

Introduction

The first meeting of the Stokesley Rural District Council was held on 5 January 1895. Because the RDC covered a large area (Stokesley, Yarm, Great Ayton and the other Cleveland villages), specific mention of Great Ayton is not very frequent. In addition, district-wide matters, especially highways, take up a large part of the minutes. After going through the first six sets of minutes, see summaries below) it was decided not to attempt further transcriptions of the Stokesley RDC Minutes.

Stokesley Rural District Council Minutes 1895

Stokesley RDC Minute Book 1895 to 1898

DC/STY I ½

MIC 2488

The final membership of the Stokesley RSA (1893-94) was 12 people, with just one member from Ayton (William Winn).

5 January 1895 First Meeting of Rural District Councillors.

The full Council of 35 members is much larger than the old Stokesley RSA.

From Ayton there were George Dixon, William Winn and John Henry Simpson.

Name of Stokesley Rural District Council be adopted. William Winn is chairman, J T Wilson Vice Chairman.

Financial Committee of 12 appointed.

Penalty for non-acceptance of office of District Councillors be twenty shillings.

There will be triennial elections, the full council retiring together.

Meetings once a month at 1:00pm. Meetings being held immediately after the Board of Guardians.

2 February 1895

Clerk (Geo Gibson) appointed pro tem. Election expenses approved.

In the case of Great Ayton these were:

Gt Ayton £5..15..0 and Gt Ayton Parish Council also £5..15..00.

Carried that Parochial Committees be appointed for all parishes with a Parish Councillor. The Parochial Committee will be the Parish Council plus the RDC councillors representing that parish.

The clerks of the Parish Council will also be the clerks to the Parochial Committees.

The Great Ayton Parish Council at the start of 1895 membership was

William Heaviside, Frederick Robson, George Dixon junior, Robert Henry Simpson, William Hutchinson, John Pease Fry, John Nichols.

The Stokesley RDC members representing Ayton were George Dixon, William Winn and John Henry Simpson.

Proposed by Mr Geo Dixon and seconded by Mr Ralph Walton and carried unanimously that the plans respecting the scheme of drainage for the Parish of Great Ayton be referred to the Great Ayton Parochial Committee and that they be requested to consider the same and report their views thereon to the District Council at their next meeting.

They proposed that the Stokesley RDC had a seal, the selection be left in the hands of the chairman and vice chairman.

Proposed that the RDC strongly urge the County Council to continue the maintenance of the main roads by contracting with the various authorities in the district as being the cheapest and most efficient method. RDC request the County Council to make arrangements to hand over duties of Highway Authority to the RDC in April next.

RDC request County Council to use influence to add the seven parishes in the Middlesbrough Union and in the Stokesley Highway District to the Stokesley RDC as this council will suffer very much as a highway authority by the loss of these parishes.

2 March 1895

Memorial be sealed and sent to County Council praying that the seven parishes at present in Middlesbrough RDC (Acklam, Linthorpe, Stainton, Marton, Ingleby Barwich, Hemlington, Maltby) be added to Stokesley RDC and that clerk writes to each of these parishes asking for their support.

They want a report on the condition of the highways being added to the Stokesley RDC.

That notice be given to Thomas Biggins of Great Ayton that he remove his stable adjoining Mr Sidgwick's house.

Proposed by Mr G Dixon, seconded by Mr Simpson and carried unanimously that the report of the Great Ayton Parochial Committee be received and adopted by this Council and that the said Committee be authorised to advertise for competition designs for a drainage and disposal scheme for the village of Great Ayton including plans, sections, estimate and report and that a premium of twenty-five guineas be offered for such scheme as shall, in the opinion of Committee, be best suited to meet the requirements, such premium to be merged in commission should the successful competitor be engaged to carry out the works and that the said Committee be authorised to arrange all details for carrying into effect this resolution.

Dr Walmsley act as MO in place of Dr Yeoman who is ill.

16 March 1895

Meeting moves unanimously that the Standing Orders by Mr J Willis Davies be adopted at next meeting (these were probably laid down in the Local Government Act?)

30 March 1895

Meeting decides unanimously not to adopt the Standing Orders.

Consideration of SO be postponed to next meeting.

But then a move by Mr Clapham and James Gibson not to postpone, but then there is a counter move that Council do not adopt the Standing Orders.

They pay Dr Yeoman (MOH), Inspector of Nuisances Mease and Gibson (Returning Officer)

Organising a committee to meet the Middlesbrough Highways Board to pursue the issue of the seven parishes. They also want to report on Bilsdale and East Rounton as regards highways.

Mr Wilson gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that the meetings of the Rural District Council be held fortnightly and that the highways business be taken one meeting and sanitary matters the following meeting. Note the Poor Law Guardians are still meeting separately from the RDC, but the RDC is meeting either immediately before or immediately after the Guardians' Meeting.

George Dixon proposed a meeting with the Chairman of Highways Board, Chairman of Guardians, Chairman of District Council and Vice-Chairmen of each, and Mr George Dixon to consider the best way of conducting the business of the RDC, and that Mr G Dixon be convenor of the meeting. There is no comment in the minutes as to whether this was seconded or passed.

That Mr Bicknell's account be referred back to the Great Ayton Parochial Committee and that the clerk present at the next meeting the minute book containing the minute respecting this matter and any correspondence thereto.

The sanitary matters are left to the end of the meeting, but there isn't time to finish them and one matter stands over.

13 April 1895

Reports of Highways Committee are adopted. General Highways Business.

They have considered sections of the Local Government Act 1894 and the terms of section 12 of the Highways Act 1862, referring to the appointment of Highway Officers and position of different officers as represented by themselves and recommend:

That the existing Highways Officers be accepted as part of Stokesley RDC. This was apparently required by the Local Government Board.

Stokesley RDC wants each officer to financial statement and account of present financial position of each parish.

They want to appoint one clerk and one surveyor for all the parishes, and one treasurer.

The discussions with Middlesbrough about the seven parishes - Stokesley want funds transferred based on rateable value, but Middlesbrough want to base the funds transfer on the miles of road involved. The impasse is referred to the Local Government Board in London.

Negotiations with Middlesbrough over one steam roller (valued at £370) and two water carts.

Negotiations with Middlesbrough over apportioning the money Middlesbrough Highways owe - Stokesley want to base this on rateable value.

Highways budget sorted out. Tenders for highways materials in the *North Star* and the *Northern Echo*.

Tenders for manual labour let in the townships (ie locally).