

Kibworth Harcourt Parish Meeting

Leicester Chronicle Saturday April 10th 1897

A crowded meeting of inhabitants was held at the Nelson Inn, on Tuesday evening, to consider what steps should be taken to commemorate the Queen's long reign. Mr. Dickinson, who was voted to the chair, mentioned that a committee was formed for Kibworth Beauchamp, and Kibworth Harcourt invited to appoint a committee to meet them. Mr. J. Horton moved that something be done to celebrate the Queen's reign. Mr. T. H. Wright seconded, and the resolution was passed.

The Chairman suggested that they should decide whether they would endeavour to join with the other parish. Mr. T. Wright proposed, "That we keep our parish to ourselves," and Mr. Roe seconded.

Mr. T. Taylor moved an amendment that the parishes act unitedly, observing he thought the opportunity might be utilised for combining the interests of the parishes and settle any jealousies that might exist. They had so many things in common, the church, the burial ground, the schools, and the post-office, that he thought the forthcoming event might be celebrated as a joint parish. Rev. J. A. Hopwood seconded, remarking that a union of that kind would tend to bring the parishes nearer together in heart and sympathy.

Mr. Collier, as one of the oldest inhabitants, said that an infant school had, to his knowledge, been required for 65 years, and common humanity called for an end being put to the little children from all parts of Harcourt having to go to the Beauchamp school. He supported the notion that the parish act alone.

Mr. J. Coleman adopted the same view. The Chairman said he was extremely sorry to learn that there was such an exclusive feeling in the matter, and apart from the question of uniting for general government of the two parishes, he thought, as expressed by Mr. Taylor, that they should join with the view of making one grand attempt to unite the two parishes instead of keeping them within their own little circle. He considered that to determine not to go and hear what Beauchamp had to say was not all wise. The amendment was put and supported by only four votes, whilst the original resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. King remarked that there had been suggestions that the parish should commemorate the Queen's long reign by, if possible, erecting a small village hall, or Jubilee Hall. There was at present no public room in the parish for holding meetings, and if they could not erect a brick and mortar building they might put up a cast iron one. He was not prepared as a parishioner of that parish, to give everything to Kibworth Beauchamp, nor could he see that the parochial life of Harcourt should be altogether ignored and taken possession of by Beauchamp. Home Rule was so much in vogue that would be quite out of fashion now, and he considered that the

parochial life of Harcourt was quite as well developed as that of Beauchamp, and that the meetings of the former were managed as those of the latter. He was pleased to announce that in the event of a decision to erect a village hall, Dr. Marriott had promised to subscribe ten guineas. (Applause).

As far as he could ascertain, the general feeling in the parish was that they should act separately. Mr. Newby caused some amusement by suggesting that the proposed should be at once a village hall, infant school, parish room, and recreation ground, emphatically asserting that Merton College. the lords of the manor, would have pleasure in giving the necessary ground. Mr. T. H. Wright suggested that they should have a dinner. Mr. Hopwood advocated something more permanent , pointing out that the dinner would last but a day. Mr. Taylor proposed that the committee be instructed to adopt some useful and permanent means of celebrating the event.

Mr. J. Horton seconded, and the motion was carried.