

Lamyatt Matters

Lamyatt Parish history – *from the Parish meeting minutes*

Introduction

Note that whilst the village is called Lamyatt, spelt with two 't's, the wider parish area is Lamyat, one 't'

At the time of the establishment of the Lamyat parish meeting in 1894, the population in Lamyat was around 180. (1891 Census). The parish then, as now included all the outlying properties and farms such as those at Arthurs Bridge. Lamyatt already had its 'National School' in the building now used as the village hall. The original school building was built in 1829. The village and farms sourced water from various springs and wells, and few in the village would have been educated beyond primary school level with the main occupation being agricultural labourer.

The Local Government Act 1894 established the rules for Parish Meetings, Councils and Committees.

Powers and duties

The parish councils were given various powers and duties including:

- Appointment of overseers of the poor
- Maintaining and repairing closed churchyards
- Holding or maintaining parish property (including village greens, allotments, recreation grounds) for the benefit of the inhabitants
- Election of allotment managers
- Acquisition of buildings for parish purposes
- Acquisition of land for allotments, public walks and recreation grounds

Expenditure

Parish councils were generally limited to a rate of three pence in the pound, although this could be increased to sixpence in the pound with the permission of the parish meeting.

Rights of way

No right of way could be extinguished or diverted without the permission of both the parish and rural district council. Parish councils could take over the maintenance of public footpaths within their parish, other than those along the edge of highways.

Charitable trusts

Where a charitable trust (other than an ecclesiastical charity) existed in a parish, the Charity Commissioners could provide for the parish council to become the trustees. Annual accounts of the charity were to be laid before the Parish Meeting.

All excerpts below are taken from the Lamyatt Parish Minute Book – *any comments in italics*.



Extracts from the Lamyat Parish Minute book

1894-1918

4th December 1894 - First Lamyat Parish Meeting - 30 attended. Election of Sidney Martin as Chairman. Election of Rev H. Guyon as the 'way warden' Proposal to apply to County Council to establish a Parish Council - 11 votes for, 14 against: lost. (*In parishes with more than 100 but less than 300 population, the parish meeting could request the county council to make an order to establish a parish council.*)

5th March 1895 - Chairman requested "to bring before the Sanitary Authority the unsatisfactory state of the taps and water pipes" (*the village may have been served by various pumps in specific locations, inc one by the school, and probably one by the old shop*). Chairman "should represent to the Board of Guardians the inconvenience of the present system of obtaining medical orders and to suggest that some person in the parish be empowered to give them in cases of emergency."

26th March 1895 - election of two 'overseers' (Mr Owens & Mr Norman) and an 'assistant overseer' (Mr Harrold) to the parish "at the same salary £5". (*Overseers and Asst overseers would have various tasks representing the Parish and carrying out some practical tasks – e.g. the overseers would probably have played a role in relation to the Shepton Mallet work house and Poor law support given in the parish*). Request for the way warden "to bring before the Highway Board the unsatisfactory condition of the pound and to ask them to put it in repair." (*The village pound for animals was on the corner of the triangle adjacent to where the solid bus-shelter is now located*). (Note- the Rev Guyon chaired most Parish Meetings from this date onwards until 1913).

20th March 1896 - "Proposed ...that Mr Norman...and Mr John Cox...be overseers - carried unanimously."; "Mr Kelly stated he had applied to the present overseer for a medical order and could not obtain one and proposed....that the Overseer for the ensuing year be asked to issue them."; Mr Norman proposed "that the Parish Pound walls and gates be repaired - carried by 6 to 3"; Mr Kelly proposed "that the Rev Guyon be asked to keep the enclosed Green in front of Mr Owens house clean and in good order - lost 5 to 4." Mr Harrold's salary as Assistant overseer raised to £7.

26th October 1896 - "the attention of the District Council be called to the condition of the Pound"; Mr Baker proposed "the attention of the District Council be called to the condition of the footpath from his yard doors to the gate of the field called 'Lipgate'.

22nd March 1897 - "Proposed ... That Mr John Cox and Mr Charles Baker be appointed overseers for the ensuing year - carried unanimously."; "Rev Guyon reported that the District Council declined repairing the Pound and the footpaths." "Mr Paul Garland complained of the state of the road called 'Portway Hill'. The Chairman stated he had drawn the attention of the Surveyor and he had promised to give it his attention". "Precept was ordered to be drawnfor the sum of one pound one shilling and one penny." (*The parish raised a precept or rate from every householder- this would have paid for the work by the overseers*)

27th October 1897- "call the attention of the surveyor to the state of Portway Hill."; Mr Cox proposed "that the attention of the Sanitary Officer be called to the state of the School closet, which found no seconder (but) the Rev Guyon and Mr Jennings two of the school managers promised to have the closet seen to." Mr Cox proposed "that the Rev Guyon be asked not to feed the Green by the Pound with pigs which was put to the meeting non voting."

19th March 1898 - Mr Charles Baker & Mr Henry Jennings proposed as overseers - carried. Mr Park called attention to the state of the footpath leading to the junction and the Welch Cottages Highway & Mr Norman's Orchard." ;"Mr Baker proposed that the Surveyor's attention be drawn to the water which overflows the road from North Town Gate carried."; "A precept for £1-4-7 for expenses for the past year was ordered by the meeting."; "Mr Kelly proposed that Mr Rose's attention be called to the state of the closet belonging to the cottages occupied by Jeneway and Hole carried."

3rd December 1898 - "Rev Guyon reported that the culvert at the bottom of his orchard has been ordered to be repaired by the Surveyor."; "It was proposed...that the state of the footpath called Darkie Lane be brought to the notice of the District Council."

6th March 1899 - "Mr Henry Jennings and Mr Richard Griffin be overseers for the ensuing year."

30th March 1900 - "Mr Richard Griffin and Mr William Corp be overseers."; "Proposed ...that the salary of the assistant overseer be reduced to £6 per year."

4th March 1901 - "Mr William Corp and Mr Thomas Clothier be overseers."; "Mr Arnold called attention to the footpath between Mr Luff's cottages and Bacon Close."

24th March 1902 - "Proposed that Mr Clothier and Mr Shepherd be overseers." Not carried as amendment "that Mr Clothier and Mr Jack(ard?) be overseers - carried 3 to 2.";Mr Arnold called attention to the footbridge between Bacon Close and Mr Luff's cottages and it was decided...the chairman to write to the owners." ; "proposed that a handrail be placed on the footbridge in Darky Lane."; " proposed that the attention of the Rural District be called to the neglect of the road through the village which was supposed to have been stoned last year."; "proposed that the salary of the assistant overseer be reduced to £5; amendment that the salary remain the same - lost 5 to 3."

28th April 1902 - "This meeting was called on account of Mr Harrold declining to accept the reduced salary as proposed and carried at the last meeting."; "proposed that the salary ... be £7."; "proposed ...to advertise for an assistant overseer this was put to the meeting 3 only voting for it."; " the

former proposition was then put and carried 8 voting for it. A poll was demanded by Mr Arnold which after some discussion was withdrawn."

18th March 1903 - "Proposed that Mr Rex and Mr Norman be the overseers - carried";

3rd June 1903 - "Mr Jennings proposed that Mr Richard Norman be elected School Manager under sec 6. - (1) of the Education Act 1902"; "Amendment proposed by Mr Kelly that Mr Sydney Arnold be elected as manager, which was put to the meeting. 3 voting"; " Mr Jennings proposition was then put to the meeting. 3 voting. On account of there being equal votes, the Chairman (Rev Guyon) gave his casting vote in favour of Mr Richard Norman, who was declared duly elected." (*The role of School Manager would have been to ensure that the building and its staff etc operated effectively – at this time in the early 20th century there might have been a Headmistress/master and a teacher at the school – one or both of which would be living across the road in what is now old Rectory Cottage. The School had been built and established in 1829 as one of a wave of National Schools*).

14th March 1904 - "Proposed that Mr Richard Norman and Mr Richard Ovens be overseers - carried."; "proposed that the attention of the owner the Welch be called to the dangerous state of the well in a field."; "proposed that the attention of the Surveyor be called to the bad state of the orchard path in Barton orchard, Parrys Hayes, and Darky Lane."

22nd March 1905 - "Proposed that Mr Ovens and Mr Tom Shepherd be overseers - carried."

21st March 1906 - "Proposed that Mr Tom Shepherd and Mr Edward Look be elected overseers - carried."

19th February 1907 - "The following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously 'The inhabitants of Lamyat do not consider that an Isolation Hospital is at necessary for this district.' A copy of the resolution was sent to the clerk to the RDC (*Rural District Council*)."

4th March 1907 - "Proposed that Mr Look and Mr Clothier be overseers for the year."; "Mr Baker called attention to the new gates which had been securely placed by the Railway on his 12 acre where there is a footpath and wished the attention of the Railway authorities called to the matter."; "Mr Norman called the attention of the meeting to the advantage of George's (?) hole pond for his and other stock and wished that it should remain as at present; after some discussion as to the nuisance caused by cows being perpetually driven to and fro at milking time the meeting agreed."

2nd May 1907 - "Proposed that Mr Norman be (*School*) Manager."

16th December 1907 - "The circulars received from the ...County Council referring to the Small Holdings and allotment acts were read and the following applications were received: Small Holdings - JG Park, labourer, 5 years term; Quincey (?), labourer, 10 years; Richards, labourer, 10 years; Newport, labourer, 5 years. The allotments - Charles Beilby made an application for 5 acres of allotments."; (*smallholdings/allotments were established at the top of Portway hill in the field adjacent to where the barn currently stands*) "It was reported that the lower path boundary from Lamyat to Mr Griffins needed attention and that Leggye (?) Lane should be repaired."

2nd March 1908 - "Proposed that Mr Baker and Mr Thomas Clothier be elected overseers for the ensuing year." "Proposed that the Chairman be requested to call the attention of the Wincanton RDC to the state of the main road from Bruton to Shepton through Wyke with a hope of a speedy and permanent improvement."

27th April 1908 - "Proposed that Mr Henry Jennings be overseer in the place of Mr Clothier deceased."

23rd March 1909 - "Mr Henry Jennings and Mr Richard Griffin were elected as overseers"; "A voluntary contribution of 1/10 was made to cover printing notices."; "The Chairman stated that he had paid for repairing stepping stones for Darkey Lane."; "The bad state of the roads was discussed it was resolved that the Chairman call the attention of the Surveyor."

21st June 1909 - "Proposed that Mr F Clothier be school manager."; "Proposed that Mr A. Baker be manager."; "The Chairman then put the two names to the meeting and the following result - two voting for Mr Clothier and five for Mr Baker."

15th March 1910 - "Proposed that Mr Richard Griffin and Mr Edward Rose be overseers."; "Mr Baker called the attention of the meeting to the rating of Mrs Ovens House & Premises."; "Proposed that Mr Baker be school manager."

22nd March 1911 - "Proposed that Mr Edward Rose and Mr Tom Shepherd be overseers."; "Proposed that the Surveyors attention be called to the bad state of the road from the school up Parkway."

26th October 1911 - "Meeting to elect School Managers for the Parish and select names of suitable persons for the Education Committee to appoint their Managers from." ; "Proposed that Mr Jennings and Mr Creeves be the Parish Managers."; "The Education Committee - selected Mrs H Jennings and Messrs Ryall, Ovens, and Clothier as their representatives."

18th March 1912 - "Proposed that Mr Tom Shepherd and Mr William Ryall, be overseers."; "Proposed that Mr TW Ovens be assistant overseer. Proposed that Mr RF King be assistant overseer. The Chairman put the two names to the meeting with the following result, 17 voting for Mr Owens and 6 for Mr King. Mr Owens duly elected.; Proposed that the salary of the assistant overseer be £5-5 per annum - Carried and the Assistant overseer be allowed the sum of 10/- for making valuation list."; ".The following committee were appointed to report on the footpath leading to Evercreech Junction: Messrs Jennings, Cross (?), Ovens, Squires, Shepherd."; "Various complaints about pavements to attend to."; "Proposed that the last half years salary to the assistant overseer be apportioned as follows, 3/4 of half year £2-12..6 to the late FW Harrold; 1/4 of half year 17.6 to his successor."

4th March 1913 - "Proposed that Mr W.B. Ryall and Mr W.M. Clothier be overseers. Carried."; "Election of two school managers for the Parish. Proposed - Mr Jennings; Mr Look; Rev Guyon; Mrs Guyon. The Chairman put the four names to the meeting in order with the results 16, 16, 17 and 17. Mr Jennings demanded a Poll."; "The Assistant Overseer applied for expenses for journeys to the Bank - 'Disallowed'. A voluntary contribution of 3/3 was made to cover expenses printing..."; "Mr Park complained of the dangerous state of a well close to the footpath in field belonging to Mr J. Welch. Also to the footpath in newclose leading from Lamyat to Milton."; "Proposed that the Assistant Overseer be allowed one penny per line for making the Valuation list. 120 lines 10/-."

11th March 1913- "Copy of Notice: Notice is hereby given that I have today received from the Clerk to the County Council answers to the inquiries as to the regulations regarding the election of school managers at a Parish Meeting. He tells me that if a Poll is demanded, this must be done by five persons at least. I have therefore to declare the two persons who received most votes at the Parish Meeting duly elected. Signed Rev H Guyon."

28th March 1913 - "To decide on representatives of the Parish for Managers of the Council School as the matter was not settled at the last meeting on March 4th."; "The Chairman (Rev Guyon) explained that the Meeting had no power to make any alterations in the school managers as that matter was properly disposed of at the Annual Meeting. Those appointed held office for three years. And as there being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting Closed."

14th April 1913 - "A resolution to rescind the appointment of Mr & Mrs Guyon as school managers."; "The Chairman (Rev Guyon) explained that the Meeting had no power to make any alteration to the school manager as the matter was properly disposed of at the Annual Parish Meeting."; "Mr James Squires complained of the bad state of the road up Portway Hill, also the bridges on footpaths leading from Main road through orchard to his fields."

15th August 1913 - "To elect two representatives for the Parish as school managers"; "Upon the absence of Rev Guyon, Mr Ryall was voted to take the chair."; "Proposed that Mr Baker be one of the school managers...16 voting; Proposed that Mr Michell be a school manager...2 voting; Proposed that Mr Jennings be a school manager - 18 voting. Mr Baker and Mr Jennings were declared duly elected."; "Messrs Michell, Jennings, Ford were proposed to be sent for the Education committee as our representative - Mr Jennings was finally elected."

23rd March 1914 - Mr Ryall Chairman. " proposed that Mr W. Clothier and Mr Southcombe be overseers for the year."; "Mr Gilham complained if the bad state of Bonsford Lane, and Mr Jennings promised to look at it."

22nd March 1915 - Mr Ryall Chairman. " Proposed that Mr Southcombe and Mr Porter be overseers for the year."; "Various complaints to hedges and drains in the village."

27th March 1916 - Rev Barnes Chairman. "Proposed that Mr Porter and Mr Ovens be appointed overseers."; "The Rev Barnes informed the meeting that he disclaim any right to the ownership of Lamyat Park as it is not included in the Glebe terrier. It appears the late incumbent (Rev Guyon) claimed Lamyat Park as private property. The meeting suggested the Clerk should write to Mr Napier being the principal land owner as concerning the ownership."; "Mr Park complained of the bad state of the road in Portway Hill."; " Mr Goodland complained of the water rising and running over the road by Ptway damaging the road and dangerous in frosty weather. The Chairman promised to speak to the District Council on both complaints."; "Complaints have been received by the Chairman of a smell from a ditch the property of Mr Napier it was proposed that the Chairman and Mr Ryall and Mr Jennings should inspect the ditch."

11th May 1916 - "Proposed that Mr Jennings be appointed as Trustee for the Welch Almshouse Charity."

30th Oct 1916 - "Proposed that Mr Baker be appointed overseer to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr Porter."

9th January 1917 - "To discuss the dangerous state of the footbridge over river between the Parishes of Lamyat and Ditchheat."; "Proposed that the assistant overseer write to the Surveyor concerning the matter."; "Proposed that the whole matter be placed in the hands of our District Councillor Mr Jennings."

26th March 1917 - "Proposed that Mr Ovens and Mr Baker be overseers."; "Re National Service - the Chairman read letters concerning the matter. The following officers were elected the Rev Barnes, Mr Jennings, Mr Kelly and Mr Ovens to act as clerk. A voluntary contribution of 2/7 was collected

towards payment of printers bill 4/-"; "National War Savings - Mr Claster and Dr Dix of Bruton addressed the meeting and explained the Scheme. A committee was elected."

22nd March 1918 - "Proposed that Mr Baker and Mr Jennings be overseers."; "Proposed that Mr Jennings bring the following items before the RDC Surveyor...the condition of the road at Portway Hill; the drain at Strap Gateway; Drain overflow from water tap (Chapel); Ditch overflowing road Dairy House field."

If anyone has any additional information e.g. about the role of the overseers; or of the use of the Pound; etc or indeed, any relevant photographs, then please let me know in order to add some relevant detail.

Further excerpts from the Parish Meeting minute book for the period from 1918 onwards to be added

Paul Chadwick