

April 1934

Public Enquiry

In pursuance of the directions of the
Dowryham R. A. C. a Public Enquiry was
held in the School on Friday evening
the 20th day of April 1934. pursuant to
Notices published in the Parish to enquire
into the following matters.

I Water Supply of the Parish

II Public Right of Way.

III The road leading off Church Lane

There were present representing the Rural
District Council Mr. W. A. Buckenham Mr.
Water Lemmon, Mr. S. J. Wood, Mr. J. Cuthbert
& Mr. Hynd (Clerk)

There were present Messrs L. J. Hawkins
J. Smith, H. Hall, A. Nelson, W. Clarke
E. Marks, J. Cooper, R. Robinson, C. Savage
Principal property owners & occupiers &
Thirty other parishioners

In the absence of Mr. Stocks Vice Chairman
of the Council who was unavoidable absent
Mr. W. A. Buckenham presided

Mr. Buckenham briefly explained the object
of the meeting & called upon the Clerk
to deal with the matter in detail.

Public Right of Way

The Clerk (Mr. W. J. Hynd) said they would
deal with the question of Rights of Way
in dispute first. He pointed out that if
the matter could not be amicably adjusted
legal proceedings must ensue which might
involve considerable expense. He then read
his Report on the Footpath made to the
Council on the 5th day of October 1933
and the evidence obtained on the 8th day of

of the preliminary meeting of Inspection held several months ago. & called upon Messrs Stimpson & Cooper to state if the desired to withdraw or amplify the statements they had made and signed. Both these gentlemen adhered to their statements & in reply to questions by Mr. Hawkins Mr. Stimpson further stated that the path used to go both sides of the fence dividing the Cottage field & Mr. Hawkins' field & the Public could go over either pasture field.

Rev. C. Beloe the former Rector used the path every year and went through the gardens once a year for twenty years to maintain the public right. Thus he did with out any interruption or objection by anyone. The Cottages were built 25 years ago people used the footpaths over 40 years and Mr. Thornton used it to get to Church. There were rails on the field where the Cottages are and either path was used according to the crops. Mr. Stimpson stated he had worked on the field where the Cottages are 60 years ago. Mr. Hawkins' field is known as Top Common & Mr. Hall's field Horse Close Mr. Hawker laid them down to pasture. Mr. Stimpson said the Public stepped over into Top Common field. The path was V shaped. From dividing fence between the two fields & also at Church end. & both sides of V's used for past 20 years without any interruption.

Mr. Hawkins stated that he did not wish to dispute any right the Parish legally possessed to-day but that he could find no mention of the Path in the Parish Records and maintained that the path if such right existed passed over Horse Close & this was consistent with the direction of the path over Mr. Marks' field. So far as his field was concerned he stated he purchased it in 1916 as Charity Land, & as a layman he always understood that no right could be obtained over Charity Land as the Charity could not dedicate a right of way. He asked the Clerk could a right be obtained against a Charity & the Clerk without committing himself pointed out that according to the evidence for over 40 years past the right had existed without denial or interruption Mr. Hawkins maintained that the stile was on Horse Close & not on Lops Common but Mr. Stimpson replied that he stepped over a low rail on Lops Common.

Mr. Stafford Procter & others present condemned Rev. Beloe's annual pilgrimage to maintain the right. Mr. E. Marks having also stated that he had no wish to do away with rights of way which properly existed & hoped if they were established proper stiles would be erected by the Parish to protect the fences. This was received with applause & approval by the Meeting.

Mr. Marks called Mr. C. Savage to support the non-existence of a Public Right of way. He stated that the public only used the way by permission of the Landlords who did not object. But beyond the objections referred to in Messrs Strimbsom & Coopers written evidence he had not heard of any other objection to the user.

He concluded the enquiry as to the right of way & Mr. Hawkins thanked the Chairman for the courtesy extended to him.

Church Road to the Cottages

The question of the Church Road to the Cottages was then dealt with. The Clerk produced Mr. Parrott's book showing the Parish Roads taken over & repaired by the County. No evidence of repair by the Rural D. C. was forthcoming but it was decided that the length of road from Church gate to Smith's land be measured by Mr. Milson & Mr. Marks to determine if the road to the Cottages was included in the measurement. The measurements given by Messrs Milson & Marks are 5 furlongs 5 chains & 50 yards & thus as near as may be corresponds with the Clerk Mr. J. S. Parrott's records in his book as made in 1895 & added thereto in 1913.

Water Supply

The question of water supply was then dealt with & the Clerk read out his Report to the R. D. C. & also a list of Wells in the Parish. He pointed out that the R. D. C. would expect owners to exhaust their resources for furnishing their own lengths with water before appealing to the R. D. C. This produced from those present decided acquiescence. The Clerk also pointed out the fact that the supply of water by the R. D. C. if required would produce an expense on the Consumers & the ratepayers of the Parish & informed the Meeting that the matter would be considered by the Council's engineer. The impression gained from the Meeting was that if the Landlords carried out their obligations no shortage of water would arise. This concluded the Enquiry.

June 10
1934

The Annual Parish meeting was held
in the School on Monday June 10.

The minutes of the last Parish meeting were
read & confirmed Also the Report
of the Public Enquiry re Water Supply
Public Right of Way & the Repair of Church
Lyme.

Present Rev Talbot. Mr Marks Mr Robinson
Mr. Milson Mr. E. Pettit Mr. H. Clarke and
Others. including Mr J. Hall & H. Hall
Mr Marks proposed & Mr. Milson seconded
that a map of the Parish ~~be carried that~~
~~not~~ be purchased. This was carried To be
kept at the House of the Chairman & every
Parishioner has the right to see it

The meeting thought that the Report on the
Public Enquiry on the Right of Way was
indefinite. Mr Marks proposed & Mr. Milson
seconded that Mr. Arnold be written to ask
if the Right of Way had been established
This the Chairman promised to do

Rev Talbot brought to the notice of the
meeting the dirty state of the War Memorial
This was Parish property, & the Parish thought
to have it cleaned. The meeting agreed it
was Parish Property but no definite
Scheme was set on foot to have it cleaned
This concluded the Business

John Hall
Chairman