

Minutes of Parish Meeting held at the School, Willand,
on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. C.W. Baker.

Vice Chairman: Mr. R. Salter.

42 Ratepayers in the Parish were present.

The Chairman explained that the meeting was called to discuss arrangements for Coronation celebrations. He expressed his satisfaction at the very representative number of persons present.

Formation of Committee.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee consisted of the Parish Council together with two representatives from each of the village organisations. The Committee so formed to have power to co-opt any additional persons it felt desirable.

After discussion this suggestion was put in the form of a resolution and was carried. It was further resolved to instruct the Clerk to proceed immediately with the notification of all the village organisations with a view to them nominating their representatives without delay.

Form of Celebrations.

The Chairman read from Parish Council Minutes the order of events which took place at the Coronation of King George VI, and he called upon the meeting to put forward suggestions as to the form that the celebrations should take in order that these suggestions could be considered by the Committee. The following suggestions were put forward:

1. A church service.
With regard to this the Vicar, who expressed himself willing to conduct a service, advised that the timing of it should be carefully looked into in order to avoid clashing with radio and television programmes, which might detract from the number of persons who would be present.
2. Tea for children and Old Age Pensioners.
3. Sports.
4. Maypole Dancing.
5. Mugs and/or Bibles for the children.
6. Evening entertainment taking the form of a Social together with Square Dancing.
7. Baby Show and Children's Fancy Dress Parade.
8. A Programme of races in Somerville Park.
9. A Comic Football Match.
10. Giant Bonfire.

It was suggested that the Devon County Council might be approached with a view to allowing the use of the School and grounds for events arranged.

It was further suggested that something of a more permanent nature should be done and in this respect the following suggestions were made:

1. To cover in the centre seat at Willand Moor to provide a shelter for the many old people who use it. It was emphasised that if this is done, a building which is worthy of the parish should be erected and that if possible costs kept down by erecting it with voluntary labour by local craftsmen.

2. To speed up the provision of a playing field or Recreation Ground and to arrange, if possible, for its opening on Coronation Day.

Raising of Funds.

Very considerable discussion took place on the question of raising the necessary funds.

Mr. A.T. Hawker explained to the meeting that under the Local Government Act, 1933, the Parish Council had power to spend up to a 4d. rate and if it was necessary to go over the 4d, this meeting, which was a Parish Meeting, could authorise the expenditure of up to another 4d rate, making a total of 8d altogether. It was pointed out that the Parish was already spending about a 3d rate and that if the meeting passed the necessary resolution, the Coronation Committee would have a maximum of a 5d rate, or about £90 behind them.

It was proposed by Mr. R. Salter and seconded by Mr. P. Rowe that the levy on the Rates should not exceed a 2d rate. An amended proposal was put by Miss Partridge and seconded by Mr. Carter that the meeting gave the Parish Council authority to spend up to a total 8d rate, at the same time urging that the utmost economy is exercised and that as much of the necessary funds as possible were raised in other ways.

The amendment was carried by 17 votes to 12 votes.

The Chairman then called for suggestions for consideration by the Committee, as to ways of raising funds, and the following were put forward:

1. A house to house collection.
2. Whist Drive.
3. Dance.
4. A Coronation Queen competition. This suggestion was not considered very suitable, but suggestions were made that a similar competition could be run with a substantial cash prize, or a prize such a new bicycle for the boy or girl who collected the most towards the funds.
5. Donations from local organisation funds.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and for the lively interest shown.

C. W. Baker, Chairman.

March 24th 1953.