

January - 1956.

1. Momentous things have happened in Tostock since the Chronicle of last October. First, the Graveyard is completed and the extension has been consecrated. Then, incredible but true, in December men were seen clearing a site in the spinney which borders Church Road: at last the Council bungalows are under way. The third marvel was almost the greatest. With startling speed pipes were laid for the Main Water Supply. A machine, with a chain of buckets, tore along the roads: a gang, many of them Tostock men, laid the pipes and filled in the trench before you could say Jack Robinson.

It was a pity they did not do Flatt's Lane, but that was not their fault.

2. Graveyard Extension.

On Saturday, 19th November, the Right Rev. Harold Morris, Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich (not of Ipswich and St. Edmundsbury, which is what the Colchester Telephone Book calls him) consecrated the extension. It was a fine day and not unduly cold. Part of the service was said in the Church. Then, preceded by the Churchwardens and Rector, and followed by the congregation, the Bishop walked round the new boundary, finishing in the centre of the extension, where he completed the service.

Afterwards in the Village Hall there was a reception and many residents met the Bishop. His Lordship has the gift of making everyone feel cheerful. It was a happy day for all who came.

So the Graveyard is finished and one old resident is already laid to rest there. With the big tree in the middle, and the country scene around, it is a peaceful place. Tostock's Churchyard is worth keeping trim and tidy.

The Parochial Church Council will be given a detailed statement of the accounts. The total cost was £187.12.6d. In spite of many generous gifts, and the voluntary work of the Happy Gang, there was a deficit of £13.11.0d. Somebody will want to pay that off. The first offer will be accepted!

3. Council Bungalows.

The Thedwastre Rural District Council is building four bungalows on the site which is being cleared. People are asking what the rents and rates will be, and to whom the bungalows will be offered.

Rent and Rates When the bungalows have a main water supply, and cesspool or similar drainage, which they will have in due course, the rent will be 11/9 per week, except for Old Age Pensioners, who will pay 8/6 per week. In addition there are the Rates. These, last year, for similar bungalows were £5.13.4d. per half year.

Who gets the bungalows? At the moment nobody knows. Mr. Wilden, the Clerk of the District Council has the names of everyone who has applied for a Council House. When the bungalows are nearing completion, Captain Errington, Tostock's representative on the Council, will ask the Parish Council to say whom they recommend. Their selection will be forwarded to Mr. Wilden for consideration by the Housing Committee, who will discuss the matter and hear various points of view, including claims of persons outside the Parish.

An excellent resolution of the Council lays down that where the number of applicants exceeds the number of new dwellings, a Sub-Committee shall be appointed to visit a list of people selected by the Housing Committee, and make recommendations based on personal investigation. Finally the Housing Committee, with all the information in front of them, decide upon the allocation.

There can be no fairer way than that. Even so, everybody may not be satisfied.

4. Main Water in Tostock.

There are three questions that residents will be asking:-

- a. How much will it cost to link up with the main?
- b. How much is the annual charge for main water?
- c. Is a private householder compelled to link up when the main passes his door? If he does not, must he pay the water rate?

a. Cost of linking up.

Private houses. The District Council will carry out the work and charge the householder £10. for laying a pipe from the main to a stopcock within the boundary of his premises, where the distance is 30 feet or less. Over 30 feet the charge is increased according to the work done. From the stopcock onwards and into the house, it is the householders private concern; he employs his own plumber and pays for the work.

Council houses. Connecting up and installing a water supply inside the house is carried out by the District Council at the Council's expense. When the installation is complete the rent of the house is raised in accordance with the Council's schedule of rents.

b. Annual charge for Main Water. Both private and Council house occupiers are charged a Water Rate of 30/- a year, or 2/6 in the £ on the rateable value of the house, whichever is largest, if they are connected to the Main.

c. Must a householder link up. If his existing supply is pure he will not be compelled to link up. If a Council house tenant objects the Council will have to consider whether they can maintain the well supply as well as the main water.

5. Village Hall.

If an attempt were made to expound the financial problems which the Management Committee has had to solve, readers of this Chronicle would understand why the members of the Committee are looking harassed. Without Mr. Reid's help they would not have known what funds were available and what they could spend.

Briefly the situation is, that after paying outstanding bills, & allowing for the purchase of equipment, & presuming the receipt of certain grants from the Ministry of Education, the sum available should be approximately £ 240.

Minimum repairs and internal decorations require	£ 260.
Alterations to conform with Police Regulations require.	£ 50.
	<u>£ 310.</u>
	Subtract <u>£ 240.</u>
	<u>DEFICIT £ 70.</u>

This deficit is not so alarming as it looks because the money is not required immediately, but Tostock must put on its thinking cap; the money must be raised during the coming year.

In the meantime the Management Committee is proceeding cautiously. Only bare necessities are being carried out; which means the building will not be painted externally, and nothing can be done about the fence, which will continue to look forlorn and miserable.