This is the third of eight minute books used for recording minutes of Blackawton Parish Council (BPC) between 1894 and 1997, after which minutes were kept in computer files. This is not a verbatim transcription. Little attempt has been made by me to mention any detail of the very many complaints about the state of the roads, sewers, etc. throughout the period covered by this minute book though hardly a meeting went by without a complaint. The meetings are summarised very briefly and anything in italics is my comment. Any wording in quotation marks is given as written. Common abbreviations are written in full on first occurrence, with abbreviation in brackets and then usually given only as abbreviation. As in the first volume, investigations and other projects are often never followed up in the minutes and committees and sub-committees abound. However, the minutes are becoming more frequent, are much fuller and use fewer capital letters for nouns. After WWII, councillors start to be minuted sometimes as Cllr rather than Mr.

As we begin this volume, Mr William Ellis is Chairman; other councillors are The Hon. Mrs E Northcote, Major F Chandler, Messrs C Dimes, E Treeby, F Buckingham, H Foale, W Foale, J Lapthorn, F Life and A Jeffery. Council meetings are still not held on a routine monthly basis and very seldom held in Strete.

4/09/1933 Five tenders were received for making and erecting a new oak hunting gate at Rakehill, varying from £2-5-0 to £1-2-6; the lowest, from Mr W Pack, was accepted. Council agreed to write to Post Office (PO) Telephone Manager at Exeter to ask for a soundproof cabinet for the telephone in Strete PO because currently 'most of the Public now went to a private phone instead of using the Post Office Telephone'. Turnover would most likely be increased if the telephone was more private. The committee looking into water supply in Strete reported; the report was accepted if 'Water Supply could be augmented for East end of Village at a small cost'; however, if an expensive scheme were brought forward then BPC should be allowed to consider it. The Clerk was asked to write to the Sanitary Surveyor regarding the drains at the slaughter house at Manor Farm because of blood and refuse washing out onto the highway.

13/11/1933 At this meeting the Clerk, JH Foale was paid £3-10-0 for six months' work. A lot of discussion took place about augmenting Blackawton village's water supply and whether a well or a borehole was the right way to go. A well being decided upon, it was agreed to ask the surveyor to contact the owner and occupier of the land to find out their terms for allowing a well to be sunk at the spot chosen. A resolution was agreed concerning the apparent confiscation by Kingsbridge Rural District Council (RDC) of the exchequer grant allotted to the parish for 'Special works' (water supply in both villages), the grant being merged into the general funds of the RDC. Copies of this resolution would be sent both to the RDC and the Ministry of Health (MoH). A further resolution would be sent to Devon County Council (DCC) suggesting that a contribution should be made out of the general county rate towards the cost of RDC's water and sewerage schemes.

26/02/1934 Mr Hingston's offer of Fuge Quarry for Strete's refuse was considered too expensive. Mr Dimes offered a quarry at Oldstone Woods where old tins collected quarterly could be dumped for a year. It was decided to bring the whole topic up at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). A small committee was formed to meet a representative from the telephone service at Strete. Snails Castle road was discussed; if it were released from dedication would it become a right of way (RoW) for BPC to keep in repair? The matter would be left to the RDC. The Right of Way Act (1932) was discussed and it was agreed to find out the cost of maps to mark footpaths. Concerns about enclosure of right of way from Strete Gate to Undercliff to Asherne were referred to RDC.

5/03/1934 Strete held a meeting to elect its councillors to serve for Strete Ward on BPC. F Chandler, H Foale, A Jeffery, JL Lapthorn and Mrs E Northcote were elected. A short

discussion on Strete's water supply followed. In Blackawton, a similar meeting was held the same evening and councillors elected were: FE Bond, F Buckingham, CW Dimes, W Ellis, WL Foale, JF Life and E Treeby. The first meeting (16 April) of the new council would be held in Strete.

19/03/1934 A brief meeting of councillors was held immediately before the APM.
19/03/1934 APM Little public interest was shown in the water scheme for Blackawton and the matter was shelved. There was, however, substantial discussion about the Strete scheme. Strete's Cllr Jeffery felt £200 to lay water pipes to four council houses was excessive and that the RDC should pay. Blackawton villagers did not think they should be expected to bear the special rate to provide Strete houses with water but Strete said they were prepared to pay for it themselves. Eventually a resolution was passed to be sent to the RDC requesting that the RDC ask the MoH for each ward to pay its own special rate for water and sewerage as from 1 April. Cllr Dimes' offer to rent out a quarry for refuse at Oldstone for 6d a year rent was discussed. Strete people felt that as they paid voluntarily for refuse collection, Blackawton villagers should do the same. This was voted on and carried.
16/04/1934 The first meeting of BPC in Strete was held and Cllr Ellis was elected once again to chair BPC. Cllr H Foale (Strete) and Cllr JF Life (Blackawton) were elected onto the Rating Committee for three years. It was agreed to procure maps of the parish so that footpaths could be recorded. A complaint about rubbish dumped at Cross, Blackawton, was referred to the RDC.
18/06/1934 DCC had written concerning proposed amalgamation of Strete and Stoke Fleming. BPC felt these villages had little in common and so should be kept separate. A map of the parish had been purchased (£0-16-4 including postage). However it was agreed not to mark any RoWs yet. The RoW from Strete Gate to Asherne had not been resolved. BPC agreed to write to DCC to enquire as to 'who is the Authority having legal control of footpaths' as the council understood it should be DCC. Western National Omnibus Company (WNOC) would be asked to provide return fares from Blackawton, as already in place for Cornworthy. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would be asked to unlock the east gate into the churchyard during the day; this was felt to be in the interest of both parishioners and visitors.
1/10/1934 No satisfaction being forthcoming from DCC over footpaths, BPC agreed to have a notice board erected at Strete Gate to say footpath only. Messrs Hingston would be contacted to supply the board. The order making Strete a separate civil parish would come into force on 1 April 1935. Regarding Snails Castle road the RDC asked BPC to pass a resolution of 'cession of liability to repair', which they duly did but asked the RDC to supply a map or plan to showing exactly which piece of road was being referred to. DCC had written to RDC about footpath control, virtually saying that DCC were not responsible and that RDC and BPC would have to sort it out as the RDC might take steps to prevent obstruction but the parish council definitely could *(this is all explained in the letter which is minuted verbatim).* Following receipt of a letter from a parishioner, BPC would write to the Archdeacon, Exeter, asking if 'the Bishop of Exeter would kindly give instructions for the East Gates of Blackawton Church to be unlocked during the daytime'. It was agreed to ask if a reporter from 'the Dartmouth paper' would like to attend BPC meetings, if given notice. A committee was formed to look into the Blackawton water supply.
26/11/1934 RDC would be sent a complaint that 'provision of an adequate water supply to part of the Village of Strete has been unduly delayed'. Following another complaint about blocked footpaths, RDC would be asked to ascertain 'whether the owner or occupier of land through which runs a public footpath can lock a gate across…..without

providing other means for persons to pass over easily'. A plan of the Snails Castle road was produced and the Clerk was instructed to write to DCC re the decision to apply for 'cessation of liability to repair….as marked in pink on Plan'. A letter was read from the Exeter Diocesan Registrar in reply to that sent to the Bishop of Exeter regarding the churchyard gates; this was not felt to be very satisfactory so a letter would be sent to the PCC.

1935

25/02/1935 *(this meeting was held in Strete in the WI room)* The RDC had decide to put up notices at both ends of Snails Castle road to say that it was unsuitable for vehicles. RDC had also replied about obstruction to public footpaths stating that gates on these should not be locked. Councillors agreed the gate be left unlocked or that a strong stile be provided adjacent to the gate; however, the question of liability for accident on such a stile was then raised so RDC would be asked about both these points. RDC's statement that the Higher to Lower Abbotsleigh road could not be repaired at public expense was challenged as the Chairman of BPC knew the road to be a public one, so a further letter would be sent. Blackawton Church Council and the Vicar could not agree about the churchyard gates; councillors suggested putting the latch up higher so small children could not reach it. Some discussion took place about the forthcoming Silver Jubilee of HM King George V. A levy of 3d on the rates was proposed but the Strete councillors present asked that Strete be left out of the matter.

11/03/1935 *(this meeting was held in Strete schoolroom)* After public notice was given two additional councillors for the new parish of Strete were elected; these were Harold Squires of Fuge Farm and John Wills of 1 Hillside. The official separation of the parishes would be on 1 April, and 17 April was set as the first meeting for the new Strete PC. The Strete water scheme would now cost £250, interest on the loan would be recouped from those taking water into their homes (2/= in the £ on rateable value) and 1/6 in the £ for those still using standpipes. RDC had the power to compel people to have a proper water supply. The PC would press RDC to pay all expenses for taking water into Council Houses. The PC agreed that the cost of the Jubilee celebrations should not be borne on the rates but raised by voluntary subscription. A sub-committee was formed to draw up a suitable programme for the celebrations.

12/03/1935 *(this meeting was in the Assembly Room in Blackawton)* A general rate to pay for the Jubilee celebrations in Blackawton was rejected, councillors favouring voluntary subscription. A fundraising sub-committee was duly formed from councillors with the addition of other local people, including several ladies. The suggested events were a thanksgiving service, sports, Jubilee mugs for children, tea for all parishioners, bonfire and evening amusements. The Vicar would be asked if the church bells could be rung on this occasion.

18/03/1935 Accounts were paid including £3-10-0 as half-yearly salary for Mr Foale, the Clerk. £7 was allotted to the new parish of Strete, to be paid in April, and councillors agreed that any money retained on behalf of Blackawton by the RDC on 31 March should be equally divided between Blackawton and Strete parish councils.

18/03/1935 APM The Chairman, Cllr C Dimes, explained the ongoing division into two civil parishes. The water schemes for both parishes would in future be funded by the general rate for the whole Kingsbridge district. There was considerable support expressed for getting a better water scheme for Blackawton but the members of the public present decided that the current water supply was sufficient for the time being.

15/04/1935 A cheque was written for £7 for Strete PC. Councillors agreed to meet the owners of land where footpaths were reported as being still obstructed. BPC agreed to

join the Footpath Preservation Society in order to get their literature, etc., the subscription being 10/6 a year.

1/07/1935 The owner of the blocked footpaths, Mrs Buckpitt, had explained that she had only locked gates 'persistently' left open by the public to prevent her cattle from straying. Councillors had sympathised but explained the law to her and she had now reluctantly agreed to leave her gates unlocked. Various repairs to stiles on footpaths, such as Washwalk to Larcombe, were agreed and tenders would be sought to do all the work required. The churchyard gate problem was again discussed as the Vicar and Church Council still had come to no agreement; the Clerk was instructed to write to the Rural Dean about this and also to enquire as to why the church records were being kept at the Vicarage when a safe for the purpose was in the church (if no satisfactory answer was forthcoming the clerk would write to the Bishop of Exeter). The issue of charges for parcels sent by bus was raised and the Clerk was instructed to write to WNOC asking for a reduced rate and also asking for timetable changes to be considered. The surveyor had offered to put two bore holes into Cllr Dimes' field for £9 but did not think this would provide enough for the whole village. The council then recommended to the RDC that the surveyor should try higher up in this field and also in neighbouring ones as the parish council 'is of the opinion that the Village of Blackawton should be supplied as good as water supply as any other Village in Devonshire'. Various dangerous places on the roads were also to be discussed with the surveyor including a suggestion to 'take off a corner just outside the Chapel gates so that Motors could turn from Dallacombe Road to Cotterbury Road instead of going over to the Commercial Inn to turn'. The Clerk's salary for the year was set at £6.

30/09/1935 Various tenders for the repairs to stiles were considered and accepted. A letter from the Rural Dean stated that he had been unable to do anything about the churchyard gates and that the Bishop should be consulted; however his Lordship was away and the matter must await his return. BPC felt that if no satisfactory replied was obtained from the Bishop then 'the Clerk to write the Archbishop of Canterbury acquainting him with the disgraceful state of the Church Yard and Church Affairs in this Parish'. It was also agreed that the Vicar (Rev Charnell) should be requested to return the records being kept at the vicarage to the safe in the church (or else BPC would take steps to have it done). RDC would be asked to let BPC have estimated costs for the water scheme proposed for the village and also to look into the water supply at Forces. Concern was expressed about the growing unemployment among agricultural workers locally and called on RDC and DCC to provide temporary relief work on the roads during the winter. RDC would be asked to build four new council houses in the village which could be rented out at 4/6 a week. Regret was expressed at DCC's removal of the local policeman and that a policeman should 'constantly reside in the village and if necessary have a constabulary built for him in this Parish'.

4/11/1935 The Registrar of Exeter Diocesan Registry had written regarding a commission appointed under the chairmanship of the Ven. Archdeacon of Totnes to enquire into complaints made concerning church matters in the parish; this would be held on 7 November. BPC agreed that all councillors and the clerk should attend this and that a few other (named) people should be required to attend as witnesses. A letter of support was received from the RDC regarding the police presence in Blackawton and also regarding temporary relief work on the roads; RDC had written to DCC. RDC were planning to demolish six cottages in Chapel Street as part of a slum clearance scheme. BPC responded: 'This Council considers Four of the Cottages in Chapel Street which are included in the Slum Clearance Area should not be condemned for demolition but should be put into a sanitary state of repair so that they can be occupied'*(it is interesting to see*

how, in the actual text, many capital letters are still used in places where we would not do so today).

1936

17/02/1936 DCC stated that a police sergeant would be based in Strete (as soon as a new house was available) but that 'steps had been taken to ensure that this parish should have the necessary police supervision'. A complaint about broken panes of glass in unoccupied village houses would be referred to the police. Several complaints had been received re enclosure of Cotterbury pond but Cllr Dimes considered he was within his rights to do so adding that water would still be available for tasks like road repairs. BPC disagreed and then decided to refer the matter on to the RDC. Work had started on marking up parish footpaths onto maps.

23/03/36 The RDC were to inspect Cotterbury pond. Letters would be sent to DCC opposing the closure of both the Kingsbridge Poor Law Institution and Dartmouth Grammar School, both on grounds of increased travelling for local people.

23/03/36 APM This supported BPC's views on slum clearance in Chapel Street and a letter would go to RDC. The water supply to the village was discussed at length; the majority present seemed to think that the current situation was adequate. It was unanimously agreed that before any money be spent on a new water supply full details and a cost estimate should be produced. It was agreed to ask RDC to make arrangements with Dartmouth Fire Brigade to attend fires in Blackawton; the RDC would be asked to pay the retaining fee for this. In answer to an enquiry, BPC agreed that it was responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of the village's War Memorial. A voluntary collection for this was still in funds.

20/04/1936 The RDC had decided that, after inspecting the pond at Cotterbury no further action would be taken. RDC was also in negotiation over the services of Dartmouth Fire Brigade and any expenses would be borne by the whole district. The Clerk was instructed to enquire as to who had the right to call out the brigade and how expenses would be met if the brigade were to be called to a fire when there was no insurance on the building and/ or contents. After a discussion, RDC would be asked to do road repairs in Vicarage Road as BPC considered this to be a public road as far as the Vicarage gates. RDC were also asked to provide some iron steps down onto the beach at Blackpool.

17/08/1936 Councillors agreed to meet the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade. A national memorial to the late King George V was discussed and the Chairman would superintend any collection made. BPC were looking at providing a playing field for the village and the owner of 'Park' and also Cllr Dimes were to be asked if they could provide a suitable plot. Owners of hedges fronting overgrown public footpaths would be asked to cut and remove growth. All footpaths and bridle ways which had been marked as such on the map would be deemed to be public paths; this information to be passed to RDC *(interestingly Cllr Dimes seems to have decided independently in some cases that paths were not in public use and BPC took his word for it).* The local MP, Major Rayner, would be asked to keep an eye on the proposed Moorland water scheme because it was felt the 'many poor parishes would be called upon to pay extra rates to provide this expensive water scheme'. The Chairman would attend the enquiry by the MoH concerning the condemned houses in Chapel Street and give the council's views. The Clerk would write to DCC concerning the need to go to Kingsbridge to register births and deaths and the attendant 'hardship to poor people'.

7/12/1936 RDC would be asked to build four new council houses to replace those condemned. The MP would be asked to oppose the bill going through parliament to make RDC the 'constituent authority' of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board (K&SWB) to secure amendments to exclude parishes receiving no benefit from the supply from

having to pay towards it, ensure that users would pay a 'substantial consumer's water rate' and to get a government contribution by way of a grant. Additionally, the RDC would be informed that Blackawton's water supply was adequate and no expense was needed for another year. Mrs Doidge of Brixham would sell the field called Park for £350 and advice would be sought from the Playing Fields Association (PFA).

1937

15/02/1937 The Clerk volunteered to collect subscriptions for Coronation *(of King George VI)* celebrations. RDC had written regarding air raid precautions and it was agreed that BPC would act as an emergency squad. The Public Assistance Officer at Exeter asked BPC to recommend a successor to Mr Dimes as member of the Kingsbridge Guardians Committee. Mrs Jones of Wadstray was put forward. A resolution would be sent to the RDC that attempts should be made to secure the site in Chapel Street when houses were demolished to avoid it becoming a rubbish dump.

15/03/1937 A brief meeting was held to deal with payments.

15/03/1937 APM An unusual thing happened at the APM as the new council was elected; there was a tie for the final seat and so both names were put into a hat and one drawn. Substantial discussion then took place about whether an upgrade was needed to the water supply; eventually the meeting decided not to seek one during the current year. There followed another discussion about lighting the village; a new special lighting rate of not more than a penny in the pound per year was suggested. However, the meeting decide to do nothing for the time being. A suggestion that rates be collected quarterly instead of half-yearly was rejected. A sub-committee was drawn up to look at arrangements for Coronation celebrations. Any other BPC business was held over till the following meeting.

19/04/1937 The RDC had asked that an air raid emergency squad be organised and the seven members of BPC agreed to form that group. The use of the Assembly Room for BPC meetings plus one public meeting a year was agreed at a cost of 15/-. The Vicar, Rev Steeley, would be asked if a collection could be made one Sunday for the British Empire Cancer Campaign, as it was felt to be too near the Coronation to raise another public subscription. RDC's surveyor would be asked to examine the village's flood water catch pits and 'a soft place in the centre of the Village just outside the Church Gates…'. BPC agreed that Mr Prowse of Thurlestone should represent Blackawton on the RDC to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Cllr Dimes.

26/07/1937 DCC would be asked to cut a 20' wide road from Island Gate at the top of French Furze Hill to the end of Hartley Lane at the main road so that a bus or any two cars could pass without accident. The Education Committee at Exeter would be asked to retain the present schoolmaster at Blackawton as 'this Council considers older children should be taught in country schools and not sent to town…' The Postmaster would be asked to reset letter boxes near Town Farm, at Millcombe and at East Down.

22/11/1937 Regarding the road from the village to the main road, the proposed scheme would be put on a list for improvements in 1939, but was only ranked fourth in priority. The Postmaster did not consider a letter box at Town Farm could be justified at all, similarly one at Millcombe could not be justified but he suggested moving the box at Bow to the entrance to Sheplegh Court; the council did not agree with this idea. However there would be a box at East Down in future, to be cleared at 9 am on weekdays. DCC had agreed to continue with Mr Blight as schoolmaster after the school's conversion to teach both Juniors and Infants. A plan for the air raid scheme was produced and an explanation of this would be arranged at a public meeting (if possible at the APM in March). WNOC would be asked to make alterations to the bus route between The Firs and the village to go via Cotterbury.

1938

31/01/1938 Further to the road from the village to the main road, provision of passing places would now be considered. A suggestion was made about provision of a passing place in the centre of Millcombe Hill; this would be sent to RDC. WNOC declined to alter its route citing the narrowness of the lanes as the reason. The plan for proposed new schools for Devon included one new school for Dartmouth which would take the senior scholars from Blackawton; councillors asked if someone from the Education Committee could visit the village to speak to the School Managers and members of BPC. The 'sanitary state of the Gipsy encampment near Forces should be examined'.

21/03/1938 A very brief meeting of the council took place to deal with payments.

21/03/1938 APM Lt Gen. Huddleston (Hon. Organiser of the air raid precaution scheme for the RDC) explained what would probably happen to the locality in the event of Plymouth being bombed and how random bombing might occur. He suggested every home should have one gas proof room and the Govt. would supply details on how this could be done. Volunteers would be needed as air raid wardens and forms for this were left with the Clerk. The RDC was hoping to build more council houses to rent at about 4/- a week; people interested should put down their names with the Clerk. Parishioners present did not consider there to be a need for an improved water supply. DCC would be asked if something should be done about the dangerous state of Church Acre Lane (a cast path not a public road).

25/04/1938 DCC considered that Church Acre Lane was entirely the responsibility of BPC which would, however, would ask the RDC to do a little work on it. RDC would be asked to build four new council houses if the Clerk could get applications for them. A Playing Fields Committee was set up with powers to co-opt other members if necessary.

17/10/1938 The Clerk stated that he had to return a form to DCC regarding 'Custody of Parochial Documents and also what documents and books belonged to the Parish Council'. The Charity Commission wrote regarding Sparkes' Charity to remind BPC that the term of the current trustees would be until April 1941. Both DCC and RDC would be told of concerns about the constant increases in rates and asked to 'curtail expenditure….so that the local rate does not exceed 5/- in the £ per half-year'. Additionally the MoH would be contacted to request that new demands for local rural expenditure should only be made when accompanied by additional national grants to the area. The postal authorities would be asked about providing 'a Public Call Office for Telephone at Cotterbury'.

12/12/1938 Buses would in future discharge passengers directly outside the Market doors in Dartmouth on market days. A guarantee was needed to obtain a phone box at Cotterbury. Renting the Assembly Room for BPC meetings would go up from 15/- to 20/- next financial year (due to increases in rates). Tenders for a new footbridge between Hutcherleigh and Seccombe were thought to be too dear. However, footbridges should be brought up at the next APM.

1939

4/02/1939 Accounts for year ending 31/03/1938 were to be audited at RDC offices. The Clerk was to enquire whether the 'New Hall' could be let for public meetings. A vote of thanks was given to those who had done house to house visits regarding potential evacuation of children. The Electoral Commissioners would be asked whether the Torbay Electrical Company should supply outlying villages, as they had 'monopoly of the district'. The Clerk was told to ask the RDC to supply a list of the 23 condemned houses in the parish (as mentioned in the local paper) and to send the owners of the houses particulars of the Rural Workers' Housing Act. Replacement of The George Inn with a new building

on the old foundations was discussed and it was suggested building it further back from the road to make a square in front for buses to turn and cars to park. The RDC to be told of the Council's views on the matter.

27/02/1939 (*this meeting was held in the School Room)* The RDC wanted use of a room for part of a day each half year so that parishioners could call and pay their rates; Club Room, New Hall and the new Assembly Room (soon to be built) were suggested. New Hall could be used for a public meeting for a fee of 5/- plus rates; the School Room was cheaper. However, New Hall would be used for the APM.

27/03/1939 *(this meeting was held in New Hall, Narrow Lane)* A brief meeting of BPC was held to approve expenses and to hear that New Hall could be hired at the same rate as the School Room. **27/03/1939 APM** Repairs to Church Acre Lane were discussed, the RDC only being responsible for the first 40 yards towards Bowden Farm. Doing anything else would be BPC's responsibility and would be at some expense. A proposal to apply for a better water supply from the Moorland water scheme was rejected. The meeting agreed that local and county rates were always increasing and that economies should be made to prevent further rises. Rates would continue to be collected half-yearly. It would cost £1,800 to bring electricity to the village and as the Torbay Electrical Co. wanted a 10% return on their money there would have to be a canvass to see if it would be economical; it was agreed to wait for the company's report.

24/04/1939 Regarding the proposed use of New Hall the Clerk was directed to write to the RDC for confirmation of hiring charges. Regarding water, it was agreed to wait until the Moorland supply was taken to Stoke Fleming and, if it passed near enough to Blackawton, to apply for connection then.

30/10/1939 A public meeting held in the open during June had resulted in a number of resolutions regarding high rates, better services and government grants. RDC agreed not to charge for hire of New Hall if used for BPC and public meetings. Council agreed to write to the bus company asking for a service to Totnes for the cattle market on Tuesdays and also for a Friday service. Changes to Dartmouth services were also requested. Afternoon meetings of BPC were proposed to be held in winter because of blackout.

1940

24/02/1940 *(meeting held in the Vestry)* WNOC said it could not provide for the additional mileage entailed in meeting Blackawton's requests. Election of parish councillors was postponed because of the Temporary Act of 1939 but current terms of office would be extended by six months. The PCC would be writing to BPC because the graveyard was becoming full of graves and a new burial ground (BG) would be needed for the parish.

18/03/1940 The PCC having written, it was agreed to ask Cllr Dimes if he would sell a piece of land near the village and the price thereof. The Ministry of Transport would be contacted about the bus services required as apparently extra petrol could be obtained on application.

18/03/1940 APM There was only one parishioner present and little business was done. However, it was agreed to minute the awarding of the Distinguished Service Medal to Leading Seaman Alfred J Ball of 2, Castle Lane.

22/04/1940 It was agreed to do nothing more about a BG for the time being. The County War Agricultural Committee would be reassured that all gardens and allotments were being cultivated.

3/06/1940 *(held in the Boys' Club Room)* A collection of scrap metal would be organised and stored at Back Lane, Cross. Other waste material would be stored in a condemned cottage in Chapel Street. Voluntary labour would be organised. School Lane would be repaired and pared so that children could be scattered quickly in emergency. A short

public meeting followed to discuss a National Savings scheme so that people would try to save a little.

2/12/1940 A house to house collection would be made in aid of the South Hams Spitfire Fund.

1941

24/02/1941 Concerns were raised about the price of milk. Fire watchers would be asked to include the council school (and also 'the school at Chapel Street') and RDC to be asked for 12 bags of sand to be left outside the council school. The County Agriculture Committee asked that no effort be spared to get all available land under cultivation. RDC to be asked to fill potholes in Cliston Road between Woodford and Wood Farm.

24/03/1941 A very short council meeting was held

24/03/1941 APM This was poorly attended. It was not felt necessary to appoint fire watchers for the parish. Voluntary help would be sought to dig a pond near The George for fire fighting purposes. St Dunstans asked for a fund organiser in the village.

28/04/1941 Fire watching was again discussed and volunteer watchers would be looked for; the Clerk would try to find 14 people to do this. Cllr Buckingham and Mr H Rowe were re-appointed as Sparkes' Charity trustees for a further four years. RDC would be asked to help with providing a pond for fire fighting purposes.

27/09/1941 Cllr Buckingham was chosen to represent the parish on the local Civil Defence committee. RDC's surveyor was due to inspect the site for the pond near the George.

1942

2/02/1942 Concerns were expressed about the light colour of the council houses in Park Lane and of the school as these would show up brightly on a moonlit night; RDC and DCC to be approached about this. The District Surveyor would be reminded to come and look at the pond.

23/03/1942 A very short council meeting was held: RDC had decided not to do anything about colour of the council houses; DCC had yet to make a decision about the paint on the school. Cllr Dimes would serves as a Sparkes' Charity trustee as Mr Rowe had died. Cllr Fardon suggested RDC's metal railings could be removed for salvage and replaced by post and wire fences.

23/03/1942 APM This again was poorly attended. Mr Edgar, the RDC's Head Fireguard, addressed the meeting and called for stirrup pumps in every third home and people trained to use them. Cllr Dimes, in charge of the village's fire guards, would arrange a meeting for essential training. It was agreed that more guards should be actively recruited. Members of the public asked that the cottage used for salvage storage should be kept locked.

20/04/1942 RDC had decided not to remove iron railings and replace them as it would not help the war effort much. In spite of the poor state of some footpaths it was agreed not to spend anything on improvements at the present time.

4/11/1942 The PCC had again asked the council to look for a new BG and DCC would be approached about this. Tenders and specifications would be sought for repair of the footbridge between Seccombe and Hutcherleigh. Cllr Dimes wanted someone else to take over subscription raising for the pond; however the council decided that a small committee, including him, should do so in future. A wall being built on the highway at Millcombe would be referred to the Highway Surveyor and a site meeting held. A salvage drive would be held in Blackawton's Assembly Room on 18 November.

1943

1/02/1943 The Clerk (Mr Foale) had resigned and a notice would be posted up to try and find a replacement. A Parish Meeting would be needed to approve any application for a new BG and so it was agreed to discuss it at the APM in March.
22/03/1943 Nobody having offered to become clerk, Mr Foale agreed to carry on at same salary until the end of September. No tenders had been received for the footbridge. A victory garden week would be held by the Red Cross (RC) and the local volunteer, Mrs Alty, would be asked to help.
22/03/1943 APM It was agreed to form a committee to look into the BG issue; all members of BPC, the Vicar (Rev Bernan-Davies) and two other parishioners would serve on it.
19/04/1943 Mrs Alty would be asked to form a small committee to organise a day in aid of RC.
3/08/1943 The Clerk reiterated his desire to give up the post at the end of September. Notices would be posted about this and also about repairs to the footbridge at Seccombe. There was no report yet from the BG Committee.
22/11/1943 The council appeared a little piqued at the way the evacuation scheme was being put into force in the area; four points of protest would be sent to RDC, DCC and Colonel Rayner, MP. The former clerk would be paid the salary owed to him and Cllr Dimes would act as clerk until other arrangements could be made. 'This closed the Business of the Council until instructions received to carry on again'.

1944
13/11/1944 A letter would be sent to RDC regarding rats, rubbish dumps and 'other insanitary matters'. Mr Ellis (retiring chairman) and Mr Foale (clerk) would both be thanked for their services to the council. Cllr Dimes became acting chairman.
25/11/1944 A Public Meeting was held in the schoolroom. The bad state of the roads and choked buddle holes was discussed and the authorities would be asked to help. RDC explained that a new lorry and a man to drive it would be found to deal with excessive refuse lying about but that war conditions were delaying matters. New water and electricity schemes would come about as soon after the war as possible. A rat drive would be held in the village shortly. Improvements in bus services were once more requested.

1945
5/02/1945 Mrs Jones, of Higher Wadstray, would be asked to replace Mr Ellis as a member of the school management committee. Miss Dowsett was appointed as clerk to the council, at the same salary (£6 a year) as Mr Foale. A submission would be made for the road from Barnsdale to the commencement of the lane leading to Bowden Farm to be scheduled as a public road. A new and improved bus service was now in place. The RDC would be asked to provide some temporary housing. Among estimates to be obtained for repairs was one for the front of the horse wells in Main Street. Mr Mitchell of The George would be contacted about possible hire of the Assembly Room for council meetings. A house-to-house salvage collection would be held during the month.
19/03/1945 Estimates would be obtained for the horse wells repair. The George would charge £1 for BPC meetings and one public meeting and it was agreed to accept these terms. Concerns were expressed about the bus services which might be withdrawn because of insufficient use; an official letter of protest from Blackawton would be sent.
19/03/1945 APM Offers of help with salvage work were received; RDC would be asked when salvage could be collected. Parishioners were demanding refuse collection. The expense of a new BG would fall on the parish and parishioners would be asked about

purchasing one. The Cornworthy Players wanted to put on a performance in Blackawton and this was agreed.

9/04/1945 A public meeting was held specifically to discuss provision of a new BG for the parish. The Chairman read out a letter explaining the Burial Act. The Vicar explained that the churchyard was full but could not be enlarged and the PCC recommended its closure. The resolution 'this meeting considers the Parish Council should provide a burial ground for the Parish by putting in force the Burial Act' was carried unanimously. The meeting went on to agree that BPC should borrow a sum not exceeding £400 for the purchase. The preferred site would be Cross Quillet, approx. 1.6 acres and that Cllr Dimes be asked to sell it. Urgency was requested in these matters.

16/04/1945 Buses three days a week (plus school buses) would be sufficient. An alternative site for the new BG (1/2 acre of land at "Myrtle") had been put forward but Cllr Dimes was prepared to sell 1.7 acres at £100 per acre. This was accepted. DCC would be informed of this and be asked to send a surveyor to advise. There was no assurance about refuse collection dates but the council would be kept informed. Councillors agreed that a fortnightly collection would suffice. A house-to-house salvage collection would take place on 1 May. Discussion took place about welcoming the troops home; finding them jobs, etc.

11/06/1945 A map of the proposed water scheme was shown but timescales could not be confirmed for providing a water supply. Following a recent fire in the village the Joint Fire Protection Committee would be asked about supplying a trailer pump. Renovation of the pond was discussed and estimates sought for renovating this. Cllr Dimes was now unwilling to sell the field proposed for the BG but would be willing to sell other suitable ground at the same rate. 'the field opposite Mr Blight's house' was suggested and Council agreed to examine it for suitability. Mr Milner-White resigned as councillor and was replaced by Mr L Foale. Tenders would be sought for a footbridge on Seccombe footpath. and for repairs to horse-well in Main Street. Refuse would be collected fortnightly in future.

9/07/45 News received that the village would have to wait longer for its water supply. The trailer pump for fire protection would be chased as no reply had been received. A field opposite Cross Terrace was suggested as new BG, with Cllr Dimes agreeable to sell it.

3/09/1945 A short council meeting preceded a public meeting. The Fire Force Commander at Bristol would be contacted re trailer pump. A general meeting of ratepayers followed. The resolution 'That the Parish Council put the Burial Act into force and provide a burial ground for the parish' was duly passed. A loan of £400 for purchase of field (Cross Quillet) would be applied for. Another resolution was carried asking for early attention to the delayed water supply. Torbay Electricity Dept.would be contacted re possible supply to village.

1/10/1945 BG discussed and the Vicar reported that the average number of burials to be about six per annum. An architect needed to be employed. The site would be investigated and 8' holes dug. MoH would be approached re £400 loan. Village hall would be donated to the parish by the daughter of the late Mr Harris in memory of her father. An approach would be made to the Electricity Commissioners re village supply and MP Brigadier Rayner contacted too.

8/10/45 BG was discussed and site works at Cross Quillet deemed satisfactory. Householders living within 100 yards of the site to be circulated and the architect asked to draw up plans. New Parish Hall insurance was needed. Mr Widdicombe's tender (£10-10-0) for Seccombe bridge was accepted. Several cases of scarlet fever in the village might be due to poor drainage.

12/11/1945 MoH enquired about urgency for new BG and would be supplied with supporting letters from the Vicar and the District Valuer. Further letters to be sent

regarding Moorland water scheme and electricity supply. Failing any fire precautions in the village the matter of construction or remaking the village pond was suggested.

1946

14/01/1946 The Parish Clerk, Miss Dowsett, had died and was remembered with gratitude; the vacant post to be advertised locally. The architect was being asked to submit a preliminary estimate for cost of new BG. Early completion of the transfer of the new Parish Hall requested. The Charity Commissioners had agreed that the Sparkes' Charity could be used to donate something other than bread; it was agreed that this was felt to be entirely a matter for the trustees. Brigadier Rayner would be canvassed for support for the village's electricity supply.

28/01/1946 After prolonged discussion the vacant post of clerk to the council would be readvertised as there had been some confusion over whether applicants should state salary requirements when applying. The BG architect provisionally estimated £160 needed for gates, fencing etc. Councillors put forward suggestions and the architect agreed to present finished plans and complete estimate by the following meeting. Transfer of Parish Hall was taking longer than expected; council's solicitor reported that it was very complicated. £300 was spent on fire insurance for the hall. All agreed that the names of the WWII fallen should be engraved on the War Memorial. A lot of complaints about the state of the roads would be referred to Highways.

18/02/1946 Miss Blackell appointed as Clerk, at a salary of £10 per annum. Plans and estimates for the new BG could not be sent to MoH for consideration as there was a problem with access at the north-east of the site. Council's attention was drawn to a minute of 9/11/1896 re re-use of surplus money from fencing the Bowling Green to be used for a future BG. RDC would be asked to consider the site of burnt out cottages to be used for new council houses. A reminder from RDC was received re permission needed for erecting poultry houses and sheds. Tenders would be sought for a new 4' by 3' glass-fronted public notice board. Police to be contacted re 'behaviour of the village children at night, and asking for improved protection from such annoyances'.

1/03/1946 Highways would be asked to reconsider decision re access to new BG. School children had been warned by police that unruly behaviour could result in summons to court at Kingsbridge. PCC would be contacted re minute of 1896 regarding old BG. Defective drainage problems would be referred to RDC's sanitary Inspector.

1/03/1946 APM This had a noted good attendance. Seven councillors were elected by show of hands to new BPC: Messrs J Cutmore, JH Foale, LJ Foale, CA Oldrieve, WH Quick, SA Sage and JC Widdicombe. A resolution would be sent to DCC demanding a parish poll, rather than election at the APM in future. After some discussion of the water supply a strong resolution was made that the K&SWB should bring the Moorland water supply to Blackawton as soon as possible. The Electricity Commissioner would be contacted in a similar way regarding service to the village. It was agreed to ask for a resident police constable for the village. The condition of Rakehill Lane would be reported to RDC.

15/04/1946 The new council was sworn in *(for some unstated reason Rev Davies and Mr Dimes replaced Messrs Sage and Widdicombe; presumably they had withdrawn).* Cllr WJ Foale was elected Chairman, with Cllr Rev Davies as his deputy. National Provincial Bank's manager offered to be Treasurer; this was accepted. Cllr Dimes and Mr Life were appointed as trustees of Sparkes' Charity for four years. Cllrs Dimes and Quick would represent Blackawton on the Rating Council for the next three years. A room charge of 4/- a night for BPC meetings would be paid to Mr Mitchell. Council's solicitor would be asked again to hasten the transfer of the Harris Memorial Hall. RDC deemed Rakehill Lane beyond repair. BPC agreed to find money to affect repair as it was a public road. Mr

Prowse *(K&SWB?)* submitted a plan of the proposed new water scheme to supply Blackawton. BG plans and entrance now seemed to be in order but the 'Ribbon Development Board now required a 40 foot roadway as at some very future date the roadway might be widened'. The plans would be duly modified. RDC were asking for a six penny rate for their year's expenditure on the parish.

13/05/1946 Cllr Quick was willing to represent the parish on the RDC and was appointed. RDC would be asked about accident liability if Rakehill Lane was not repaired. An amended plan for new BG entrance and roadway would be submitted to Highways and Roads. Council agreed to look into ways of improving visibility at junction of Frenchfirs (Forces side) and Quarry Head road. RDC requested that all public rights of way (RoW) and footpaths should be marked on an Ordnance Survey map and sent in to RDC. Transfer of the Harris Memorial Hall (HMH) should be expected to compete within weeks. The council's solicitor would call meeting of trustees and committee of old Horticultural Hall. Cllr Dimes produced a sketch for an additional stone for the War Memorial on which to inscribe names of WWII fallen; tenders would be sought for same.

18/05/1946 An emergency meeting was held to appoint two members of the PC to a special meeting called by the solicitor re transfer of HMH to BPC. Cllrs Dimes and WJ Foale appointed, with absolute powers to sign the conveyance. Cllr Dimes agreed to make land available at Frenchfirs corner to allow the safety issues to be addressed.

3/06/1946 A precept of £20 for the year would be sent to RDC. A rat problem in the village, attributable to food wastage, would be reported to RDC. DCC Highways had again refused a north-eastern entrance to proposed BG. Insurance policy for HMH received and specifications for decorating the hall and estimates would be obtained. A Sunday bus service, as per pre-war would be requested. Regional Planning had refused permission to build at Wadstray as they disapproved of 'sporadic building'.

19/06/1946 Mr Life to be asked to act as PC representative on School Management Committee until 1948. A meeting would be set up with the District Surveyor, the architect and BPC to visit the proposed site of BG. BG fees for burial of non-parishioners to be requested from vicars of Strete and East Allington. £130 to be paid for approx. ½ acre of ground for sewerage scheme *(first mention of this).* Water tap at bottom of village said to be running very slowly and RDC to be asked to add in a 50 gallon tank at this point to speed up flow. A petition in favour of an electricity scheme was suggested. Salvage collection in the village was not sufficient and BPC asked everyone to broadcast the need for more.

8/07/1946 DCC had written to say that future BPC elections would be by nomination and if necessary a poll. WNOC had declined to put on a Sunday service. A 50 gallon water tank would be supplied. A new method of rat destruction would begin in the village. The vicar of East Allington had supplied the following fees for burial on non-parishioners: grave digging 30/-, minister 10/-, verger 5/-. Strete replied that fees were 24/- not including grave digging (which would be asked for). Stakes to show position of proposed BG gates would be put in before the surveyor arrived for meeting with BPC. The Electricity Commissioners had written to say that revenues received would be too small to justify scheme; their assumptions would be challenged.

15/07/1946 A special meeting was held on site at new BG with the County Surveyor who agreed to sanction entrance gates as shown on second plan.

29/07/1946 Strete grave digging fees were given as £2-0-0 for single and £2-5-0 for double depth. The new plan for BG was officially accepted and copies of plan requested from architect. Cllrs J Cutmore and L Foale appointed to School Management Board.

12/08/1946 Tenders were to be obtained for the new stone at War Memorial. The fire reservoir fund would be held in a PO account with Cllr Dimes and Miss Blackell as Trustees.

9/09/1946 Both plan and estimate for work at French Furze corner had been sent to County Surveyor for approval. MoH would require a resolution from a parish meeting for consent to borrow £458. The Dartmouth Inspector was trying to revert to the 1939 Sunday Bus Service schedule. The Postmaster at Totnes would be asked about provision of a stamp machine in the village. Cllr Dimes consented to the RDC being able to purchase the 'burnt housing site' by compulsory purchase order.

30/09/1946 A Parish Meeting was held to add a further £58 to the £400 loan *(agreed on 3/09/1945)* for the new BG. This proposal was accepted by the meeting. The meeting also agreed that the War Memorial would have to be moved to a new site because of a future housing scheme; the RDC paying any removal costs. A public subscription would be raised to pay for inscribing names on the new stone. A playing field near the school was required and the owner of a suitable field would be approached. A resolution was drawn up about village electricity supply *(but it does not say to whom this was addressed!)* recently turned down by Torquay Elec. Supply Co as not viable financially.

9/10/1946 The parish was visited by an inspector from MoH to consider (i) the closure of the churchyard and (ii) to sanction site for new BG. Closure could be effected by either an Order in Council, which meant that future maintenance of the closed churchyard would fall on BPC and not on the church or alternatively by the incumbent refusing further burials. The Vicar, on the advice of the Diocesan legal advisor, was asking for an Order in Council. BPC felt that parishioners would not want the expense added to their rates. A serious problem had arisen about the new BG site rendering continuation with the site useless; one resident had complained it would adversely affect houses he owned and had refused to sign the approval. BPC felt they should have been told to not to continue with their plans as the objection was received in November of the previous year. While on site another resident said his wife had signed, as he had not yet been demobbed, but he was against the chosen site. Another field, Higher Quillet, was considered by the Inspector to be an ideal site; although smaller at 0.761 acres it had no houses within 100 yards.

14/10/1946 Barbed wire would be removed from the trial holes in Cross Quillet. Cllr Dimes declared an interest in the new field proposed as the new BG, Higher Quillet. His offer was £100 per acre but wished for the District Valuer to value it also. Highways and Town and Country Planning would be asked about suitability of new site from their perspectives. Williams and Triggs (Newton Abbot) would be sending separate estimates for placing the new slab at the War Memorial and for inscribing four new names upon the present slab.

11/11/1946 The purchase of Cross Quillet as a playing field was discussed. RDC to be asked to advise on 'the most economical steps to adopt in the purchase of a playing field for the parish'. Cllr Dimes formally agreed in writing to sell Higher Quillet for the price of £76-2-0. The architect had assured BPC that he would undertake any further work on the BG site free of charge. RDC's Housing Committee would obtain compulsory purchase order to buy site of the 'burnt houses' in Blackawton. RDC were to be asked when work would commence on the construction of the proposed sewerage works. 56 houses in the parish had been inspected; six were satisfactory, 12 unfit and the rest repairable or adaptable for alterations. A lack of fresh fruit in village shops would be taken up with RDC. The Area Superintendent of WNOC would be in KIngsbridge to hear about complaints.

9/12/1946 The DCC surveyor confirmed that no land would need to be taken from the new BG site but a building line 20 feet back from the opposite side of the county road would be needed. He would be invited to view the site, along with the architect. A petition of 35 names was received objecting to the removal of the War Memorial to another site; however these people could have objected at the public meeting held in September so nothing further was done about it. A plan of the 'burnt housing' site was returned to RDC

as it was not wholly accurate. A management committee would be constituted for the Harris Memorial Hall (HMH); four members of BPC and two other parishioners to form it. Cllrs J Foale, C Dimes, W Quick and Rev. B Davies to be the BPC appointees, Cllr L Foale and Mrs Yabsley to be the other two. A further housing inspection survey of 83 houses was reported: seven satisfactory, seven with minor deficiencies, 26 requiring repair, 19 to be reconditioned and 24 were unrepairable.

1947

11/01/1947 Cllr J Foale resigned on grounds of ill-health. Mr Mitchell of Sheplegh Court would be asked to fill the vacancy on BPC. The estimated precept for 1947-8 was £25. A letter of support would be sent to Dartmouth PC re keeping Dartmouth as the centre for secondary education locally. The BG architect would submit three fresh plans required by the District Valuer. DCC would continue to sanction a loan of up to £400. Fresh trial holes would be dug at the new site and enquiries made about the status of roads (Parish or County) abutting site. RDC would acquire housing site by compulsory purchase order.

10/02/1947 The scheduled BPC meeting was postponed due to a disastrous fire at HMH, which was completely gutted, due to insufficient water to fight the fire.

17/02/1947 Cllr Quick was elected as Chairman and Mr Mitchell was sworn in. Dartmouth PC asked the council to nominate a lady to serve on the Assistance Board and Housing & Planning Committee; Mrs Drake of Hemborough Post to be asked, with Mrs Barnet of Sewardstein as alternative. Road clearance after snowstorms had not happened promptly and DCC would be informed accordingly. Trial holes at the new BG site had been found satisfactory. A sub-committee was formed to ensure all the paperwork required by MoH was in place before forwarding on. The RDC would be asked to provide plans for the new housing scheme. Miss Blackell resigned as Clerk and the post would be advertised locally at a salary of £10 rising to £12 after twelve months. Cllr Mitchell to replace Mr J Foale on the Hall Management Committee.

10/03/1947 Neither Mrs Drake or Mrs Barnett were able to be co-opted onto the Assistance Board. RDC reported plans and estimate for sewerage works had been obtained; a loan was being applied for. RDC asked BPC to review applications for local council houses as they would know the background and needs of applicants. Estimates would be sought for putting stone, or stone-faced, walling round new BG site. DCC would be asked for permission to engage casual labour to deal with snowdrift problems. Two applications had been received for post of clerk and Mrs Cole would be interviewed, having more experience than the other applicant.

17/03/1947 A very short meeting was held prior to the Annual Meeting to interview Mrs Cole, whose appointment was then agreed.

17/03/1947 APM The Chairman outlined the changes since the previous APM. The interest on the loan being asked of the MoH for the BG expenditure would mean a 3½d rate. RDC were asking for an 8d rate for the next year and this was agreed. The Chairman of RDC spoke on the subject of water supply and hoped DCC would assist in paying for a water supply from the Moorland water scheme. Insurance claims on HMH would be paid; £300 on the structure and £150 on the contents. Further enquiries about a playing field would be made and it was hoped a grant would be forthcoming from one of three sources. RDC would be asked to provide a static water tank for the village and a sub-committee was formed to progress this.

19/03/1947 A sub-committee meeting was held to review a report from District Valuer on the BG site. His figure was £85 which included vendor's price and tenants' compensation. The cost of the road and entrances were discussed as the estimate received was felt to be far too high. Suggestions would go to the architect for making changes, such as having one main entrance instead of two, to lower costs.

25/03/1947 A special meeting was held to consider the new layout of the BG. Council agreed that there should be one main entrance and a 'turnabout' on the northern side and a pedestrian gate on the southern. A tithe demand of £0-1-2 was found to be for the land where the Parish Hall had been so was sent on to the Secretary of the Hall committee. A quote for £4-15-0 for a copy of the tithe map was felt to be too expensive, so the matter of purchasing one was shelved. The Medical Officer, Dr Smales, would be visiting on 27 March to establish sources of various springs and wells;Cllr Dimes would accompany him.

31/03/1947 A special meeting was held to consider, inter alia, the finances of the new BG. The insurance money paid for the HMH would be held at the PO until such time as a new Parish Hall was considered. DCC had sent an Election Order, respecting the election of councillors by poll. War Memorial receipts were transferred from the retiring clerk to the incoming one. The Chairman undertook to try to trace the Ordnance map of the parish, thought to be at Manor House. Following Dr Smales' visit to inspect water supplies, concerns were raised about the amount of rubbish surrounding the supply at Castle Lane. Above Town Farm and in Show Field, holes had been bored by Mr Burgoyne and a suggestion was made that he should be contacted about the source of the springs. A detailed estimate of expenditure amounting to £389-15-0 had been received for the BG; all items were felt to be reasonable apart from 'building wall in concrete blocks £80' so the architect would be asked about cheaper alternatives. A road safety film would be shown in the Assembly Room on 16th May. Miss Blackell received a vote of thanks for her work as Clerk to the Council.

21/04/1947 Mr Quick was elected as Chairman. MoH gave notice of churchyard closure, to take place on 26 April. Clarification was required as to status of double graves still with only one occupant and estimates were needed for BG gates. An Income Tax demand had been received for the Hall. The HMH had shown a profit for the short time it had been usable. DCC were suggesting Church Quillet be used as a playing field; subject to valuation both the owner and tenant were agreeable. School managers to be asked for price of hiring school for BPC meetings.

10/05/1947 The Ministry of Food would be contacted re supplies of fresh fruit. BPC would support South Huish in protesting to RDC regarding high rates. BPC decided to remain in Assembly Room for meetings and not use schoolroom.

20/05/1947 Parish Meeting. Discussion took place regarding disposal of burnt-out Hall. It was resolved to put the site up for auction and also resolved to purchase a new site on which a new parish hall and a playing field could be housed. BPC's powers over the hall would be passed to a body of trustees, representing various organisations in the parish. The negotiations for the new BG were reported as being almost complete. A public enquiry would be held in June re the proposed sewerage scheme.

9/06/1947 A further protest re the rates would be set to DCC. A sub-committee already formed was given authority to complete arrangements for a static water tank for the village. Tenders could now be invited for various work at the new BG. MoH required plans of the site of the old hall; Mr Maddick, architect, would draw up same. Insurance money for the old hall would be kept until the responsibility of BPC for a new hall was decided. The Chairman would act as BPC representative on Playing Field Committee.

14/07/1947 Five contractors had been invited to tender for BG work. BPC decided not to donate towards the DCC War Memorial fund.

18/08/1947 BPC agreed to accept the lowest tender for BG, that of Messrs Burgoyne of Torcross (£277-0-0). Permission would be sought from DCC for borrowing an additional £58 (as agreed at meeting 30/09/1946). A cheque for £450 (fire insurance) would be passed to the secretary of the HMH committee.

13/10/1947 A house-to-house collection was being made for Princess Elizabeth's wedding gift. Cllrs Oldrieve and Foale had resigned; co-option of Admiral Fairbairn and Mr A Fardon was agreed. A resolution was passed that the MoH sanction a loan of £458 for the purchase and laying out of the new BG. Repayment via a fixed sum per annum was agreed. Tenders would be sought re sale of old HMH site. The Telephone Manager at Exeter would be asked to provide a box at East Down.
12/11/1947 The likely rent of new council houses was 16/- a week, with reduction of 2/6d if occupied by agricultural labourers. Repayment of the small loan for BG now to be repaid in less than 60 years. The Vicar would issue a certificate when closed churchyard was handed over to BPC *(where is this now?)*. £12-4-2 had been collected for Princess Elizabeth's wedding gift. Cllr Fairbairn would replace Mr Foale as nominated school governor. Mr F Life's offer of £35 for the burnt out old parish hall was accepted and a solicitor would be appointed to deal with same.
8/12/1947 An immediate loan of £200 would be sought for new BG expenditure. The Chairman would act for BPC in signing relevant papers. Funds being available to do so, relatives of WWII fallen would be asked to apply by 10/1/1948 for names to be added.
19/12/1947 BPC would support protests against closure of Dartmouth Grammar School. Mr New would act as BPC's solicitor for BG matters. A list of BG charges was agreed.

1948
12/01/1948 Quotes would be obtained for supply of new stone for inscription of names on War Memorial. A precept of £30 would be requested from RDC. Vendor's costs for BG site would be paid by BPC; contractors to make a north-south path according to architect's plans. Proofs of the agreed list of BG charges to be obtained from Messrs Ellis of Dartmouth. Consecration to take place after Easter. The cheque for sale of the old hall site would be passed to the Hall Management Committee. A post box at Hutcherleigh Turn would be asked for. It was agreed that future BPC meeting should be on Wednesdays.
11/02/1948 Mr Bastard would be asked to repair the boundary hedge between his land and the new BG. Diocese had suggested 1 April as date for consecration. Messrs Burgoyne had been paid £80 so far for their work at BG. They would be asked to 'peg out' and number the first three rows of graves. Tenders for grave digging to be received by 17 February. The balance of the BG loan would be applied for. Brig. Rayner MP had reported that electricity would probably be brought to the village in winter 1949.
18/02/1948 *(from this point references to BG also appear as 'cemetery')* Cllr Fardon had resigned. Mr Davey or Mr Barnett would be asked to fill vacancy. No tenders had been received for grave digging so various contractors would be approached about doing this work. After a few adjustments the official scale of cemetery charges was agreed and would be sent for ratification by MoH.
10/03/1948 Mr C J Barnett was sworn in as councillor. Cllr Mitchell's offer of a noticeboard for use at cemetery was accepted. Press would be notified re consecration ceremony. Mr Dennis would be asked to pare the cemetery's road hedge on the Millcombe boundary. The Postmaster was not able to supply a box at Hutcherleigh Turn; he would be asked to install one at Cliston Cross instead. The County Surveyor would be asked to clear up following the destruction of the pill box at Cotterbury. Mr Barlow's offer to pay the architect's fees for plans made in connection with sale of old Memorial Hall was accepted.
15/03/1948 APM Less than £10 remained to be spent at BG; Messrs Burgoyne would be instructed to build stone entrance pillars; Mr Barlow's offer of a suitable gate was accepted. A Fire Squad would be organised with Mr Hatfield as Captain and fire

extinguishers bought for their use. RDC to be asked to relinquish its interest in field known as 'Park' so that village could use it as playing field.

21/04/1948 Cllr Quick was re-elected as Chairman. Application for further loan would be made in connection with various expenses. Tenders to be sought for field gate and iron work at cemetery. DCC now responsible for fire services (instead of the National Fire Service) and would be asked to provide facilities for the parish and to send a fire officer to speak to BPC.

29/04/1948 A special meeting was held to finally agree the fees for the BG; this would be sent to MoH for approval before formal acceptance and publication. The annual precept (£20 plus £10 for BG) would be applied for forthwith.

12/05/1948 DCC's Mr Locke came to speak about fire services but was not very forthcoming with proposals put by BPC. The Charity Fund *(first mention of this in minutes)* to be closed on 31 May. Cllrs Quick and Mitchell would prepare a scheme for fund distribution.

9/06/1948 All the BG, except for section marked 'B' would be consecrated. An offer to cut cemetery grass free of charge but with grass taken away in lieu of payment would be accepted.

14/07/1948 RDC's suggestion to replace iron railings round War Memorial by a low stone kerb and to provide an additional piece of ground surrounding it was accepted. £280-15-0 had been subscribed to the Fire Distress Fund and was spent or allocated. Cross Quillet was decided upon as the most suitable place for a playing field.

11/08/1948 This meeting started with a vote of confidence in Cllr Dimes, which was carried unanimously *(it is not clear why this was deemed necessary)*. An open meeting followed. The suitability of Cross Quillet as a playing field was discussed but did not receive any support *(so most of the remaining agenda items were automatically null and void)*. The audited copy of the 1946-7 accounts were presented. The rebuilding of the bakery was discussed and Mrs Dimes assured the meeting that this would happen.

8/09/1948 BPC Chairman, Cllr Quick was not present at this meeting, which was chaired by Cll Davies. The Bishop of Exeter and MoH to be approached for authority to let for grazing 'all that part of the cemetery which is not pegged out'. The grave digger would be asked for an estimate of cost of paring the two roadside hedges. The table of BG fees was formally adopted by BPC. Cllr Dimes' suggestion that standing orders be amended to include notices of parish meetings to be advertised and displayed locally was not voted upon. A copy of Edward's 'Parish Councillors' Guide' would be purchased. Cllr Cutmore brought up the matter of the Cllr Quick's handling of meetings; subsequent discussion showed councillors feeling that he was often too speedy in ruling people out of order. Cllr Davies was asked to convey the feelings of the meeting to Cllr Quick *(what transpired is not recorded afterwards)*.

11/10/1948 Representatives of WNOC came to hear BPC's views on how the local services could be improved and undertook to take suggestions back. Mr Palfrey would clear the rabbits in the cemetery's road hedges with ferrets 'on a 50/50 basis'. MoH were demanding plans in triplicate before considering grazing the cemetery with cattle; BPC then decided to abandon this scheme on grounds of projected cost. Cllr Mitchell was to replace Cllr Dimes on the Rating Committee. BPC agreed to join Devon Association of Parish Councils (DAPC). Because of 'a recent instance of wrong-reporting' a suggestion was made that all reports of BPC meetings should be passed by either the Chairman or the Clerk before publication; this was voted down.

10/11/1948 RDC invited BPC to take over 'the whole of frontage of the housing site' *(behind the War Memorial)* but not to build any other structure or increase the size of the memorial; this was agreed. The standing order re notice of parish meetings was again proposed by Cllr Dimes, but there was no seconder, so the motion fell. Council went into

committee to discuss applications for council housing and their recommendations were sent to RDC.

8/12/1948 The District Valuer had written to suggest 10/- a year as rent for the ground at War Memorial, but Clerk was instructed to reply that RDC did not require to be paid. DAPC's magazine to be circulated among councillors.

1949

12/01/1949 A list of items still required for BG would be compiled before any further loan application would be considered. MoH to be asked again about grazing unconsecrated part of BG. RDC would be asked to submit plans of sewerage scheme for the councillors to peruse.

9/02/1949 Dr Smales (Medical Officer for Health) gave an extensive report including 'items of special interest to this area' *(none of which are itemised in the minutes)*. The audit for 1947-8 was due to take place in March.

9/03/1949 A short meeting of BPC was held immediately prior to APM in order to pass items for payment.

9/03/1949 APM The telephone service would be asked for a direct line to the Fire Station. Fire extinguishers were needed in the village. A 'village nuisance' was reported; this was that 'big boys and girls' were speeding about the village, sometimes after dark. The Police Sergeant at Strete would be asked to stop this. Mr Barlow's offer to finish off the War Memorial site with a crazy paving surround was accepted. Cllr Dimes' offer of a part of his field known as Colley Park as a village hall site was accepted.

13/04/1949 The Bishop would be approached to see if the War Memorial service could be arranged for the same day, 3 July, as the dedication of the Church's new lectern. A vote of thanks was made to the BPC's retiring Chairman, Cllr Quick.

23/05/1949 Cllr Mitchell was elected Chairman of the new council, which was comprised of Cllrs Barnett, Davies, Carter, Hatfield, Mitchell and Yabsley *(no seventh for some unidentified reason)*. Mr Dimes to be replaced by Cllr Yabsley as a Sparkes' Charity trustee. A precept of £25 (£20 general and £5 for BG) would be sent to RDC. BPC meetings would be altered to take place at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month.

13/06/1949 BPC would not be willing to purchase the land surrounding the War Memorial from RDC. The Memorial would be dedicated on Sunday 3 July at 6 pm. Cllr Yabsley and Admiral Fairbairn would represent BPC on the school management committee and Cllr Carter on the rating committee. The electricity grid system was to be extended between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge so it was hoped that within another 18 months it should be possible to install electricity in Blackawton. The possibility of a new school building and acquisition of the present building for a village institute were discussed.

20/06/1949 A special meeting was called to discuss maintenance of the cemetery. Lowering of the pegs marking out grave spaces and small metal plates marked with grave space numbers, to be inserted below ground level, would mean that grass could be cut by machine. It was understood that Mr Lethbridge would do the cutting free of charge in return for the grass. The Clerk would obtain details of the Burial Acts.

11/07/1949 Residents in the Cliston area petitioned to be connected when the village water supply was installed. A seventh councillor was required; after some discussion it was agreed to ask Mr Quick, with Ad. Fairbairn and Mrs Barnett as reserves. Removal of flowers from wreaths following recent interment had been reported to the police. If nothing urgent happened, the next BPC meeting would not be until 12 September.

15/08/1949 *(the reason for this meeting is not stated; Ad Fairbairn was co-opted as Cllr but this is not mentioned)* DAPC were to be contacted re provision of water supply to villages, including Blackawton, currently not receiving mains supply. Problems of BG

maintenance would be addressed; £10 was allocated for this. No tenders had been received for grave digging.

12/09/1949 It was resolved that the lowest tender, for £12, for clearance and tidying of the cemetery would be taken. No serious objections were raised about the removal of Blackawton PO provided that an additional posting box be installed.

26/09/1949 *(Note that this meeting is recorded in the minute book before that of 12 September for some reason. It is a public, rather than a parish, meeting because insufficient notice was given).* A Public Meeting was called to discuss the various issues about utilities 'to get the people of Blackawton united in their fight for Water, Electricity, Drainage and fire-fighting equipment'. Various people spoke on various topics, one lady commenting that Blackawton had to be 'the dreariest village in Devon' and one councillor commented that electricity had been promised as coming to Blackawton within 18 months for as long as he could remember. A resolution was passed that the electricity board be asked what route the lines would take and whether landowners en route had been contacted; Brig. Rayner MP would be asked for support in getting supply. Since 1944 efforts had been made to adopt the Moorland water scheme; work on Ritson Brake reservoir had been due to begin in July but had not happened. Unfortunately nobody from RDC was at the meeting to explain but reportedly consulting engineers had promised to proceed with bills of quantities, etc. Sewerage work contractors had pulled out and RDC were now seeking other tenders for the work. Lacking any progress with getting a better fire response for the village, local fire extinguishers would be collected, overhauled and recharged and then placed at key points throughout the village.

10/10/1949 The additional posting box had not been installed and this would need to be followed up. Due to transport difficulties for the Press BPC meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of each month in future.

14/11/1949 A special short meeting was held with only three councillors present, due to illness and other reasons for absence. The only real business was to approve pending payments.

14/12/1949 The liability of BPC for insurance of the Clerk and also the grave digger would be raised with the National Insurance Office at Totnes. Estimates would be obtained for tools needed at BG.

14/12/1949 A Parish Meeting was held to give an update from matters raised on 26 September. Before this business, a representative of the Workers' Education Association (WEA) spoke about the aims of the movement and it was agreed to start a class in current affairs. Five CO_2 extinguishers were to be renovated; Cllr Hatfield to act as Fire Chief. A water pipeline was being installed between Brent Moor and Diptford so Blackawton was unlikely to get a supply for some time. Electricity was reported as being available in Blackawton in 12 months, with a transformer possibly in the field behind the school. The BG was reported as being neat and tidy. A complaint would be sent to the Postmaster regarding lack of posting box.

1950

11/01/1950 '…profound dissatisfaction' was expressed at the slow progress of getting electricity to the village. Progress of water supply would be raised again with RDC.

8/02/1950 At the invitation of BPC this meeting was attended by a representative of South West Electricity Board (SWEB). After discussion it was understood that the village and any premises within 800 yards of the Blackawton transformer would receive supply before the end of the year, with supply to the rest of the parish to follow about a year later.

8/03/1950 Tenders would be invited for position of grave digger and/or caretaker at the BG. The Postmaster at Totnes to be asked about position of a posting box.

23/03/1950 A special meeting was called to review BG tenders. Mr Wallace's tender of £12 was accepted.

23/03/1950 APM The meeting agreed to have a further WEA class the following winter; psychology and practical science (or both) being suggested topics. A resolution would be set to Brig. Rayner MP re the RDC's 'unhelpful attitude' concerning water supply. A loan of £30 would be required to purchase necessary tools and a storage shed for the BG. Incorrect signposting in the village would be referred to DCC.

12/04/1950 The ongoing water supply problem would be brought up at the next RDC meeting by the local RDC councillor. The PCC's offer of help with fire extinguishers was accepted. A dance would be held to choose Blackawton's Queen in readiness for Dartmouth Carnival.

10/05/1950 The additional posting box for the village had been installed *(but it doesn't say where)*. K&SWB would be asked if there was a contract date for completion of pipeline to Stanborough reservoir, and if so, when.

21/06/1950 RDC wrote proposing to build further council houses and would be coming to visit on 14 July to look for a site; all councillors would try to attend this meeting. A precept for £50 would be sent to RDC. No grants would be available in connection with Festival of Britain *(planned for 1951).*

12/07/1950 RDC would only be willing to meet with one councillor on 14 July; Cllr Hatfield would attend. A protest would be sent to WNOC regarding the late bus during the summer season. A suggestion had been made that, through WEA, a group might visit BBC in Plymouth. Unless there was urgent business there would be no August meeting of BPC.

12/07/1950 A Parish Meeting was held following BPC meeting. A public footpath review was planned. Suggestions were made for celebrating Festival of Britain. RDC would be asked about condemned property in the village.

13/09/1950 SWEB had met with two councillors to 'thrash out the question of what our requirements are, particularly with regard to the farms'. It was reported that a tender had been accepted for the water work and an 8" pipe was to be used. The old bell offered by Messrs Oke to Blackawton would be kept at Sheplegh Court until further decision about its use had been made. Two fire extinguishers would be replaced. A revised charge of 7/6d per meeting would be charged for use of room for BPC meetings in future.

11/10/1950 A bus shelter was deemed necessary and WNOC would be contacted about this. Tenders were to be obtained for erecting a shed in BG. Demonstrations of correct use of fire-fighting equipment would be requested from the suppliers *(this was later put on hold in light of a display being given at Stoke Fleming in connection with Civil Defence)*.

8/11/1950 WNOC could not supply a bus shelter; RDC's planning department would send a representative to the village. A suggestion was made that schoolchildren be given a talk on taking care of the War Memorial. It was agreed to ask RDC about the procedures for erecting street lighting in the village.

30/11/1950 A Parish Meeting was held. RDC were prepared to give 'sympathetic consideration' to parish suggestions for council house building sites. The meeting resolved to 'adopt the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833….'. SWEB had sent a list of costs; the meeting agreed to install five lamps; sites suggested were Cross, GPO pole south of Churchyard, opposite The George, outside the Commercial Inn and opposite Ebenezer Chapel. Provision of a bus shelter was discussed; BPC would explore all possibilities but undertook not to enter into 'any financial obligations without prior consent of parishioners…'. 17 miles of public footpath had been prospected and agreed; the schedules and maps to be passed to RDC.

13/12/1950 Mr Bastard to be asked to catch the rabbits in the boundary hedge between his land and the cemetery. The estimated precept for 1951 was £110, to include £60 for

new lighting scheme. Blackawton Brewery Company would be contacted regarding a possible bus shelter in its car park. An addendum was added to the minutes re electricity supply: a surcharge of £3 per consumer for 'earth leakage trip gear' was necessary because of the absence of a mains water supply; representations would be made to Ministry of Fuel and Power for adoption of protective multiple earthing (in which case the surcharge would be repaid).

1951

10/01/1951 The school authorities had agreed to a supply of electricity to the school. Electricity had come to the village on 18 December 1950, the event symbolised by floodlighting the church. A letter of appreciation would be set to SWEB *(text given verbatim in minutes)*. Electricity being available, suggestions were also made about possibilities of bringing new trades into the village.

7/02/1951 Blackawton's idea of erecting a bus shelter to commemorate the Festival of Britain was being explored. Fire officers from Dartmouth gave the council a talk on fire precautions, including turning off electricity at the mains before tackling a fire.

14/03/1951 Two sites were suggested for a potential bus shelter: at the church gates and near the War Memorial. Street lighting was incomplete due to a delay in delivery of parts. A tender for £35 for a hut in the cemetery was accepted. Sufficient land to widen the road on Millcombe Hill had been offered and DCC would be asked for their views on this.

11/04/1951 The council decide that the APM would be held on 25 April and there would be no May BPC meeting *(in fact no APM minutes are recorded so it is uncertain if they took place; there certainly was a May BPC meeting however)*. SWEB had sent an agreement concerning street lighting, which was accepted *(contents not minuted)*. DCC would be contacted regarding the long time it was taking to lay sewerage pipes and consequent travel delays. The owner of Assembly Room refused to reduce room charges for BPC, which voted to meet in the schoolroom in future.

30/05/1951 A rough estimate had been obtained for building a new Parish Hall (£1600). The Divisional Surveyor was to come for a site visit at Millcombe Hill. The bus shelter project was dropped on the grounds both of finding a suitable site and of cost. Blackawton had been allotted 16 houses in the recent building programme.

20/06/1951 RDC would be asked how many of the 16 houses would be built by the next year and also for a copy of the proposed layout. A suggestion was made that the school playground should be used as a car park for BPC meetings. As the chief objection to this was the rough state of School Lane, Highways would be asked to resurface it.

12/09/1951 The toolshed in BG was nearing completion. The PO would be asked to install a light in the telephone kiosk.

14/11/1951 Ad. Fairbairn had resigned as a councillor and Mrs I Barnett was elected to replace him. Accounts received for toolshed and other work at BG would not be paid until the work had been inspected. The position of the street light at Cross was discussed and a change of position would be investigated. SWEB would be asked about electricity roll-out to rural areas. The Clerk formally asked for her salary to be raised to £20 per annum.

1952

16/01/1952 The owner of the house wall in Main Street behind the proposed parish noticeboard had agreed to a board being fixed there. Mr Brice was elected to fill a vacancy on BPC *(minutes don't state why but infer that Cllr Hatfield had died).* A suggestion was made that BPC meetings should be every other month in future *(but as usual a decision was deferred until next meeting).*

This transcription was done by Anne Harvey, Lower Clyston Farm, Blackawton, 2020