

TOSTOCK CHRONICLE.

M A Y - 1955.

1. TOSTOCK is at this time faced with five problems. They are:-

- i The Graveyard and Graveyard Extension.
- ii The Village Hall.
- iii A Bus Shelter.
- iv The Village Green and the Leys.
- v Footpaths and Rights of Way.

2. The Graveyard and Graveyard Extension.

It is the Churchyard, but Graveyard is a better word because we all have a right to be buried there.

At the Parish Meeting on 14th March last, a resolution was passed that Captain Snare's most generous gift, the southern extension, 219 feet by 100 feet, should be accepted. This entails a wall or continuous fence 219 feet long. In addition fencing will be required each side of the wall to join it to the Churchyard. And, furthermore, we could not ask the Bishop to consecrate the extension whilst the existing Churchyard fencing is in its present state of decay.

At the Meeting Mr. A. Mulley made a grand offer to organise a voluntary Working Party to erect the wall and fencing, and save the expense of the labour costs.

The Parochial Church Council has appointed a Sub-Committee, consisting of Captain Errington, Mr. Grimwood and Mr. Reynolds, to examine ways and means; and to report to the Council at its next meeting.

The Council has also accepted the offer of Captain Errington, Mrs. Waylett and Mr. R. Mulley to raise the necessary funds. Mr. Mulley has therefore been co-opted onto the Graveyard Funds Sub-Committee.

3. The Village Hall.

On 26th February, 1955 a cheque for £707 was paid to our solicitors and on 1st April the property became the possession of the residents of Tostock, held in trust for them by the Charity Commissioners. Application was immediately made to the Ministry of Education for one third of £707, that being the first instalment of the approved grant. Thus we have the property and approximately £250 in hand.

A Parish Meeting was held on the 19th April and a management Committee meeting on 3rd May, 1955.

Mr. R. Mulley was elected Chairman.

Mr. Woodley " " Vice Chairman.

Captain Errington " Secretary and Treasurer.

Previous to the meeting some members had seen Mr. Reid, Secretary of the Rural Community Council. He advises us to make a comprehensive estimate, once and for all, and to submit it to the Ministry of Education, asking for one third grant. He says we are more likely to get a good grant this way than by asking piecemeal.

A very competent architect is giving, free of charge, his advice and plans for the adaptation of the old school to the requirements of a Village Hall. One essential seems to be an adequate small stage, for future money raising purposes. In the existing structure the stage

would be ten feet wide and the actors' heads would be scraping the top of the prscenium opening.

The complete alterations would probably entail an expenditure of £1000. Of this we have £250; the Ministry of Education would grant £330; and we could raise a loan. Perhaps, over a period, we might be given some donations to reduce the necessity of getting too deeply into debt.

Of course the above plans and expenditure would have to be approved at a Parish Meeting.

4. A Bus Shelter.

Drawings of a shelter of pleasing design and approved by the County Planning Committee have been obtained. Also the Deputy County Surveyor has been interviewed and the position of the shelter has been agreed upon. It would therefore be approved by the governing authorities without difficulty.

The Shelter would be of brick. The cost would be approximately £150. It is believed that the Rural District Council would shoulder a large proportion of this, on the Rates.

5. The Parish Council.

As the number of nominations for the Council did not exceed 7 we were able to avoid an Election. Tostock was thus saved approximately £18, i.e. the equivalent of a 4d or 5d Rate.

It must not be thought that the members of the Council wish to stay in office indefinitely. When the next election is due some of them, perhaps all, will want to retire in favour of new members, if that is the wish of the Parish.

6. Village Green, the Leys, Footpaths and Rights of Way.

These are the headaches of the Parish Council. Not so many years ago, Bob Finch's horse and someone's goose used to feed down the grass on the green. Now no-one even keeps a goat there. And in those days someone used to keep the Leys in good shape. And someone kept the footpaths clear of weeds and brambles. From time to time the annual Parish Meeting voted small sums for the repair of stiles on the Rights of Way. Now everything falls on the Parish Council who have practically no income. They can only keep the village tidy by imposing a burden on the Tostock ratepayers.

7. Voluntary Help.

An idea, germinated by Mr. A. Mulley's suggestion in relation to the Graveyard, and encouraged by the response it has received, that there are people of good will in Tostock who might form a Society for the improvement of our village, is going to be submitted to the Parish Council. Someone has suggested that it might be called Tostock Friendly Folks Society. There may be better names, but that sounds a good one. If approved by the Parish Council the Society might be organised to help in all the activities referred to above, particularly the Graveyard, the Village Hall, the Green and the Leys.

8. Finance. (Continued over the page.)

8. Finance.

In addition to voluntary help money is, of course, wanted. The order in which it seems to be most needed this year is as follows:-

1. The Graveyard.
2. The Village Hall.
3. The Bus Shelter.

The Graveyard Funds Sub-Committee is making a start forthwith and everyone will be asked to give between now and 31st December, whatever sum they feel they can. So far £50 has been guaranteed.

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