

A HANDSHAKE ACROSS A HUNDRED YEARS

*A tribute to all Ellesborough Parish Councillors
1894 - 1994*

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10

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| | | Page |
|-----|---------------------------|------|
| I | The Start | 1 |
| II | Peace and Stability | 5 |
| III | The First World War | 7 |
| IV | Between the Two Wars | 9 |
| V | The Second World War | 12 |
| VI | Improving the Environment | 14 |
| VII | To the present day | 18 |

Appendices

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen | 22 |
| 2. | The Clerks | 24 |
| 3. | The District Councillors | 25 |
| 4. | Constables 1894 - 1933 | 26 |
| 5. | Overseers Appointed 1894 - 1926 | 27 |
| 6. | Fire Risk | 28 |
| 7. | Correspondence between Sir Arthur Lee and the Council | 29 |

"A HANDSHAKE ACROSS A HUNDRED YEARS"

A Tribute to all Ellesborough Parish Councillors 1894 - 1994

THE START

In 1894, a new Local Government Act, long awaited and hotly debated, came into being. It enacted for the first time, Parish Councils. They were to replace the Vestries, those amalgams of Squire, Parson, Magistrates Churchwardens, Constables, Poor Law overseers and Rate-payers through which, for centuries, local communities had Governed themselves. Its main and its most important effect was to separate civic and ecclesiastical affairs, content of the former going to the new Parish Councils and of the latter in due course to the Parochial Church Council; both bodies frequently though not always covering the same area. The pattern was now set for 100 years.

In 1894 Ellesborough, then as now, was a scattered village stretching along between the roads leading to Little Kimble, Terrick and Butlers Cross and with one remote hamlet, Scrubwood, lying amongst the beechwoods behind Coombe Hill. Beside its ancient Parish Church, it had two Chapels, three Public houses, (the Russell Arms and the Rose and Crown and The Plough) and its great house, Chequers Court, then inhabited by the widowed Lady Franklin-Russell-Astley and her two sons, Bertram and the Reverend Hubert. In addition it had a post-office (parcels + telegrams), baker, butcher and blacksmith. Its inhabitants were almost entirely rural - small owners, farmers, cottagers, labourers craftsmen; a very close-knit community mostly knowing each other well and family-related. It seems to have taken to the new regime like a duck to water.

This is what happened (a transcript)

Parish of Ellesborough

The first act of of the new Council Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, the 4th Day of December 1894 for the purpose of Electing Parish Councillors for the above Parish.

Present Mr Robert Munger and
Mr William Curtis overseers
and Thomas Walker Assistant overseer

There were a large number of Electors present, it was proposed by Mr William Adams and seconded by Mr William Curtis and carried unanimously that Thomas Walker Assistant Overseer be Chairman of the Meeting.

Twelve Nomination Papers were then handed in to the Chairman which after being duly examined by the Chairman were then found to be valid.

Five of the candidates afterwards consented to withdraw reducing the number to seven which were duly elected whose names are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Adams William Jnr | Cattle Dealer |
| Corbet Gerald Vincent | Gentleman |
| Claydon George | Butcher |
| Eldridge Walter | Blacksmith |
| Lane Alfred | Labourer |
| Munger Robert | Farmer |
| Quarington Charles | Carter |

(signed Robert Walker - Chairman)

The act first of the new council action was to pass a unanimous resolution asking Bertram V.R.Astley to become the first Chairman and Clerk. He accepted both offices and, for the next nine years, served his council with kindness and understanding, brilliantly and well. Mr G.V.Corbet was likewise elected Vice-Chairman.

Ellesborough then got down to business:-

It requested the Clerk

- i to ask the Returning Officer for an explanation of his charge, why 10/- for NO POLL and 10/- for a few ld forms. (Alas, as now an "explanatory" letter was received and the account had to be paid).
- ii to ascertain, without delay, the exact legal position of the Council over the Parish Charities.

This last perhaps needs explanation. In 1894 there was no Welfare State or Cradle to Grave Safety net, and the needs of the poor, Deserving or Undeserving, were dealt with through appointed officials, Overseers, Poor Law Guardians, Beadles, Bumbles, etc,

and funded through levies and all sorts of charitable gifts and bequests. It was necessary to distinguish as quickly as possible between those Charities and Bequests religious in purpose and intent and those which were consigned in perpetuity to Rector and Church Wardens simply as the obvious means of combining Trusteeship with continuity.

In due course the Clerk reported as follows: Four charities were involved.

1. The Sir Robert Greenfell Russell Bequest
"approval of the Church Commissioner would have to be obtained before the appointment of additional Trustees.
2. The Lady Franklin Russell Bequest
"There appears to be some difficulty as to the control the Parish Council would exercise owing to the Charity not having been in existence for 40 years"
3. The Isabella Dodds Trust (the Almshouses opposite the Church)
"exempt from Council interference as it extends to more than 5 parishes and therefore did not become a Parochial Charity".
4. Scrubwood Poor Law Allotment
"do come under parish control and Council can appoint Trustees in place of the present Overseers and Church Wardens".

Undaunted by the report, the Council then appointed four new Trustees for the Scrubwood Poor Law Allotment (one, Robert Munger apparently replacing himself, he already being an Overseer Trustee) and it requested the Clerk to make further enquiries about the two Russell bequests. It also elected John Benyon (Miller) as replacement for C. Quarington (resigned) and appointed four parish constables for a three year period of office), it received a report from A. Lane on the very bad state of footpaths and formed a Committee to investigate and report back.

At a later meeting (November) The Clerk reported receiving two letters:-

- i. One a reply to a letter to the Charity Commissioners asking for power to appoint Trustees to the Sir Robert Greenfell Franklin-Russell Trust, intimating entire ignorance of the Charity.
- ii. the other, from the Rev. J. Sumner to say that the last bequest in question was in the Rector's hands and would in due course be handed over to his successors.

It was unanimously agreed to postpone any further action with regard to that Charity.

Extract from the will of Lady Franklin-Russell of Chequers who died in 1881.

"and that the Dividends thereof shall be at the sole discretion of the Rector for the time being of the said Parish should be applied in purchasing food to be distributed by him amongst the deserving poor of the same Parish of Ellesborough on the Christmas Day next after my death and thenceforth every Christmas Day and every Sunday during the months of January, February and March".

So ended the first year of Ellesborough Parish Council. With Christmas coming, one feels how right it was of the Council to postpone any action! The extract given above shows what a wise, perceptive bequest it was taking the recipients through the worst of the winter and with a curious surreal 1894 likeness to the £10 OAP Christmas bonus of today.

1895 PEACE AND STABILITY 1913

The new Ellesborough Parish Council had adapted itself quickly to a new regime and to a changing but apparently still stable world. As before, it elected four Overseers (until 1926) appointed four Parish Constables every four years (until 1933). Under the new 1901 Education Act it now also appointed School Managers (the Rev. Sydney Vardon and Miss May Couper were the first) and also sent representatives to the newly formed Committee for Higher Education.

In 1901

- i A letter of Condolence was sent to the Royal Family on the death of Queen Victoria "whose death we all deeply deplored" and expressing loyalty to "H.M. the King, her successor, hoping he may have a long and prosperous reign".
- ii Mr Rupert C. Clarke, now the Rector of Ellesborough being present at the meeting (of the Parish Council) asked "to be allowed to introduce the matter of the homecoming of the Imperial yeomanry from the South African war and suggesting that something might be done to welcome them home". Also, he informed the Council that he had consented (presumably as Rector) to the proposal of the County Council that a Monument to the memory of the brave troops who have fallen "in this lamentable war" be erected on the top of Coombe Hill.
- iii The first Clerk was appointed (see Appendix 2) and it was agreed that future meetings of the Council be held in the Village Hall (for 10/- p.a.)

THE FIRST CHAIRMAN

Tragically in 1904, it had to record the death, after a very long illness, of its first Chairman Bernard V.R. Astley and its "deep sense of the loss we, as parishioners, have sustained". He was succeeded by Rupert C. Clarke, the Rector. He too died in office (1911) and John Benyon, a Councillor since 1895, became the third Chairman, and, after resigning from the Chairmanship he still remained on the Council until 1918.

THE PARISH MAP

Reported lost was found in 1911 in the house of a former Parish Councillor. It was decided to hang it in its former place, with instructions to the Caretaker of the Parish Hall that parishioners were to have access for the purpose of inspection, free of charge, whilst non-parishioners were likewise to have the same privilege on payment of 1/- and that on no account was the Caretaker to allow removal of the Parish Map from the position which had been provided for it by the Manager in 1904.

Perhaps it may also be reported that, in 1929, the Council accepted a Presentation of a glazed Parish Map for the use of the Parish (to be placed in the hall) and that, in 1931 Sir James Berry asked the Council to accept maps showing the boundaries of

the Parish, on condition that it should hang in the Hall for the use of parishioners. In 1956 S.E.A. Carter gave an 1805 map to the Council.

CHALK AND THE CHALKPIT

As early as 1896, the entrance to the chalkpit was ordered closed and J.W.Eldridge (the Blacksmith) appointed Custodian. The council also enquired from the District Council by what right it claimed control and profit therefrom - a battle lost, - but mitigated by an assurance that the said profit, if any, should be used for Ellesborough. Some years later, it was reported there was still plenty of Rag (chalk) there and a full survey ordered. Also, all Chequers tenants were allowed access to the pit.

Chalk, for the maintenance of side-roads and, above all, of footpaths must have been as necessary as gravel is today for road maintenance. This is borne out by the reply of the cautious Parish Council to a very early enquiry from the District about footpath repairs. The Council then said it preferred to retain the responsibility for maintenance of footpath (except roadside ones) and was willing to bear the expense.

APART FROM THESE CHRONICLED HAPPENINGS, the Council was occupied with a time-chain of events and interests which, both separating and joining 1894 and 1994 somehow holds unbroken even through the stresses of the two world wars - Dunsmore Pond, Footpaths, Water, Butlers Cross cross-roads, Housing, Children, Footpaths and the Dunsmore Pond. There was also peace, continuity and for Ellesborough at least, no foreboding of the cataclysm and the complete ending of life as it had been, which lay ahead.

1913 THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1918

It is only the over-eighties who now have even a childhood recollection of the first world war and fewer still those with any adult memory, so it is difficult to appreciate the impact that war must have had on a small rural community when a generation of young men left it within four years and sixteen never did come back.

In 1914, Ellesborough had no electricity, no telephone, no main drainage or piped water supply, virtually no cars or buses, no radio or wireless. It was dependent on horse-drawn transport (and horses were soon to be required for the army). All that we now have by "gadgetry" was done then by skilled and often very hard physical labour.

At the outbreak of war, four councillors were elderly, having already served on the Council since the nineties, two were farmers and the name of David J.Cox, then newly elected, is on the War Memorial.

For three years there were few meetings, but by 1917 the Council was meeting regularly. Each meeting probably entailed a journey on foot or bicycle on muddy, uneven roads or footpaths, in darkness (unless lucky with the moon) and on arrival, only a small oil lamp. All letters, minutes, memoranda etc. were hand written and consequently had to be read aloud (no duplicated copies). The Clerk J.S.Mayne (who served the Council for 22 years) would have taken a train from Aylesbury to Wendover and walked from there. No wonder the caretaker was exhorted to have firewood available and a fire ready. It must have been a gathering of exhausted, overworked men taking on yet more jobs as Constables, Overseers, Trustees and the like and yet still somehow continuing the business of the Council.

These are some of the items with which they dealt:-

In 1916, a circular letter, received from the Ministry of Food, was handed over to the Velvet Lawn Cottage Gardens Society (was this possibly a precursor of the present Kimble and Ellesborough Horticultural Society?) and two months later David J. Cox (also apparently the V.L.C.G.S Secretary) reported that the Society was about to offer 15 prizes to the smallholdings producing the maximum amount of food.

In 1917, staves and handcuffs were received for the use of Parish Constables: a stream of circular letters was received on food production, the provision of farm labour etc. and the Clerk also read a letter relative to the supply of seed potatoes but "owing to the short space of time - viz 4 days allowed for the collecting of orders and enabling of poor persons to make arrangements for payment. It was decided the document should be tabled."

By 1918, still more circulars arrived, including one from the Director of Pig Production and another from the District Council urging greater food production; (The Council replied maximum

effort on the part of Parishioners was already being put fully"); a meeting specifically convened to receive guidance on the spraying of potatoes from the Bucks County Council Instructor had to be cancelled. The instructor did not come.

LETTERS BETWEEN COUNCIL AND SIR ARTHUR LEE

One happening however deserves full mention and that is the correspondence in 1917 between Sir Arthur Lee, then lessee of Chequers and Minister of Food Production (See Appendix 7). It shows, first, the primary importance of rights of way and footpaths:- the provision of labour to produce food depended, it being two or four-footed and un-mechanised, on it getting to work by the quickest and easiest way; secondly the reply to the Council's letter is immediate, understanding and kindly, and, finally the recognition of this is in the Clerk's reply, but still with the insistence that, in happier times, footpaths are rights.

The Council met on 10th October 1918 and had on its Agenda.

a letter from A.Morley of Dunsmore (later to be Chairman for 14 years) about the Pond, which was in a deplorable condition.

A signpost pointed wrongly - vandalism was suspected.

THE COUNCIL MET AGAIN ON 28TH FEBRUARY 1919

Extract from Minutes

Roll of Honour

The following is a list of gallant Ellesborough lads who have laid down their lives in the Great War to save us from a fate worse than death - our gratitude to them is unspeakable.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Francis Bamforth | Thomas Claydon |
| Archie Bowden | Charles Ayres |
| Ronald Gideon | Charles Eldridge |
| Edward Ceillam | Herbert Eldridge |
| Charles Burch | David Charles Cox |
| Harry Wells | Arthur Flitney |
| Cyril Humble Crofts | Sidney Flitney |
| Noel Whitfield | Claude Young |
| (Signed) Geo Claydon - Chairman | |

1919 BETWEEN THE WARS 1939

In 1918, what had become known as "the War to end all Wars" came at last to its end and Council elections were held. Ellesborough had 15 candidates who fought for seven places and, this time, there were no last minute withdrawals. George Claydon, the Chairman throughout the war, topped the poll and was re-elected Chairman. Except for C.E.E. Eldridge (Charlie) the rest were newcomers. They were Benjamin Ayres (Bee-Keeper) of Springhill Cottages, Constance Britton sister of the widowed Mrs Rupert C. Clarke (and the first woman to be elected) she was made Vice-Chairman, Ernest Carter (post-office) who with his son was together to give nearly seventy years continuous service to the Council, Henry J Terry (a highly skilled professional gardener) and Thomas H. Wheeler (farmer).

The new Council still represented a small rural community but it was no longer one the inhabitants of which were dependent upon it for livelihood and employment. They lived in Ellesborough but increasingly worked outside it, because from the early 1920's came the rapid development of communications and transport which made it possible to do so.

Telephones were now close at hand and easily accessible; "the wireless" whether crystal set with cat's whiskers or home-made 5 valve treasured monstrosity was soon in every home; letters cost 1d and postcards 1/2d to go on their way with very fast deliveries.

Steam rollers were used to tarmac country roads: until then dust clouds in summer and mud traps in winter. Now people went further afield to work and could also use wheeled transport for recreation. Every weekend saw cycle clubs riding three abreast and pedalling steadily on their way to sea and country. More important still, the motor-bike, complete with side-car and pillion (the flapper bracket) allowed the family as well as individuals freedom to travel long distances and make day visits. The Parish Council, being the smallest unit of local government, had little executive power, but knowing and being known to its parishioners, became, for them, both a shield from and a channel to the County and District bodies above. This role of the Parish Council shows very clearly in its doings over the next 20 years.

WOMEN'S VILLAGE COUNCIL

It was reported that a Women's Village Council had been formed with Mrs Carter elected as Chairman. An accompanying letter from Miss Britton its Joint-Honorary Secretary drew the attention of the Council to various women's matters. The Council replied "the powers and role of the Parish Council afforded no scope for the activities of the members of a Women's Council. It therefore had no alternative but to decline the offer with regret".

HOUSING

- i In 1918 the District asked for an estimate of post-war housing needs. The Council replied twelve cottages and suggested two each at Apsley, Chalkshire, Grove and Timms' farms, and at Mr Darvill's and Mr Walters' farms; obviously thinking entirely of agricultural needs. The result was the three blocks now called Beacon View, all with large cultivable gardens (a memory of the recent food shortages?). The Council also wanted to select the tenants, presumably for its own returning Service men, though it did not succeed in doing this.

- ii In 1928 a letter came from the District to say the time had now come to consider further possible housing "needed for the working class". The Council responded with enthusiasm. It would like twelve houses to rent at 8/- per week. The District replied NOT practicable, at which the Council retorted that it understood Aylesbury was building houses to rent at 5/- per week. In 1934, there was more correspondence, the Council pointing out that Council houses were vacant, rents too high and that twelve houses at 5/- to 7.6 per week would be of infinite value. All this resulted in Royal Mead, Terrick, reported as "soon to be ready" in 1936 and "tenants have been selected" a little later.

- iii 1929, The great Rates Row. A meeting was held and a resolution passed that the Parish of Ellesborough protest against the District's action in passing a resolution for direct rating and requesting it to rescind the resolution. After a struggle the District gave way and Ellesborough won.

WATER

Water was always in short supply until piped (mains) water came and that did not happen until the late 1950's. Before then, everyone had to rely on wells and rainwater tanks.

- i In 1920 The Council decided that shortages were due to drought and "ordinary supply of water is the responsibility of the cottage owner"

- ii In 1928, the Council wrote to the District pointing out that "aged persons have to obtain water with bucket and rope from a 30ft well". A Bottom Water Elevator" was provided.
- iii In 1929 Sir James Berry (on the Council from 1928-34 and Vice Chairman for three years) said he would help supply Dunsmore in times of drought (he probably had a deep water-well) and the Council's thanks were recorded.

THE SILVER BAND "Sound, sound the clarion, fill the Fife"
 In 1930, Ellesborough Silver Band was disbanded and apparently ceased to exist. Luckily however it asked the Parish Council to take custody of, and to store, its uniforms, instruments and equipment. This was agreed everything being put into the Parish Hall rafters. In 1938, the Band was triumphantly and happily re-formed. It wrote thanking the Council for the care that had taken of everything and the Council replied saying that credit was really due to the Daily Mail, in which paper, uniforms, as well as everything else had been safely wrapped.

MISCELLANY

- 1919 i Dunsmore Pond (in one of its many manifestations)
- ii a Children's Playground. Miss Faith Moore (Lady Lee's sister) offered the Council Church Hill Field.
- b Mr J.R.Bateman advised rejection as entirely unsuitable.
- c The Council accepted with warmest thanks.
- iii E.Carter elected Chairman of Peace Celebration
- 1920 i Letter of welcome sent to Lloyd George on his coming to Chequers as Prime Minister.
- ii Miss M.Couper given permission to graze her mule on the Church Hill Field.
- 1921 Reported that a well was being used as a refuse dump.
- 1925 A.J.Walker asked to interview W.H.Wheeler relative to a ditch at Chalkshire "an over flow of disagreeable flood from his farmyard"
- 1930 Cats and dogs reported killed by rabbit snares set at Chequers. Council asked RHS to support its protest.
- 1936 Mr Piercy kindly cleaned Dunsmore Pond

1939 THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1945

In 1939 A. Morley was still Chairman (see Appendix 1) and W.H. Benyon, Vice Chairman, the latter succeeding to the Chair when Morley left Dunsmore for good in 1941. These two, together with Messrs Carter, Martin, Mooney and Wheeler, carried the Council through the war. In spite of all the changes between the two wars the Council's pre-occupations had hardly altered:-

- i the need to deal with small local matters, also the over-riding importance of using land to produce food.
- ii and for provision to be made for housing ex-servicemen and for their families.

1936-1939

- i S.Flitney and G.E.Lane appointed Air-Raid Wardens
- ii A circular on Air-Raid Trenches received; a Meeting called.
- iii S.Eldridge offered to cut the Playground grass
- iv A new litter bin was provided for Dunsmore
- v Footpaths requested on the Missenden road to the School and between the Rose and Crown and Hill End.
- vi letter received re sign-posts and footpaths

1940 - 1943

- i **STRONG** representation concerning the over-zealous person who had wilfully ploughed up the Alms house field.
- ii A seat, with litter-bin attached, installed at Butlers Cross. The donor, Miss Ryland, thanked and told "much pleasure given"
- iii J.W.Mooney suggested advisability of a possible communal feeding centre for Ellesborough.
- iv An enquiry from the District re War-Time Domestic Food Production. Reply:- Allotments and gardens all well-stocked.
- v War Weapons Week at High Wycombe. It was agreed that Ellesborough had a duty to support and a suggestion that Parish Hall be offered, free, for a suitable event.

SPORTS GROUND AND PLAYGROUND

In 1940, a letter was received from Mr Randag, who farmed Chequers, to say that he had now bought, from the former owner, Colonel Gethin, land which included the 3 1/2 acres leased by the Council as a Sports Ground. (The Sports Ground was a strip running from the Parish Hall along the road towards the Church; part of the big field). Mr Randag asked the Council, either to relinquish the tenancy or to fence the ground off and de-weed it. J.W.Moony pointed out that, with all the young men in the forces there was no-one to play on it and it would be better cultivated. Mr Randag was invited to meet the Council for discussion.

At the meeting, he offered to cultivate the land for the duration of the war and then to return it to the Council. He suggested a pepper corn rent of 1/- p.a., this also to include the 1/2 acre by the Hall and which he would fence. He also asked if he might rent shooting rights from the Scrubwood Trustees for £10 per annum. All was agreed with warm thanks and approved.

H.M.S. ROEBUCK

In 1943 Ellesborough adopt H.M.S.Roebuck for Warship Week and a certificate was received from the Lords Commission of the Admiralty to commemorate the adoption.

The Council immediately enquired the complement of H.M.S. Roebuck "So that various women's organisations may provide comforts" (war word for woollies), alerted the ladies and asked the Rector for permission to hang the Certificate in the Parish Hall. Back came the replies:- Officer Commanding H.M.S. Roebuck reported total complement of officers and men 210; the Rector gave permission, by telephone, the same evening, and the ladies, knitting needles at the ready, needed WOOL. Lord Woolton was then approached for concessionary coupons. Unfortunately, no more of this story appears in the Council Minutes, but the Certificate still hangs today in the Church porch.

1945

- i It was considered that when any Council House vacancies occurred, preference should be given to married men in the forces, "where families are compelled to live with parents". It was unanimously agreed to write to the District about this important matter.
- ii Official letter from District received, promising full consideration be given to the housing claims of local ex-service men. This letter was read to the Council and gave great satisfaction.
- iii J.W.Mooney reporting "the excellent organisation of the Welcome Home Fund invited the Council to associate itself with the Presentations when the Lads and Lasses return by adding "a Civic atmosphere".

1946 IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT 1970

HOUSING, PLANNING and MAIN DRAINAGE became the main pre-occupations of both District and Parish for the next 25 years; Curiously, and probably because they had always co-operated closely behind the scenes the Ellesborough District Council Member had never been also a Parish Councillor. This changed in 1953, when A.R.Astbury was elected to serve on both Councils. Thereafter, until the big changes of 1971-73 the District member was also on the Parish Council. It resulted in greater understanding and a far more efficient reception, transmission and giving of information. Most important of all, it enabled the same person to be observer as well as participant on both bodies and thereby to serve each more efficiently.

HOUSING

The Housing Famine, which occurred after 1945, can be compared with the need in both wars, to produce more food: Unfortunately, houses unlike food cannot be grown and the destruction which had been wrought by four years of bombs, land-mines, VI's and V2's had created a short-fall which was to last a generation. Neither labour nor materials were easily available.

Ellesborough was lucky. About 1937 another group of 12 houses had been suggested, detailed plans drawn and possible sites inspected. The result was Elm Close, built against all the odds and finished in 1950. In fact, at one point the District appealed desperately to the Council to see if it could find a builder. One member said, indignantly, "if they can't we can't", but the Chairman (E.Carter) suggested perhaps a firm from quite another area might be persuaded to "transfer" if a local scheme was delayed or quickly completed. It seems this was done as there is a tenant-tradition at Elm Close that the houses were "Luton-built".

The Council had early estimated the coming housing need and its Minutes show the continuous efforts it made on behalf of parishioners. These culminated in 1955 when an exasperated District replied that Ellesborough was only waiting for six families to be re-housed and that there were 772 on the District Waiting List. The Council still struggled on; it enquired why Southfield Cottages were vacant and was told "unfit for human habitation". It reported gross overcrowding - a couple, a lodger and four children soon to be five, packed into 3 rooms and no sanitation - No answer on record.

This shortfall lasted until the 1970's, at least, probably longer.

PUSHING BACK THE PYLONS

"Let us now praise famous men": the Clerk the Council and above all, the Vice Chairman L.V.(Mrs Sidney) Burch. Extracts from the Minutes tell the story.

i. A special Meeting of Ellesborough Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Butlers Cross on Wednesday the 13th June 1956. The Chairman apologised to the Meeting for the very short notice of meeting given but she said that the matter for discussion was so important that she had felt that an immediate meeting was necessary.

The Clerk then read a letter from the Bucks County Council dated 1st June 1956 addressed to the Council within the Parish of Ellesborough and also a Notice of Inquiry stating that a Public Inquiry would be held on 26th June 1956. The Inquiry was being held by the Minister to gather all facts relating to the route of the proposed 275 KV Overhead Electricity Line as put forward by the Central Electricity Board and to a proposed alternate route put forward by the Planning Authority to meet objections from residents of Wendover respecting the original route., This proposed alternative would pass through the Parish of Ellesborough on the following route:-

Wendover Dean via Hampden Leaf Wood, Ashmore Wood, Lynton's Wood past Chequers and Lodge Hill and immediately along the bottom of Coombe Hill across the golf course to rejoin the line proposed by the Central Electricity Board to the west of Wellwick Farm.

It was resolved that a Special Parish Meeting be held on Monday the 18th June and that notices of the Meeting should be distributed to as many householders as possible together with the letter and notice provided by the Bucks County Council. The plan of the proposed line to be displayed in the Post Office during normal office hours. Ctrs. Maude, Cardwell and Gibbons were appointed to represent the Council and to present the Council's case at the Inquiry to be held at the County Council Chamber in Aylesbury on 26th June 1956.

That a letter be sent to the Bucks County Council asking that authority if the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, The National Trust, The Forestry Commission and The Ramblers Association had been invited to attend the inquiry and if not asking that an invitation be sent.

ii. A Parish Meeting for the Parish of Ellesborough was held in The Parish Hall, Butlers Cross on Monday the 18th June 1956.

Clr. Mrs L.M. Burch, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council presided.

She stated that the purpose of the Meeting was to discuss the proposed erection of a 275 KV Overhead Electricity Line through the Parish of Ellesborough and to approve the action already taken by the Parish Council. Approximately 105 residents of the Parish attended the Meeting.

It was opened for general discussion by the Earl of Buckinghamshire who explained what the proposal was, the route it would take and what it would mean to the woodlands through which the line passed. He stated that the erection of such a line was objectionable to all but it had to go somewhere and it was up to the authorities concerned to find the most unobjectionable route. The passing through woodlands meant the cutting of a strip 100ft wide and he was concerned that by doing this the remaining woodlands would be exposed to windblow which might cause more serious damage to the woods. Unfortunately the line had to be erected overhead as no cable carrying such a high voltage had yet been discovered which could be placed underground.

Group Captain Cardwell produced a petition signed up to the time of the Meeting by 161 residents protesting against the proposal and the Meeting unanimously adopted the petition for presentation at the Public Inquiry. The Revd. White spoke in favour of the petition.

The Earl of Buckinghamshire said that the Parish Council in objecting to the proposal to bring the line through Ellesborough would in effect be supporting the Central Electricity Board and the Planning Authority in the Wendover Gap proposal.

Resolved that this Meeting agrees that the Parish Council represented by Ctrs. Major Maude, Group Captain Cardwell and Mr. V.R. Gibbons should attend the Public Inquiry into the erection of a 275 KV Overhead Electricity Line through the Parish of Ellesborough and object most strongly against the proposal and that the action already taken by the Parish Council be approved. The Parish Council to use in their objection certain technical information and also the views of the Parish Meeting as put forward.

iii. A Meeting of Ellesborough Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Butlers Cross on Wednesday 18th July 1956.

The Delegates who represented the Council at the Court of Inquiry into the proposed erection of a 275 KV Overhead Electricity Line part of which would pass through the Parish of Ellesborough, reported on the proceedings.

The Chairman said that all were to be congratulated on the enthusiasm and energy shown in preparing the Council's case and in particular to Ctrs. Major M.W.V. Maude, who so ably conducted the case for the Council, Ctrs. A.V. Gibbons and Group Captain H.E. Cardwell, and that he only hoped that their efforts would not be wasted and that the result of the inquiry would be satisfactory to Ellesborough.

They weren't, and it was.

A PIG PROJECT AT DUNSMORE

Extracts from Minutes Ellesborough Annual General Meeting 1964. Mr Fairbanks informed the meeting that a discussion had recently taken place in respect to a proposal to develop Dunsmore Farm as a pig breeding establishment and that approximately up to 2,500 pigs would be bred there. Dunsmore itself is a beauty spot with preservation orders to keep it so also it is included in the

Green Belt. A development of this kind would completely destroy the amenities of the village and also the roads to Dunsmore could not cope with the increased traffic. The buildings are understood to be similar in design to broiler houses. Several local residents present spoke supporting the speaker and it was proposed by Mr Fairbanks that this Parish Meeting protest in the strongest possible terms to the proposals made.

Further speakers then spoke in favour of the proposal including the Revd White who said that he did not like to see the beautiful countryside in Ellesborough Parish gradually whittled away.

It was RESOLVED that this Parish Meeting protest in the strongest possible terms to the Wycombe R.D.C. against any proposal and application that may be submitted to that Authority for the development of Dunsmore Farm as a pig breeding establishment and that such an application should be approved by the planning authority.

23.3.1965 It was reported that the District had received an application for 26,000 square ft of pig breeding buildings.

27.6.1965 It was reported that permission had been refused. But that there was always the possibility of an appeal.

To date so far nothing more has been heard of the pigs

MAIN DRAINAGE

Before 1968, when main drainage came at last to Ellesborough, all were alike, dependent on cesspools and septic tanks, and it was the responsibility of the District Council to empty them. This was done by a fleet of large tankers which, at least in theory, were then driven off to an official emptying point. Unfortunately this was not exactly what happened. Tanker drivers did not like the time lost and farmers were often pleased to receive "effluent" sprayed on their fields.

During the 1950's and 1960's there were a number of fine hot summer days. House holders breakfasting on sunny patios suddenly smelt danger and, investigating, would see tanker and "effluent" spraying happily away in all too near-by fields. Telephones became red hot and so did language! Copies of Official District instructions were repeatedly circulated - NO SPRAYING within 50 yards of dwellings; NO SPRAYING for the next eight months/rest of the year. Neither protest or prohibition worked:- see below

- 1954 NO cesspool tipping near houses
- 1957 Illegal Tipping. "No more cesspool tipping for six months"
- 1961 Complaints!!!
- 1962 "No sewage scheme before 64"
- 1964 "Perhaps sewage scheme in 67"
- 1967 Drainage Scheme deferred
- 1968 MAIN DRAINAGE - ANNUS MIRABILIS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

In 1973 the 800 year old Borough of High Wycombe became merged with Marlow Urban & Wycombe Rural District Councils, together to form the new Wycombe District Council. This operation took two years and ended in an unforgettable year in which all three councils continued to work independently and the new Council also held regular, though powerless meetings.

The former Wycombe Rural District had 40 members, the new body was to have 60, with the smaller Parish Council, grouped together in "Wards" sharing a District Councillor. "Ellesborough, Great and Little Kimble and Longwick-cum-Ilmer", accurate, but unsuitable for daily use, finally and mercifully became Icknield Ward.

PLANNING

- i Provision of Additional Information
The Parish Council was greatly helped when the new District Council agreed, in 1974.
 - a. To send Parish Clerk fortnightly lists of Planning Applications received.
 - b. Also to send details and Plans (for return within 14 days) of any application concerning the Parish.

These procedures gave no extra powers but did offset the loss felt by some Councils of the former individual representation at District level.

- ii The Chequers Footpath. In 1973 the Trustees of Chequers invited THE Parish Council to a meeting at Chequers in order to be shown the route of a proposed footpath diversion. This, many people must still remember, finally necessitated a public inquiry, the alternative, to which the Parish Council had not objected, and had felt was entirely reasonable, was allowed. One Ellesborough parishioner gave particularly helpful evidence.
- iii A.O.N.B. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
In the early 1980's, the Countryside Commission, considering A.O.N.B. boundary areas, at first proposed that the Northern end of the Parish should lie outside an altered boundary line. When this proposal was later withdrawn, the Council Minuted its gratification that the reasons given for the Commission's change of mind were almost word-for-word of those given by the Council when asking for reconsideration.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

The Council had, for many years, rented the Children's Playground from Mr Randag and when, in 1980, he retired and left the country he made a generous and, it seemed, long planned gift to the Council; land for a Children's Playground and enough room also for a car park.

The Council formed a playground sub-committee (S.E.A.Carter, Mrs Ellis, R.Pearce) with power to co-opt. This produced a three-year plan exhibited for several days in the Hall. A grant of £750 for equipment came from the District Lottery Fund. A Two-year plan was immediately approved and the sub-committee set to work :- the big slide came, the Mound moulded, climbing apparatus installed and the much-loved tractor, now, alas no more; set in place.

A pleasant little end-piece:- Some years later on a brilliantly fine British Legion Fete day, Mr Randag, now old and frail, was spotted walking rather forlornly up the road, having seen no-one he recognised and no-one until then having recognised him. Brought back, old friends left stalls and sideshows to welcome him and to show off the playground alive with children scrambling on the new equipment. It was his last visit.

SPEED LIMITS AND BUTLERS CROSS CROSS-ROADS

In the early days footpaths seem to have given the Council more trouble than roads:- more of them and more used. Later things became different. Minutes show how the Council struggled with the traffic problem, increasing all the time and centred particularly on its most famous cross road. Butlers Cross.

1920 Council asked for a 10 mph speed limit for Butlers Cross (under the 1908 Act (1921 refused))

1925 Letter to District re Butlers Cross cross-roads

1927 Letter from Parishioner re serious accident at Butlers Cross

1929 Accident at Butlers Cross 3 people badly injured.
Council remarks - 10 years of useless correspondence
Butlers Cross included in possible remedial road works by County Council.

Letter of thanks to County Council "for making the most dangerous cross roads in the County safe".

1942 Accident at Terrick. Army lorry collided with a telegraph pole. "missing Sam Eldridge's house by a narrow margin".

1946 Request for speed limit. Butlers Cross to Terrick
Chief Constable replied. "No speed restriction".
Chief Constable could not agree speed limit but would supply mobile police control .

1949 Accident avoided only by cyclist leaping off bicycle as bus came round the corner.

1958 Congestion reported at top of Church Hill. Letter to and from Parish Council to - County

- 1962 Council, PC - District, PC - Police, PC - County
Council PC. County Council gives up after 4 years.
- 1963 Request for speed limit. Refused
- 1964 Council Minutes that it is in complete
disagreement both with the County Council and the
Chief Constable.
- 1965 Double white lines suggested for Wendover Hill refused.
Not possible. Road too narrow.
- 1971 Dangerous heavy traffic reported on Wendover Hill but
Council Minuted that residents would be completely
against widening.
- 1974 Footpath for Wendover Hill asked for.
- 1975 Roundabout for Butlers Cross suggested: horror of
residents round about.
- 1983 Asked for weight restriction on B4010
- 1984 Asked for a raised footpath, on B4010

In 1985 the Council decided to make yet another effort to obtain
a weight/speed restriction, at least on B4010. The M.P. was
asked for help; a petition organised; letters sent; photographs
prepared as supporting evidence; - and, this time, after seventy-
five years of effort ELLESBOROUGH GOT A SPEED LIMIT - OF SORTS.

THE SCRUBWOOD AND THE RUSSELL CHARITIES

In 1983, owing to the wisdom and foresight of John Holt, then
Clerk both to the Council and to the Trustees of the Scrubwood
Charity, successful steps were taken to sell the land (The
Scrubs) to the National Trust and to merge the two Charities.
This took place after initial opposition, a good deal of debate
and finally general approval. One feels that the Council of
1894-1984, which struggled so hard with both Charities would have been
very pleased with what has now been done - the new Charity
brought into being

THE ELLESBOROUGH RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

Is now in a position to give real help to anyone in Ellesborough,
not "the Poor (whether Deserving or Undeserving)", but just with
a some kind of a NEED - nice after 100 years.

CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN & CLERKS

No account of Ellesborough Council can end without reference to
the gratitude parishioners must feel towards Chairman, Vice-
Chairman and Clerks for the quantity, dedication and often length
of the service they have given. Here are three examples:-

First, the two Carters', father and son served on the Council for sixty years:- Ernest 1919-1954 and Sydney 1958 - 1986. They were both Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Sydney actually was in the Chair for 18 continuous years and then insisted on a successor; to whom he became Vice-Chairman for another five years.

Second, the Clerk Chairman partnership of Sydney Carter & John Holt in using their combined local knowledge and expertise to comment over ten years, on behalf of the Parish Council, on the mass of planning applications then being made.

Third, a voice from the past, John Benyon Ex-Chairman and Vice-Chairman, on the Council since 1894 wrote in 1918 to resign "owing to advancing" years and said "we always agreed to disagree on the most affable terms".

FINALLY FULL CIRCLE. EXTRACTS FROM 1994 MINUTES

- i Highways: "His letter will be passed to the Highways Department with a request for a 30mph speed limit"
- ii Footpaths: Mr X's land has been ploughed and he will be asked to make it properly with his tractor.
- iii Dunsmore Pond: We hold an acknowledgement for an application for a caution if anyone lays claim to the pond at Dunsmore.

Councillors from the past would find themselves at home in the present.

APPENDIX 1

THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

| | CHAIRMAN | VICE CHAIRMAN |
|------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1894 | BERTRAM V.R.ASTLEY | GERALD R.CORBYS |
| 1895 | " | " |
| 1896 | " | " |
| 1897 | " | " |
| 1898 | " | ROBERT MUNGER |
| 1899 | " | " |
| 1900 | ROBERT MUNGER (Acting) | " |
| 1901 | " | " |
| 1902 | ROBERT MUNGER | JOHN BENYON |
| 1903 | " | " |
| 1904 | " | " |
| 1905 | REV. RUPERT C.CLARKE | " |
| 1906 | " | " |
| 1907 | " | " |
| 1908 | " | " |
| 1909 | " | " |
| 1910 | " | " |
| 1911 | " | " |
| 1912 | JOHN BENYON | GEORGE CLAYDON |
| 1913 | " | " |
| 1914 | SIR LANCELOT AUBREY-FLETCHER | " |
| 1915 | " | " |
| 1916 | GEORGE CLAYDON | J.W.ELDRIDGE |
| 1917 | " | " |
| 1918 | " | A. LANE |
| 1919 | " | MISS CONSTANCE BRITTON |
| 1920 | " | " |
| 1921 | " | " |
| 1922 | " | " |
| 1923 | ERNEST J.CARTER | IRWIN WOOTTON |
| 1924 | " | " |
| 1925 | " | " |
| 1926 | " | " |
| 1927 | " | " |
| 1928 | ALFRED MORLEY | ERNEST J.CARTER |
| 1929 | " | " |
| 1930 | " | G.E.LANE |
| 1931 | " | SIR JAMES BERRY |
| 1932 | " | " |
| 1933 | " | G.E.LANE |
| 1934 | " | " |
| 1935 | " | W.G.BENYON |
| 1936 | " | " |
| 1937 | " | " |
| 1938 | " | " |
| 1939 | " | " |
| 1940 | " | " |

THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

| | CHAIRMAN | VICE CHAIRMAN |
|------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1941 | " | " |
| 1942 | W.G.BENYON | RONALD G. MARTIN |
| 1943 | " | " |
| 1944 | " | " |
| 1945 | " | " |
| 1946 | ERNEST J.CARTER | W.G.BENYON |
| 1947 | " | " |
| 1948 | " | EDWARD D.CLARKE |
| 1949 | DAVID J.ALLEN | ERNEST J.CARTER |
| 1950 | " | " |
| 1951 | " | " |
| 1952 | " | L.M.(MRS SYDNEY)BURCH |
| 1953 | DAVID J.ALLEN | L.M.(MRS SYDNEY)BURCH " |
| 1954 | " | " |
| 1955 | " | " |
| 1956 | " | " |
| 1957 | " | " |
| 1958 | L.M.(MRS SYDNEY) BURCH | VICTOR R.GIBBONS |
| 1959 | " | S.E.A.CARTER |
| 1960 | " | " |
| 1961 | " | " |
| 1962 | S.E.A.CARTER | T.W.GOODSON |
| 1963 | " | " |
| 1964 | " | " |
| 1965 | " | " |
| 1966 | " | " |
| 1967 | " | " |
| 1968 | " | " |
| 1969 | " | " |
| 1970 | " | " |
| 1971 | " | L.T.BARRON |
| 1972 | " | " |
| 1974 | " | " |
| 1975 | " | " |
| 1976 | " | " |
| 1977 | " | " |
| 1978 | " | " |
| 1979 | " | " |
| 1980 | ROGER H.WHALLEY | " |
| 1981 | " | " |
| 1982 | " | S.E.A.CARTER |
| 1983 | MISS J.H.C.COUPER | " |
| 1984 | " | " |
| 1985 | " | " |
| 1986 | " | " |
| 1987 | S.F.ROBINSON | MRS D.ELLIS |
| 1988 | " | " |
| 1989 | S.F.ROBINSON | MRS D.ELLIS |
| 1990 | " | " |
| 1991 | JAMES ALFORD | " |
| 1992 | " | " |
| 1993 | " | " |
| 1994 | " | CLIVE BRAY |

APPENDIX 2

ELLESBOROUGH COUNCIL - THE CLERKS

- I **Bertram V.R.Astley and Robert Munger.** The first two Chairman of the Council, each acted also as Clerks
- II The first Clerk as a separate Official:- guide, mentor and expert in Local Government to successive Councils:- was only appointed in 1905.
- III **J.S.Mayne** 12.11.05 - 24.2.27
"Spoken of in glowing terms by John Benyon Chairman 14-14" followed by
- Mrs H.A.Partridge** 21.4.27 - 11.3.38
and
W.S.Mayne 11.3.38 - 27.1.51
who was also Acting Clerk in 1936-38
- The Council, referring to Mr W.S.Mayne's resignation noted its sorrow at "ending a 50 years association with the Mayne Family" as well as expressing its thanks and gratitude to Mr W.S.Mayne himself.
- IV **H.C.Mortemore** 27.1.50 - 24.3.71
The Chairman speaking of Mr Mortemore's long service said he had not missed one meeting in 22 years and asked that this should be minuted together with the Council's "thanks and good wishes".
- V **A. Masters** 2.3.71 - 19.5.75
- VI **John Holt** 1.6.75 - 12.11.85
The Council recorded its deep appreciation of his outstanding and unstinting service over more than 10 years.
- VII **D.G.Norman** 12.11.80 -

APPENDIX 3

ELLESBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 1901 - 1994

- 1.
2. T.Walker 1905 - 1909
3. Miss M.M.J.Couper 1910 - 1949
4. J.R.Medcalf 1950 - 1952
5. A.R.Astbury 1953 - 1962
6. Miss J.H.C.Couper 1963 - 1982
7. Mrs P.Priestley 1983 -

APPENDIX 4

CONSTABLES APPOINTED 1894 - 1933

1895 JOHN BURGER, JAMES HILL, ARTHUR WEBB, GEORGE CLAYDON
1897 RICHARD PURSELL, ARTHUR WEBB
1898 GEORGE CLAYDON
1902 EDWARD BENYON, ARTHUR WEBB, JAMES HILL, GEORGE CLAYDON
1905 EDWARD BENYON, GEORGE CLAYDON, JAMES HILL, ARTHUR WEBB
1914 GEORGE DARVILL, CHARLES SMITH, JAMES WOODGATE,
GEORGE CLAYDON
1915 CHARLES SMITH, JAMES BALLARD
1916 JAMES WOODGATE, CHARLES SMITH, WHEELER
1917 GEORGE CLAYDON, ANGUS CHISHOLM
1918 GEORGE CLAYDON, ANGUS CHISHOLM
1919 GEORGE CLAYDON, ANGUS CHISHOLM
1920 GEORGE CLAYDON, ANGUS CHISHOLM
1931 GEORGE CLAYDON, EDWARD D. CLARKE
1931 GEORGE CLAYDON, EDWARD D. CLARKE
1933 GEORGE CLAYDON, EDWARD D. CLARKE

APPENDIX 5

OVERSEERS APPOINTED 1894 - 1926

1895 J.W.ELDRIDGE - GOODSON
1897 EDWARD BENYON, MUCKLE
1898 HENRY PITCHER, GEORGE BELLINGTON, GEORGE CLAYDON
1914 ARTHUR WEBB, GEORGE DARVILL
1915 HENRY WHEELER, DAVID C.COX
1917 GEORGE CLAYDON, JOHN MUNGER
1918 J.W.ELDRIDGE, H.PITCHER
1919 J.WALKER, RICHARD PURCELL
1920 JOSEPH BALLARD
1924 JOHN MUNGER, RICHARD PURSELL
1926 JOHN GURNEY, ERNEST HAIN

FIRE RISK

Fire risks were an early preoccupation of the Council. There was no particular centre of population only a most vulnerable scatteration of farms, stables, hayricks, granaries etc. It soon made an agreement with Wendover that "the Parish of Ellesborough shall have the use of Wendover Fire Engine and appliances at any time for the purpose of extinguishing any fire or fires in the Parish of Ellesborough on the said Parish making a subscription of £2.2.0 per annum paid on 1st April". All expenses had to be paid by the property owner and his insurance and included the cost of the horses which would have to drag the heavy engine considerable distances and probably on bad and hilly roads.

Twenty years later, the Council, being asked to increase its subscription to £3.30 per annum replied "having regard to a recent experience, (it was said the engine arrived after the fire was out) unless the Wendover Fire Engine would be forthcoming when requested, it would be compelled to withdraw its subscription but, realising the expensive times in which we live, was willing to increase the amount, provided such assurance was given".

In 1928, a hot summer, Dunsmore had a fire which might have had very serious consequences. A petition asking for furze, growing in close proximity to houses and roads to be cut and kept cut back, was signed by 50 residents. (Considering total population, it must have been virtually unanimous) and, after pressure, the landowners agreed.

In 1928, a cold winter, Ellesborough Rectory burned down, owing, it was alleged, to the Rector thawing a roof-tank, with a blow-lamp:

Wendover increased its annual fee to £5.00 and Aylesbury offered a free service.

It is pleasant to record that when, forty years on, the District Council "wished to ascertain the arrangement in force to deal with outbreaks of fire in the Parish" the Council left it to its Chairman to consult with the Captain of Wendover Fire Brigade.

APPENDIX 7

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND SIR ARTHUR LEE M.P.

On the proposition of Councillor J.W.Eldridge 12.4.17, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed that the Clerk would call the attention of Sir Arthur Henry Lee to the illegality of his act in the ploughing up two footpaths in the Parish and request him to restore them forthwith to their former condition - one of these footpaths runs from the Church to Gadsdean and the other from the Church to the School.

13.4.17

Sir,

At a meeting of Ellesborough Parish Council held yesterday evening I was directed to enquire if you are aware that an infringement of the law has been perpetrated owing to the fact that your agent has ploughed up two footpaths, one leading from the Church to the School and the other from the Church to Gadsdean.

The Parish Council feel certain that these acts have been performed without your cognisance and they would be very glad if you would kindly restore these footpaths to their former condition as soon as possible.

I have the honour to remain Sir
Your obedient servant

J.S.Mayne, Clerk

Sir Arthur Lee M.P.
Chequers Court
Ellesborough, Tring

72 Victoria St, S.W.1.
19.4.17

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of April 13th I am afraid I must accept full responsibility for the ploughing up of the two footpaths on the Chequers Estate to which you draw my attention.

I am extremely sorry if I have thereby caused any inconvenience to the general public and it is certainly my intention to restore these footpaths to such extent as is reasonably possible as soon as it can be done without detriment to the National interest. At the present moment however, and probably for some time to come the one paramount interest that must override all others is the production of more food for the people, and it was solely in order to further this vital object that I authorised the acts of ploughing of which you complain. If it had been

possible to do the work without interfering with the footpaths I should have been only to glad, but in view of the necessity of employing mechanical means there was no alternative but to plough fields right across. I do not wish to fall back upon any fine legal point, but a matter of fact I am advised that there is no legal obligation upon the owner of land to preserve paths in a usable condition so long as he does not interrupt the actual right of way and does not seek or endeavour to stop people from using it. There is therefore no question of my having broken the law although I admit that I have interfered with the paths convenience. In order to mitigate this grievance so far as possible and so long as it last, I shall be only too glad to allow the right-of-way over any other part of the part that will lead him more comfortably to his destination.

This is, I am afraid, all that I can do to meet the views of the Parish Council, which is, I am sure, as anxious as I am to allow nothing to interfere with the provision of food in the great national cause.

Yours faithfully A.LEE

To J.S.Mayne Esq

9 Rickfords Hill
21.4.1917

Sir,

On behalf of the Ellesborough Parish Council I beg to thank you for the satisfactory and reasonable tone of your letter, especially that portion which so thoughtfully provides for the temporary convenience of the pedestrian by giving him permission to reach his destination by any route through your Park, which he chooses to take. But I am sorry I cannot tacitly agree with the advice you have received respecting your alleged legal right to plough out these footpaths in the course of husbandry as this is the first time this has been done within the memory of man.

I have the honour to remain Sir
Your obedient Servant

J.S.Mayne. Clerk