the Review of County Districts under the Local Government Act 1929. Consideration of the letters was deferred to enable the Clerk to obtain for each member a copy of the Ministry of Health's Circular dealing with the matter.

The Clerk was also instructed to write to either the County Council or the Urban District council's Association in the question of differential rating.

A tender was received from Mr J R Webster for the supplying and fixing of 6 3" Sluice Valves at a cost of £8-16-61/2 each.

...resolved that one Sluice Valve be fixed by Mr Webster near the basin at the price named and if satisfactory, that 2 others be fixed one in New Road and the other in Main Street.

### **4<sup>th</sup> March 1930**

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Electric Power Co informing them that the lighting of the street lamps was not satisfactory.

That 2 new Sluice Valves be fixed as follows, one opposite Mr J B Walker's house and one opposite the Schools and that a new Flush Valve be fixed at the Green.

That precepts as follows be signed on the Ashbourne Rural District Council

Burials £55 for year ended 31/3/31

Lighting £66-10-0 for year ended 31/3/31

It was resolved to consider the question of the Review of County Districts at a later meeting.

Sanction was given to a street collection in connection with the May Day Festival.

A letter from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council was allowed to lie on the table.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the county Surveyor with regard to the dangerous narrowness of the Main Street near the Post Office.

### **8<sup>th</sup> April 1930 – Annual General Meeting**

A letter was received from the County Surveyor stating that Main Street, Middleton-by-Wirksworth, is included, with others, in a long list of improvements to be considered by the County Council.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Electric Power Co asking that the lamp at the Basin should be raised.

Mr J R Birley – appointed Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Mr H S Flint – Vice Chairman

Mr D Slack – Treasurer

Messrs J B Walker and J Slack be appointed as Representatives on the Joint Charities Committee.

Messrs J R Birley and D Slack appointed as Representatives on the Rating Committee of the Ashbourne R.D.C.

Mr J R Mountford be re-appointed Clerk at a salary of £4 pa and that Mr Harrison be re-appointed Water Bailiff.

After a lengthy discussion... it was unanimously resolved That this Parish Council is in favour of amalgamation with the Wirksworth Urban District, conditional upon the consent and confirmation of a Parish Meeting being obtained. It was resolved that a Parish Meeting be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1930 at 8pm.

### **30<sup>th</sup> April 1930**

This was a Parish Meeting duly convened to consider the following resolution of the Parish Council dated the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1920 "That this Parish Council is in favour of amalgamation with the Wirksworth Urban District, conditional upon the consent and confirmation of a Parish Meeting being obtained."

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting and the Chairman explained the position of the Parish under the Local Government Act, 1929. After some discussion, Mr H Killer proposed and Mr E Wheeldon seconded "That this Parish Meeting is in favour of amalgamation with the Urban District of Wirksworth.

The proposition on being put to the meeting was carried by 19 votes to 5.

### **5<sup>th</sup> June 1930**

The Clerk read a letter from the Ashbourne R.D.C. stating terms upon which Mr Key was prepared to supply water to the Parish of Middleton from the Dunsley Springs. The Council was of opinion that the terms were too stringent and the Clerk was instructed to endeavour to arrange an interview with Mr Key in the hope of obtaining better terms.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Ashbourne R.D.C. on the following points:-

1. To request the Sanitary Inspector to test the capacity of certain sprints near the Reservoirs
2. To ask the Sanitary Inspector if he can trace the reason for tar in the water supplying the lower end of the village
3. To ascertain from the Clerk the present position with regard to the water in Hillside

It was decided to ask the Derby Postmaster whether the telephone box in the Post office can be made more private.

It was decided to offer the Water Lots Land to Mr Jos Spencer at an annual rent of £1.

That the Ashbourne R.D.C. be asked to build a further 6 or 8 houses at Middleton under the Housing Act 1924. Providing that such houses could be let at rents similar to or less than the houses previously erected by the Council.

It was decided to ask the Rural District Council to take steps to prevent the improper use of the tip and the road thereto.

### **24<sup>th</sup> July 1930**

A letter was received from the Ashbourne R.D.C. with regard to the Hillside Water and the Clerk was instructed to write saying that the Parish Council were very strongly of the opinion that the Hopton Wood Stone Firms should be given a definite time in which, either to restore the Hillside Water or to make a substantial contribution towards the cost of a new supply.

It was decided to let the Water Lots Land to Mr J Spencer at a rent of £1 per annum.

The action of the Vice Chairman in having a new flush valve fixed at Rise End was confirmed.

The terms of Mr Key for supplying water to the Parish from the Dunsley Springs were again considered. After careful consideration... It was unanimously resolved that the revised conditions of Mr Key (the principle amendment being a reduction of the rent to £40 pa) be accepted subject to the following conditions.

1. Draft agreement to be submitted to Parish Council
2. Application to be made to the Unemployment Grants Committee
3. Mr Wheeldon's estimate of the cost of the works to include for proper provision for dealing with the overflow (if any) from the reservoirs.

### **September 9<sup>th</sup> 1930**

The Chairman expressed his sincere regret at the continued enforced absence of Mr Birley owing to illness and his hope that Mr Birley might speedily be restored to complete health.

The Clerk read a letter from the district Manager, Post office Telephones, stating that suitable accommodation did not exist at the Sub Post office for a silence cabinet.

A letter was received from the Ashbourne R.D.C. re the offer of the Wirksworth U.D.C. to receive the sewage of Middleton-by-Wirksworth into its system. The question was raised as

to the length of sewer from the Wirksworth boundary to the existing sewer (which length is not included in the scheme submitted) and the Parish Council were strongly of the opinion that the Ilkeston & Heanor Water Board should either pay the whole of this expense or make a contribution towards the cost of the work....Resolved

That this Parish Council do agree to the terms offered by the Wirksworth U.D.C. for receiving the sewage of the Parish, the terms being:-

The Wirksworth Council to raise the necessary loan

The annual Loan charges & Maintenance costs to be apportioned Ashbourne R.D.C. 80%, Wirksworth U.D.C. 20%.

Subject to a definite undertaking being given by the Ilkeston & Heanor Water Board that a contribution of £500 will be made by them to the Scheme, regardless of the question of the Bye Laws.

The Parish Council raised no objection to a Scheme submitted by the Charity Commissioners in respect of the Church Hall.

It was decided to ask the Derbyshire Education Committee to arrange a series of Evening Lectures on Horticulture.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Jas Birley and Miss N Birley re arrears of Water Rates.

It was decided to ask the Electric Power Co:-

1. Whether street lighting could commence earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> September, the date in the agreement.
2. Whether some reduction in charge can be made, or alternatively
3. Whether 3 extra lamps (one in Chapel Lane and 2 in Water Lane) can be erected without additional charge to the Parish.

Page 85 not photographed – need to check

### **6<sup>th</sup> November 1930**

A letter was received from Mr Thomas stating that the Ashbourne R.D.C. had agreed to the terms of the Wirksworth U.D.C. It was decided to ask the Rural District Council to approach the Wirksworth U.D.C & enquire whether the cost of the extra length of sewer at Rise End could be included as part of the joint cost for which a loan was being raised by that authority.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Derbyshire Education Committee and enquire whether further evening lectures can be held in the new year.

A copy of the Revenue a/c & Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 1930 in connection with the Anthony Gell's Almshouses Charity of Anthony Bunting was received from Mr A J Marsden (Clerk).

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Clerk to the County Council and the County Surveyor with regard to road maintenance in Middleton & the widening of the Main Street. In

connection with the suggested widening it was decided to offer a small portion of the Green if required for widening purposes.

The sum of £8 was received from Bagshaw's Charity for distribution in Middleton.

Permission was given to Mr G E Brace to lay a water service into his house.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February 1931**

A letter was read from Mr J R Birley agreeing to retain the Chairmanship of the Parish Council until the Annual General Meeting.

The Clerk was asked to arrange, if possible, for 2 lectures on Horticulture in April next.

The Clerk reported that no communication had been received from the County Council with regard to the suggested widening of the Main Street. It was also pointed out, that the main road through the village was in a very bad state of repair and the Clerk was directed to make strong representations on the matter to the County Surveyor, the Clerk to the County Council and the County Councillor for the Division.

A letter was received from Mr S Buckley with regard to a nuisance arising from boys playing on the Council's land near his house. Mr Walker undertook to see Mr Jepson as to the bricking up, repairing or providing a new gate to the land.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue objecting to the payment of Schedule "A" tax on the Council's water grounds.

It was decided to write to the Postmaster, Derby, protesting against the early clearance of letters at the Middleton Post Office.

It was resolved to write to the Ashbourne R.D.C. on the following points:-

1. Bad state of repair of The Lanes
2. Council's request for more houses, to which request there had been no response.

The sum of 15/- was received from John Taylor's Charity for distribution in the Parish.

### **9<sup>th</sup> March 1931**

Ten nomination papers were received and found to be in order and voting then took place by show of hands to be as follows:-

Harry Speake Flint – 30

Daniel Slack -30

Ernest Wheeldon – 27

George Edward Brace – 23

Robert Oldfield – 22

Thomas Buxton Walker – 18

Job Brooks – 16

Charles Lionel Doxey – 14

Josiah Slack – 12

Harold Killer – 9

A poll was demanded by Mr Doxey but was not supported by the requisite 5 Electors and the Chairman declared Messrs H S Flint, D Slack, Ernest Wheeldon, F E Brace, R Oldfield and T B Walker to be duly elected Parish Councillors.

A vote of thanks and appreciation to Mr J R Birley for his long and faithful service as a Parish Councillor and Chairman was proposed by Mr D Slack, seconded by Mr Flint and warmly endorsed by those present.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March 1931**

The Clerk was instructed to press the Rural District Council for a reply to several letters and requests for more houses for Middleton.

That Precepts be signed on the Ashbourne R.D.C as follows:-

Burials £27-0-0

Lighting £33-5-0

The Clerk was directed to write to the Derbyshire Rural Community Council enquiring what grants were available for the provision of playing fields.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> April 1931 – Annual meeting**

The following appoints for the ensuing year were unanimously made:-

Chairman Mr H S Flint

Vice Chairman Mr D Slack

Treasurer Mr D Slack

Representatives on Joint Charities Committee Messrs D Slack and T B Walker

Rural Rating Committee:- Messrs T B Walker and E Wheeldon

Clerk Mr J R Mountford (Salary £4 pa)

Water Bailiff Mr J Harrison (Salary £10 pa)

A letter (dated 2nd April 1931) was received from the Clerk to the Ashbourne R.D.C. stating that the Housing Committee had decided to recommend the District council to erect six further houses in Middleton-by-Wirksworth.

A letter was read from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council with regard to playing fields, village activities, etc. The Clerk was asked to try and arrange a public meeting with a view to forming a branch of the county library in Middleton.

The Clerk was also instructed to write to Mr C L Doxey suggesting a meeting between Representatives of the Recreation Ground Committee and the Parish Council on the question of the provision of playing fields, the Parish Council being of the opinion that the existing Recreation Ground is too far from the village to meet adequately its needs.

That Mr Joseph Harrison be appointed as Cemetery Caretaker at a salary of £13 per annum, payable quarterly, the duties (which include the keeping clean and in order of the Burial Grounds and Buildings) to commence as from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1931.

The Clerk was directed to write to the Rural District Council protesting against the appointment of a non-inhabitant as Rate Collector for the Parish.

The following account was passed for payment

Derbyshire & Notts Electric Power Co £33-5-0.

### **9 June 1931**

A letter was received from the Clerk to the Ashbourne R.C.C. stating that the present collector of rates in the Parish was giving every satisfaction in the performance of his duties. No further action was taken.

A letter was received from the Recreation Ground committee declining to meet the Parish Council on the question of the provision of playing fields.

The Postmaster, Derby, wrote giving particulars of the later collection of letters at Middleton. This was considered satisfactory.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Joseph Harrison asking him to mow the grass in the Cemetery as soon as possible.

The Clerk was also directed to write to Mr Colin Spencer informing him that complaints had been received that his fowl were allowed to run about on land at the moor belonging to the Parish, and to warn Mr Spencer that he must immediately, either take precautions to prevent the fowl straying on to the land, or he must make written application to the Council for the necessary permission and fence the fowls in.

It was resolved that the question of the supervision of the erection of headstones &c and the placing of inscriptions on gravestones be left in the hands of Messrs G E Brace and T B Walker.

The Members of the Parish Council agreed to meet to view the old P.M. Schoolroom & discuss the possibility of its being used as a Parish Hall.

The question of playing fields was discussed but no definite action taken.

**28th July 1931**

It was reported that the Primitive Methodist Chapel was not suitable as a Parish Hall.

A letter was received from the Clerk to the Ashbourne R.D.C. stating that an Unemployment Grant was not available for the Rise End to Wirksworth Sewerage Scheme. The Clerk was instructed to reply that it had always appeared that the Parish Council had been forced by outside authorities into this Scheme & there was no option but to agree to proceed with the work at an early date.

It was decided to agree to a supply of water for a W.C. to be erected by Mr S Spencer.

**29<sup>th</sup> September 1931**

Letters were received from the Rural Community Council and the Derbyshire Council re Evening Classes and it was unanimously decided to hold a Parish Meeting in the near future to discuss the formation of a branch of the Rural Community Council.

The Cemetery Caretaker was authorised to obtain 7lbs of paint for the Cemetery buildings &c.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the County Surveyor complaining of the bad state of repair of the road surface of the Main Street, also to draw his attention to the accident which occurred near the Post Office on Sunday Sept 20<sup>th</sup> and to remind the County Surveyor of his promises to consider the widening of the main road through Middleton.