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West Sussex County Times

HORSHAM ADVERTISER & SUSSEX STANDARD

Subscription 4/2 Per Quarter.
Postpaid, Four Pairs

Registered at the G.P.O.
as a Newspaper

ESTD. 1849

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1946

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TWO COUNCILS TO DISCUSS DENNE PARK?

R.D.C. Vote Against Evening Meetings

£17,830 FOR 14 HOUSES AT BROADBRIDGE HEATH

THE question of the acquisition of Denne Park for the public came up at Wednesday's meeting of Horsham Rural Council. It was reported that a suggestion had been made that the chairman of the Housing Committee (Mr. N. Longley), and members of the council for Horsham Rural Parish should meet representatives of the urban council, with the Planning Officer, to discuss the matter.

The Housing Committee reported that they had before them a letter dated December 20, 1945, from Horsham U.D.C., stating that on February 16, 1944, a copy of a petition received with regard to preserving the site of Denne Park was forwarded to that Council together with the observations of the Town Planning Officer.

Since then Major Abbot, the owner of Denne Park, had through his agents indicated if the urban council had any idea with regard to it, principally as to whether they would like to acquire it for the benefit of the town. The Town Council considered that the County Council should be interested in this acquisition but the County Planning and General Purposes Committee decided that the County Council do not desire to acquire or participate in the acquisition of the property.

Reference to the National Trust and this had raised certain questions. The Urban Council now feels that they would like to have the co-operation of the Rural Council relative to the acquisition of Denne Park.

NO EVENING MEETINGS
By 11 votes to five the council rejected a motion that meetings of the council should be held at 6 p.m. instead of 10.30 a.m. as at present.

Mr. B. R. Hunt, who proposed that they should try 6 p.m. for the first meeting of 12 months, stated that there was much to be said for and against evening meetings. The members living in the country might find transport difficult in the evening.

In seconding, Mr. W. Thomas pointed out that morning meetings tended to prevent desirable types of candidates from putting up for the council. He hoped the experiment would be tried.

Mr. N. Longley, chairman of the Housing and Drainage Committee, considered evening meetings would tend to create more interest in local government.

"We want to open up the possibility of coming on to our council to a wider circle of people who are actively engaged in making a living," he said. "As far as to the evening meetings, I am sure that we should enter into a period when we hold our meetings in the evening. At the end of a year we can consider whether the change has been successful."

from the council in April as she thought she ought to give way to someone younger, referred to the difficulty of those who farmed their own land attending evening meetings.

The chairman (Mr. S. D. Secretary, J.P.), after working all day on the land he would not be able to think as clearly as in the morning. He added that he had had a letter from Mr. Standford in favour of evening meetings and one from Mr. Hingston against.

HOUSING PROGRESS
With regard to the proposed erection of 14 houses at Broadbridge Heath, the Housing Committee reported having received that the negotiated price of £17,830 submitted by Horsham and District Association of Building Trades' Employers should be forwarded to the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health and in the event of the Ministry not accepting the figure tenders be advertised for.

Mr. Longley said that approval had been received from the Ministry of Health for the proposal to employ three firms on the site. The object was to enable the greatest possible number of operatives and to get of plant to be engaged so that they would get some houses finished instead of a lot of houses started and none finished.

The clerk mentioned that the contract for the erection of two pairs of houses at Warnham was before the council that day for sealing.

Reference to the proposed housing site at Slinfold was contained in the report of the Housing Committee. It was stated that the chairman (Mr. N. Longley), Mrs. Cunningham, Major St. John and the Clerk attended a Parish Meeting at Slinfold on December 21, 1945. The meeting reversed the approval given to the Parish Meeting held on April 17, 1945, to the Rowfield Farm site and agreed to the site originally selected by the committee in Hayes-lane being acquired.

It was agreed that subject to the Regional Planning Officer approving the site in Hayes-lane, the whole field should be acquired.

RURAL DRAINAGE PLAN
Mr. Longley stated that the Housing and Drainage Committee were holding a special meeting on January 28 to consider the preliminary report of the consulting engineers on the main drainage of the rural district.

NEW ERA FOR Y.W.C.A. IN HORSHAM

Lady H. Buller Opens Centre

"PLACE OF HIGH IDEALS"

Came R. W. D. Lee, R.D., Vice of Horsham, on Wednesday dedicated the new Y.W.C.A. centre at 16 Market-square, Horsham, formerly which Lady Hermione Buller, J.P. (president), performed the opening ceremony.

In order to accommodate the large number who wished to attend, the opening ceremony was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

A GREAT BOON
Lady Hermione Buller said she did not think they could have any doubt as to the benefit which the new centre would be to the young people of Horsham. As deputy president of the Red Cross she knew what a tremendous help the centre in Horsham had been in war-time, and when the committee asked her to become president of this new civilian centre she felt very pleased to be asked to do such a thing. Horsham had been very lucky in having had such a wonderful staff of helpers and she thought everything pointed now to a very successful new era. She wished the centre every possible success.

Lady Priscilla Aird (president of the Southern Division), spoke of the aims and objects of Y.W.C.A. clubs. She said it was an international organisation, and the war had done it a great deal of good by bringing it more into the public eye. Wherever Service girls had been there was the Y.W.C.A., and they had found out what a splendid organisation it was, and had come to appreciate what it stood for.

The organisation had a tremendous task ahead in providing in this country centres and clubs similar to those the Service girls had had abroad. At Horsham they were very lucky in having such a lovely old building of which they could be proud.

In conclusion Lady Aird asked for support in this switch-over from Service to civilian activity.

LARGER SCOPE
Mrs. E. R. Pelly, J.P. (chairman of the committee), said that during the war the centre in North-street was largely for girls in the various Services. They were rather restricted then in their activities, but now their scope would be enormously enlarged. They wanted to make it a place of high ideals.

Hitherto it had been run by an advisory committee, with representatives of the Services to help Miss Adam, the leader in charge, all they could. Now they were going to try and enlarge the committee and have representatives of most of the organisations in Horsham to help. Captain Corah was to be hon. treasurer and he was forming an appeals committee.

The hostel would be continued, and there was also to be a canteen. But the really important new work was the club, so that besides rest and relaxation the girls might find recreation.

Mrs. Pelly urged them to make it "a place of high ideals which will radiate into the everyday world." G. M. Grindler, leader of the Birkland club, explained the aims of the Y.W.C.A. and gave an interesting account of how her own club in run.



One man was killed and 22 injured when this truck overturned and caught fire at Broadbridge Heath last Sunday night. Picture shows the truck being hauled up. ("West-Sussex County Times" photo).

FIRST STEP TOWARDS LADY WORSLEY PAYS SOCIAL CENTRE

Memorial Committee in Action

A sub-committee has been formed from the main Horsham War Memorial Committee (elected at the public meeting last autumn), for the purpose of raising money. With its chairman, Councillor E. A. Troth, and secretary, Mrs. B. Barnett, this committee consists of Messrs P. Codd, W. E. Jupp, R. J. Morris and C. A. J. Murray.

Their first action was to co-opt members of the Thanksgiving Savings War Memorial Committee that did such a fine job of work in helping Horsham to beat its savings target last year. These consisted of Messrs W. Evans, J. Marrow, F. D. Glanville, W. Howie, M. Crutenden, J. Parsons, G. White, A. Standing, A. Haslett, W. Scott, R. Budd, E. Wright, C. Gamm, S. E. Thornton, A. A. Baker, P. Codd, K. Colquhoun, G. F. Connor, P. Groves, G. Connor, F. Holmes, A. Wales, R. Tucker, A. Ellis, Kent, G. Westland, Councillor E. R. Dinango and Messrs E. W. Brockpool, E. W. Tulett, F. Groves and Miss D. Trinder.

Entertainments, bazaar and public fund-raising were planned, a meeting at the Town Hall on January 17. It was agreed to send letters to all organisations and active bodies in the town asking them to appoint a representative to attend a meeting at the Town Hall on January 31 with a view to their co-operation on the general committee.

B.E.M. FOR W.V.S.

CENTRE ORGANISER
Miss L. M. Reed, The Warren, Handcross, whose work as Centre Organiser of the W.V.S. from the beginning of the war is well known, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List.

OLD COLLYERIAN'S HONOURED

Old Collyerian recently honoured include Flight Lieutenant H. Barr, D.F.C.—awarded A.F.C.; Captain J. K. Taper, R.A.M.C.; F.O.M. J. Pount, R.A.F. A.E.C.; mentioned in dispatches; and Mr. J. R. Lodge, R.A.—M.B.E. for services with Photographic Section in North Africa and Italy.

"Carry on With The Good Work"

An appeal to Horsham W.V.S. to carry on with the good work they did during the war was made by Lady Worsley, O.B.E., Regional Administrator W.V.S. when she spoke to members of the Horsham District, at the Town Hall, on Tuesday.

Lady Worsley made reference to both the war work and the present work of the Horsham W.V.S. and paid many compliments to its members. She said that it gave her great joy to know that Horsham was one of the places where the service had carried on after V.J. Day.

CLOTHING CENTRE

Tribute was paid by Lady Worsley to the members' help during the evacuation and billeting periods, and at the end of the war their work in the prisoner-of-war camps. After the war they had continued with their good work and the W.V.S. clothing centre at Horsham was the best that had been seen. Dr. K. M. Dawson recalled the great outbreak of influenza after the last war which spread right across Europe being responsible for the deaths of many millions of people. The Ministry of Health wanted to take precautions against a similar outbreak now. He wanted to enlist the help of W.V.S. in this connection.

Mr. B. Horley, Regional Organiser, and Mrs. W. Gendall, both paid tribute to the work done by the Horsham W.V.S. Councillor E. R. Dinango presided.

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Private Gerald Arthur Francis Kitchener, R.A.O.C., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kitchener, 6, Denne-parade, Horsham, has been mentioned in dispatches for distinguished service in Italy.

TRAPPED UNDER BLAZING LORRY

Marine Commando Dies of Burns

22 INJURED

Twenty-three Royal Marine Commandos were injured, and another died from burns when a lorry in which they were returning from Horsham to their camp at Slinfold, overturned at Broadbridge Heath on Sunday night.

The vehicle was passing a stationary lorry which had another lorry in tow, when it crashed into an overhead cable pole, overturned and burst into flames. Two men were trapped under the lorry, but despite the intense heat one of them was dragged clear.

The dead man was Sidney William Wilson (21), of 10, Priory-road, Chichester.

THE INQUIRY

At the inquest at Horsham Town Hall yesterday, the Horsham Coroner (Mr. P. W. Butler), had the assistance of a jury of which Mr. W. J. Huntley was foreman.

Evidence of identification was given by Marine Commando George Frederick Leonard Ewin, who was also on the lorry. He said it was very foggy at the time.

He felt the vehicle swing out to the right. The lorry nearly toppled over, then righted itself but eventually overturned.

DENNE FOG

The speed of the lorry just before the accident was 20-25 m.p.h. It was possible to see only a few yards ahead because of the fog. Just beyond the fork at Broadbridge Heath the headlights picked up a man in the road waving to them. Immediately afterwards there was a collision and the lorry toppled over and burst into flames. He and the driver kicked through the windscreen and got out.

P.C. Bateman said the lorry driver, Maurice Sidney Cutting, was still in hospital suffering from severe shock. In a statement Cutting said his speed was 25 m.p.h. On the morning of the accident he saw a vehicle without lights on the near side and a man helped it swing his arm. He pulled out to avoid the man and then hit the lorry. The lorry ran along on the wheels and then overturned after hitting something. He switched off the engine, and was almost choked with petrol fumes, but he managed to scramble out.

Replying to the Coroner, P.C. Bateman said there were 21 men taken to hospital but only seven were detained.

Sgt. Major H. Bennett said after the impact he called out, "Don't get into a panic; take your time." He described how they pulled one man from under the lorry but could not save Wilson because the heat was too fierce. Wilson was unconscious.

"40-45 M.P.H."
The driver of the stationary lorry, Martin Leslie Jones, stationed at Park Farm, Stourington, said he had taken a wrong turning and was discussing with Sergeant Foreman, which direction to take, when they heard the lorry approaching. He ran about 10 yards as far as the fork and waved to the lorry-driver. The lorry reversed and just caught the rear offside corner of the wagon in tow. The next thing he knew was that the lorry was on its side and on fire. He phoned for the fire brigade and ambulance.

Replying to the Coroner, he said there was a red rear light on his lorry which was on the one in tow. He thought the power cable falling on the overturned lorry caused sparks which ignited the petrol. He estimated the speed of the lorry at 40-45 m.p.h. Visibility was 10-15 feet.

The Coroner said he could not imagine an experienced driver travelling at 40-45 m.p.h. on a foggy night and he thought the estimate was an exaggeration. He was inclined to accept the evidence that the speed was 25 m.p.h.

"I cannot suggest there is any criminal responsibility on the part of the driver; I am more inclined to criticise the action of the driver of the stationary lorry in not going further up the road," added the Coroner.

A verdict of "Accidental Death" was recorded, and the jury exonerated both drivers from blame.

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