

EXTRACTS FROM A VESTRY BOOK OF THE
PARISH OF NEW SHOREHAM
FROM 1707 TO 1779.

BY ERNEST FREDK. SALMON.

THE book referred to is preserved in the Church of S. Mary the Virgin, Shoreham, and covers a period of over seventy years of the eighteenth century of our era, and, although many of the Vestry meetings recorded much resemble one another, yet there are several which reflect other affairs of the little town than the continually recurring business of providing clothes or other relief for the poor and passing accounts for the same. The following transcriptions from the book have been made as being those of greater interest:—

January 4th 1707

At a Vestery held at New Shoreham it is agreed the day & yeare above written that proper methods be taken for the Removall of William Brapple and his family to his habitation at Bighthelmstone this to be don by the proper officers of this pish & att the publicke Charge of the parish

Walter Osborne Constable
Andrew Milligan Churchward
Henry Light Overseer
W^m Rooke
Amb: Wade
Thos. Dunton
William Ledger
HIS
Thomas T Towner
MARK

December 19th 1708

At a Vestery held the day & yeare above written at New Shoreham it is agreed that the widdow Russell shall have two smocks one underwascoat widdow fford one p^r shoos & ninepence p week M^r Herring

$\frac{1}{2}$ cord of wood Widow Croucher fifteenpence p week Mary Sebbedy
1 paire shoes and pattens Also Elias ffry shall ring the eight a Clock
& five a Clocke bell & to looke after the Clock.

Amb : Wade Constable
Thomas Edwards } Church
Andrew Milligan } wardens
&c., &c.

In this same year we are able to obtain an idea of the prices current for clothing and other items:—

		s.	d.
April 20	Paid for p ^r shoes for Rob ^t Wells.....	03	00
1708	Paid for p ^r stokins for Ditto	00	09
	for 2 shirts & a hatt for Ditto	10	00
	postage of th for ditto	00	04

Elsewhere we have

pair of breeches.....	02	00
,, ,, shoes	02	10
1 shirt	03	10

These were for a boy named Derrick Carver. Other children's shoes cost from 2s. upwards. Soleing one pair of shoes was 1s. 2d. A quire of paper cost 6d.

Making a manta for Ruth Nye	01	00
Paid for Derick Carvers suite clothes & making	1	06 06

The apprenticing of a lad is also recorded as follows:—

June the 22th 1708 Then Thomas Carver a poor child of this pish & Burrough of New Shoreham, was put & bound Apprentice to & with William Tuppen of the same, Tailor; by

The Indentures allowed and signed by	{	Charles Goring	Thomas Edwards
		W ^m Scras	Andrew Milligan
		Her Ma ^{ties} Justices of the peace	Churchwardens
			Robert Woolvin
		Robert Witton	Overseers

In the year 1713, after the Rev. Rice Williams had become Vicar (the Rev. John Gray,¹ of Old Shoreham, had presided for the last time in New Shoreham at the Vestry held on Easter Monday, April 6th previous), two

¹ This remarkable man was appointed Sequestrator and Curate-in-Charge of both Old and New Shoreham parishes in 1695. He gave place, in New Shoreham, to the Rev. Rice Williams, the first Vicar appointed since the sequestration of about 1647, but remained Sequestrator of Old Shoreham for the long period of 57 years, dying at his Rectory of Southwick in 1751, having held that charge also for 51 years.

meetings concerning the Church and Churchyard were held:—

October ye 4th 1713.

At a Vestry held the day & year above written at New Shoreham have agreed that the Churchyard shall be kept clean from all filth & weeds in a decent maner upon ye charge of ye parish Witness our hands

Rice Williams
 vic: Ibidem
 Tho: Jefferys Constable
 John Pelham
 William Foster
 Benoni Ellgar
 Thomas Edwards
 James Glasspool
 William Hazelgrove
 Willi Ledger

March ye 11th 1713

At a Vestry held at the Church & Vestry of New Shoreham being y^e Minister Constable Church Wardens Overseers of y^e Poor of y^e said Parish And chief Inhabitants of y^e Parish aforesaid whose names are hereunto subscribed do hereby order and allow the present Church Wardens & Overseers of y^e Poor shall proceed and solicit for an assistance to support y^e poor of our sd parish from such parish or parishes as have no charge of poor upon their parish and also to manage & solicit in all matters that shall be needfull for y^e obtaining of a Briefe for y^e repairing of our sd church and y^e said officers shall be allowed reimbursed & paid all reasonable & lawful expenses & charges Witness our hands y^e day & year above written

Rice Williams vic: Ibid
 John Innot Constable
 Gabriel Guilford } Churchwardens
 Jno Pelham }
 William foster } Overseers
 Benoni Ellgar }

and many other signatures.

Whether anything was done in the matter of outside assistance subsequent entries fail to show.

The custom of the inhabitants was to hold distinct meetings for the different affairs to be brought before the Vestry on one and the same day, or rather, perhaps, to enter them as though they were separate meetings. On Easter Monday, March 29th, 1714, there were three Vestries held, the last of which was concerned with a

somewhat troublesome customer, who went beyond "passive" resistance.

At a Vestry held y^e s^d day & year at y^e Church of New Shoreham have agreed that whereas Richard Charnock y^e overseer of y^e poor for y^e year 1712 was molested and abused in doing of his office by Georg Brickstock of y^e sd Parish & would not obey y^e order of y^e Justices of y^e peace to pay his poor Tax And y^e sd Georg Brickstock has sued y^e sd overseer & has put him to a considerable charges w^{ch} charges and all other charges that y^e sd overseer shall be at in vindicating of himself against y^e sd George Brickstock on y^e behalf of doing his office and duty as aforesaid we shall allow and pay

Rice Williams vic: Ibid
John Innot
and many others.

Jan: the 2^d Anno Dom: 1714

At a vestry held then at y^e vestry place of New Shoreham according to y^e Ancient and usuall manner Do nominate John Robinson John Kemp Jun Georg Virgo Frācis Patching (that any two of them) to be overseers for y^e high ways in y^e sd Parish for y^e ensuing year and to be chosen by two of His Majesty's Justices of y^e Peace for that Divission pursuant to a Warrant directed to y^e Constable of y^e sd pish to y^t end & purpose

Rice Williams Clr
David Punnott Const
William Foster Headborough
John Pelham Churchwarden
Tho Peircey } overseers of
Richard Carver } ye poor
&c., &c.

January y^e 27th 1716

At a vestry held at ye usual place the same day ordered concerning ye poor of y^e Parish of New Shoreham and settled as following,

Ordered that Forty Shillings shall be paid to Henry Guilford for keeping Jane Baker when she was sick of y^e Small Pox, y^e w^{ch} money to be paid by y^e present Overseers

It is further ordered by y^e vestry. That Anne Herring Widow shall be allowed a lodging at y^e Alms house where Elizabeth Herring Wid liveth to be together with ye Widow Kennard the which Widow Kennard shall be allowed One Shilling and sixpence by y^e week and to take y^e bed and all other things belonging to her to y^e Alms house with her,

Rice William vic Ibid
Tho. Peircey Cunstable
and other signatures

It is also ordered by y^e s^d Vestry y^e day & year above written, That John Dunton & Stephen Hart Overseers of y^e poor of y^e aforesaid

ish shall use such means as y^e Law directs for y^e conveying Elizabeth y^e wife of Ralph Pinkney and also to use such means for y^e punishment of Jone Wilkins (who lives idle & lewd life) as y^e Law therein directs

Rice Williams, vic ibid
 Tho. Piercey Cunstable
 Gabriel Guildford } Church
 Tho: Jeffrey } Wardings
 Thomas Edwards
 Sinon Coward
 Andrew Milligan
 Gabriel Gilford

The following shows more prudence than charity, especially as it was the only business of the meeting:—

May the 5th 1717

At a vestry then held. It ordered by the vestry that orders shall be taken for the removing of a stranger a woman which is now abiding at y^e Widow Coopers & is bigg with Child

Signed by the Vicar & others

May the 19th 1717 New Shoreham

At a vestry then held at the usual place Ordered that the names of all persons receiving pensions are to be here incerted, and the Sume which is received weekly. And also y^t y^e Overseers from hence forward shall pay the poor in the Church on Sundays after Evening prayer, and what Clothing y^e poor shall be allowed shall be first entred & from time to time shall be henceforth brought to ye Vestry and there delivered to them, and entred into the Vestry Book every particular both of money & clothing.

	s.	d.	
To Elizabeth Herring Widow	1	6	p. week
To Anne Slaughter Widow	1	6	p. week
To Anne Peirce Widow	1	6	p. week

Allowed to y^e Widow Herring afores^d—2 shifts to John Gunter a pair of shoes

Rice Williams Clr
 Tho Peircey Cutable
 Gabriel Guildford } Church
 Tho: Jeffreys } Wardings
 and others.

April the 14th 1718

At a vestry then held At the usual place It is ordered and agreed that no Churchwarden or Overseers shall not be allowed any charges without they bring a particular account in writing to the General vestry at Easter: and that they have first a particular account of such expences and on what occasions it has been spent upon, & except they conform to this order no expence shall be allowed by ye vestry at all

& the Ringers to be allowed on any sollemn accountt no more than five shillings An further its agreed that no officer shall order any Beer or other Liquor to be Drank att any place whatsoever without giving an Ord^r und^r their Own hand & then to take a receipt on it at y^e payment of the money and also that all officers shall Bring their particular acc^{ts} to a quarterly Vestry

Rice Williams vic Ibid
 Tho: Jeffery } Church
 Gabriel Gilford } Wardins
 Jno. Pelham Constable
 and other signatures.

Newshoreham May 3rd 1719

At a vestry then held at the usuall Place, and an account being given to the said vestry that on the Decease of Simon Dunton he having left three small children, and his mother having made an application to the overseers for Relief of the Children this Vestry do appoint the Overseers and Church Wardens to take an Inventory of the said Simon Dunton's goods.

Tho: Jefferys } Church
 Gabriel Gilford } Wardins
 Tho: Peircey Thomas Glasspool
 Richard Hayler Overseers

May the 9th 1719 An Inventory of Simon Dunton's goods taken

One oval table & one Square table
 Five Ashen Chairs & a great arm Chair
 One Jointstool & fire pan tongs & dogg
 One pair of Pothooks one Candlestick
 One pepper box flour box & brew tubb
 One keeler one iron pot, three small Casks
 Four earthen Plates & one small bason
 Four pewter dishes nine pewter plates and a warming pan
 One pair of Linsy Woolsey curtains & one quilt
 Eighteen glass bottles & one fether bed & one flock bed
 One flock bolster and two fether pillows
 Two pair of sheets & one pair of Pillow bers
 Three towels & two table clothes, one trunk
 One coverlid one blanket & Six chairs

May y^e 22th 1720

Account of w^t part of y^e above menciōd goods of late Simon Dunton w^h was sould by Francis Woolvin Overseer

	£	s.	d.
A Gridiron & 3 chairs.....	00	02	00
the Widow Dunton 2 chairs	00	01	00
6 chairs and dogs.....	00	04	00
tongs & fire pan and joint stool.....	00	02	00
the linen	00	05	06
the Widow Dunton 2 table cloths & 3 towels	00	01	00
one frying pan & one earthen plate	00	01	06

	£	s.	d.
A skillet	00	01	00
a Little heeler	00	00	08
an iron pott	00	02	00
Sold to Thomas Glaspool one bed.....	01	10	00
	<hr/>		
	02	10	08

N. Shoreham June the 7th 1719

At a vestry then held at the usual place, it is ordered that Twenty shillings is to be paid for the Widow Dents rent and that the Overseers take an Inventory of the said Widow Dents goods and take the goods into their Custody

It is ordered also that y^e goods which lies in Mr Tweedals hands which were the goods of the late Simon Denton be delivered to the s^d Overseers they paying forty shillings & they are to cry a sale of the goods and the rest of the goods inventoried upon this Book and the money to remain to the use of the Parish.

It is further ordered that a weekly pension of Five Shillings be paid to the three children of the s^d Simon Dunton being orphans untill further ordered At the same time a Book was granted to the Overseers.

Rice Williams vic: Ibid.
 Tho. Jefferys } Church
 } Wardens
 Richard Hayler } over
 francis Woolven } seers
 Gabriel Guilford
 John Burges

March the 16th 17¹⁸/₁₉

A bill of disbursment for the use of the poor of the parish of New Shoreham Expended by William Haselgrove & Samuel Burges overseers of y^e poor for y^e year 1718

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Patchings wife	00	02	0
July y ^e 16 th 1718 A journey to Steyning to signe Indentures horse hire & expence.....	00	03	0
y ^e 21. 22 to Steyning henfield & Lewis	00	12	6
y ^e 23 to Angmering.....	00	06	3
y ^e 29 to Angmering & henfield for a warrant.....	00	14	9
y ^e 30 Paid with Holders boy.....	02	10	0
Sep y ^e 15 Sent to John Mose by Mr Jeffrye	01	11	6
paid the Dragoons wife	00	18	0
paid Rogers for carrying her to London	00	05	0
M ^r Glasspools bill for drinking on the parish business	00	12	0
paid for 8 load of Strumbelo Cole for fire	00	16	0
paid to the late overseers.....	06	14	11
M ^r Osborn's bill for drinking on the parish business	00	06	7½
Ledyers bill for shoes	00	07	0

	£	s.	d.
M ^r Tweedles bill for drinking on Parish business	00	17	0
M ^{rs} Coopers bill for drinking on parish business	00	05	3
M ^r Bennets bill for drinking on parish business	00	02	1½
Widow Grovers bill for drinking on parish business	00	03	0
the clothes that the Widow Hering has had is one Gown one coat two Shifts two pair of Stockens & one Apron comes to	01	13	0
the widow Slater has had one Gown one Coat two Shifts two pair of Stockens and one Apron	01	13	0
the Widow Pearce has had one Gown two coats three Shifts, two pair of Stockens & one Apron	01	19	8½
John Gunter has had one Coat & two Shirts	01	03	04
J holder had a Jacket a p of breeches three pair of Stocken and a mill cap	00	18	11½
for scouring the alms house well	00	05	00
paid to M ^r Chapman with Fryes boy	01	10	00
paid the weekly pay 46 weeks at 4 ^s 6 ^d	10	07	00
paid to Goodw Dent	00	15	00
	<hr/>		
	37	11	00
Jan y ^e 3 ^d 17 ¹ / ₉ for a journey to Steyning to get the poor book signed for horse hire & expence	00	06	00
paid for signing y ^e book & y ^e warrant	00	04	00
for a Journey to Goreing to seek after the Book for horse hire & expence	00	04	00
March y ^e 2 ^d 17 ¹ / ₉ for a Journey to Hidown William Haselgrove & Samuel Burges for advice of S ^r Harry Goring horse hire & expence paid M ^r Firth for writing y ^e poor book	00	02	00
	<hr/>		
	01	06	00
	37	11	00
	<hr/>		
	38	17	00
y ^e 9 th March the 7 a Journey to Hidown	00	05	00
a Journey to Hidown	00	05	00
paid to William Ledger for the Clock & mending Shoes	01	01	04
paid M ^r Pike for advice	01	00	00
Adam Daniels bill for Elizabeth Pearce	02	10	00
March y ^e 28 A journey to Hidown both horse hire & expences	00	10	00
John Gardners bill for shoes	00	05	03
John Bennets bill for drink at Signing the poor book	00	03	09
for 4 weeks pay at 9 ^s 6 ^d p week	01	18	00
	<hr/>		
	47	05	04

the particulars of y^e poors clothes

	£	s.	d.
M ^r Pelhams bill is	02	08	00½
M ^{rs} Parsons bill is.....	02	09	07½
M ^r Carruthers bill is	01	14	08
Nicholas Harris bill	00	06	00
M ^r Smiths bill	00	02	08
M ^{rs} Barber's bill	00	01	04
paid for making of coats at 8 ^d and	00	05	08
6 shifts at 6 ^d	01	03	00
M ^r Williams's Bill.....	01	03	00
	<hr/>		
	08	11	00

A total of £2. 9s. 9d. for drinking on the parish business, out of an expenditure of £47, evidently appeared excessive, even in those days, as at a Vestry held at a subsequent date, December 25th, 1720, to pass the Overseers' accounts, the following occurs:—

Except four bills of expense for drinking.

Dec y^e 24 1721 is a “memorandum of a note read this day in y^e Church by William Forster one of y^e Churchwardens” to the effect that two of the Inhabitants and their families having lived several years in the said Parish & Borough “desire to be admitted to bear our part of paying our scot and lot of Church and poore Rate and other Taxes in y^e said Parish proportionable to y^e rest of y^e Inhabitants thearof.”

We now come to a period when the relations between the Vicar and his parishioners were decidedly strained, the first indication of unpleasantness being the following:—

Decbr y^e 8th 172½ Att a Vestary Then and Thear held Att y^e usuall place and Itt Is ordared so That Robert Trusler shall be Sextarn of y^e Parrish of New Shoreham whose Bisiness Itt shall be To keep y^e keys of y^e Church and to clean itt & to Digg y^e Graves & to Ring y^e nell & to looke Aftar y^e clock and what evar ells His office Reaquiers & Itt is ordared That The Lock shall be Taken of from y^e church Doure & A New Lock To be putt one & the key to be delivared To y^e Saxtarn

I protest against
this order not
just save looking
after y^e clock
Rice Williams

We allow of this order
Harry Bridger Cons^{ble}
Thos Peircey } Church
W^m Foster } Wardns
and other signatures

The next meeting finds the Vicar and his parishioners still at variance.

New Shoreham

At a vestry held at the usual place on the Fourth Day of February in y^e year 1721. it was ordered by the General consent of y^e Parishioners there met together that Will Foster and Thos Peircey present Churchwardens for y^e said parish should in behalf of themselves and us the Parishioners prosecute M^r Rice Williams minister of the said Parish for y^e misdemeanours hereafter mentioned & whatsoever else can in the same nature be alledged against him

- 1 For keeping y^e Parishioners out of y^e School house being y^e place of their usual assembling about parish business.
- 2 for locking up & denying y^e key of y^e Roome where y^e books of parish matters lay.
- 3 For refusing y^e church door key & key of y^e Room for y^e book to enter Surveyors of y^e highways
- 4 For refusing the Church & Belfry keys that the Sexton may look after the Clock.
- 5 for refusing the Reg^r Book altho' the chest hath three Locks & Keys.

And at the same time a twelve Penny Book was granted to y^e Church Wardens

Feb 4th 1721^r I do protest against
this combination² by me
Rice Williams Clr.

Harry Bridger Cons^{ble}
and other signatures.

The Vicar no longer attended the meetings or protested against them, and there is no indication of the dispute until a meeting on February 17th the next year, when, in the record of the meeting then held, the following entry appears:—

As there is a suit of Law depending between M^r Rice Williams and Thos Glaspoole, on acc^t of distraining Goods for a Poor Book due to y^e s^d Tho^s Glaspoole, we do hereby order the two present Churchwardens to manage y^e said law suit in y^e behalf of Tho^s Glaspoole at the general expence of y^e Parish

On April 15th, 1723, a meeting was held to pass the Churchwardens' and Overseers' accounts. Whether the Vicar was present or not, one cannot definitely judge, but the following note occurs in his handwriting:—

Clandestinely done w^h they raised a quarel in y^e vestry and James Newman did it and caled some of accomplice to subscribe it.

Three weeks later, when the following meeting was called, all seems to have been amicably settled, and after

² "For being false" written in, but crossed through.

a lapse of 18 months the Vicar once more presides and appends his signature.

May y^e 5th 1723 the pertickilers of Anne houlders Close which came to y^e overseers hand: two shifts two Aperns foure Caps two handkerchifs one payer of shoose one payer of bodeys and stumecher a payer of stockens three petecoats one ould Gound and att y^e same time was disposed to Robinsn wife for her truble In Looking after her in her Sickness of the pertickelers above riten the Gound three Coats a payer of bodeys a shift

Rice Williams vic:
 John Kemp Churchwarden
 John Burges } Overseers
 Oliver Turpin }
 &c., &c.

At a vestry at y^e Church of New Shoram held the 9th day of 8^{br} 1726

It was agreed that wheras John Hillman of ye said Parish has gon a voyage as a Cook in the ship calld Baltimoor for Virginia and he has left a wife & six children in y^e said Parish of New Shoreham and wants a subsistance for her selfe & children it is therefore ordered that upon Consideration that Mr Thomas Edwards one of our present Church wardens shall disburse & pay to Joan y^e wife of y^e s^d John Hillman the sum of five shillings every week for y^e support of her & her children untill y^e s^d John Hillman returns from his s^d voyage And if y^e s^d John Hillman shall miscary or dye before he returns from y^e s^d voyage that y^e s^d Thomas Edwards is to be reimburst & paid by y^e Parishioners of y^e s^d pish w^t he will disburse at five shillings p weeke to y^e s^d use

Rice Williams vic:
 Gabriel Guilford } Church
 Thomas Edwards } Warden
 Will Chapman } ovar
 Adam Danell } sears
 W^m Stevens
 Robert W Widens mark

It is agreed also that Mr William Chapman and Adam Danell overseers of y^e poor have been allowed y^e s^ume of one pound two shillings & sixpence p^d or sent for Robert Trusler to Elizabeth Bristock

The following shows an increase in the outdoor relief from former years:—

Febry y^e 22 17²⁷/₈ Att a vestery held att the usal Place ytt is ordard and alowd the weekly Pay shall Be as folows

	£	s.	d.
Ann tuppen for herself and Ch	00	01	00
John Hutson Being Lunitick	00	04	06
to the late filip hilmans three Children Elias filip and Ruth	00	03	06
John moss widow and Children	00	02	06
to the widow Raven being ould and un abel to work ..	00	01	06
Sarah Colar	00	01	00

	£	s.	d.
John Davies wife being ould and un abel to work	00	01	06
Widow simpson being ould and un abel to work	00	01	06
Itt is agreed that the widow uphill shall be alowd twenty shilings for her son william uphill being a Cripil till he can be other ways Provided for	01	00	00

Thomas Edwards }
 Gabriel Guilford } Church wardens
 and others

At a Vestery Held att y^c yousall place Mr Smith and henry Innot Overseers of y^c Poore past these accounts March y^c 30th: 1730 and it appears there is Due to M^r Rich^d Smith the sum of fifteen pound twelve shilling and five pence Whereof it is agreed to alow him a sixpenny Book pr pound for to Reimburse him & whatever that halfe book shall com short shall be pd by the Insuing Overseers to y^c above said Rich^d Smith and we do further agree this 30th Day of March 1730 that whomesoever shall from this time forward throw out any Baless out of Either Ship barge or boat or cause to be throwd out of ship barge or boat or any other way be Low high water mark shall sufer according to Law and we whos names are heare under subscribed Do Impower and tolerise y^c officers of s^d parish from time to time and att all times when aney shuch ofince shall be to have y^c manedgment and to put all such cases In Exsequition to y^c best of there art and skill

Waltar Osborne, Constabell
 Tho Peircey }
 Daniel Stow } Churchwardens
 Rich^d Smith }
 Henry Innott } Overseers

and numerous other signatures.

There had also been a meeting, some six years previously, dealing with the disposal of ballast.

October y^c 4th 1724

Then Agreed by y^c vestry that y^c Ballast, that shall be taken out of vessells that shall come to Harbour of New Shoreham by y^c Barges to be carryed & laid upon y^c Roade upon y^c shore that leads from Old Shoreham to New Shoreham joining to y^c Mudd or Earthen wall of late Collins. To be carryed by y^c s^d Barges when y^c tide serves.

That the good people of Shoreham did not intend to run the risk of insubstantial families settling amongst them, or of maintaining any without sufficient reason, is well shown by the two following extracts:—

July 15th 1725

Itt is forder agreed that the Parish Officers shall stand trial Agenst An order of to of his ma^{ies} Justes of y^c Peace given to the Parish of Bishopston to Remove Thomas hubord and his wife to our Parish.

May the 19th 1728

Att a vestery held att the usuell plase it is agreed on to have y^e addvise of som Counsell Learned in the Law for y^e Removell of Thomas Moonk which is now In Devering to gaine a settlement.

The next entry to notice is one, the object of which, from the number of signatures appended, seems to have excited more interest than any other in the whole course of the seventy years recorded in the volume.

April the 15th 1734.

As the old seal is lost or mislaid & cannot be found nor come at, it is agreed at a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Borough of New Shoreham in the County of Sussex, In pursuance of Publick Notice giveng in the Church for a Publick Vestry, at which Vestry being informed by Daniel Stow the present Constable of the said Borough, that James Lee the late Constable had refused or neglected to deliver over the Common Seal of the said Borough to him the said Daniel Stow altho' He had been frequently requested so to do not only by the said Daniel Stow but by many others of the Inhabitants of the said Borough it was therefore ordered that the said Daniel Stow do get a New Seal cut for the use of the said Borough and that such new Seal and no other for the future shall be deemed and taken as the seal of the said Borough As Witness hereunto

Daniel Stow Constable
 Rich^d Buckell } Overseers
 Robert Smith }

and 58 other signatures or marks.

As an old seal of mediæval workmanship is still in existence, which has been at times exhibited before the Sussex Archæological Society, it is to be presumed that James Lee, in face of the above strongly supported resolution, produced the missing seal and rendered it unnecessary for the borough to go to the expense of providing a new one.

1737 April 11th

We the Churchwardens and overseers of the Poor and other the Inhabitants of the Parish of New Shoreham whose hands are hereunto sett do constitute and appoint Thomas Moory to serve and be Sexton of the said Parish of New Shoreham for the year ensuing, and also to look after the Church Clock.

Henry Ather Churchwarden
 Thomas Holden
 W^m Hartshorne } Overseers
 John Robinson }
 &c., &c.

From the above the custom would seem to have been established that the Vestry should appoint the sexton, especially as at a previous meeting on the same day the Vicar had appended his signature, and then apparently left the Vestry free to make the appointment. It will be remembered that at a former meeting in 1722, held for the same purpose, differences first arose between the then Vicar and the parishioners.

A meeting held April 19th, 1742, was one of some importance, as will be seen in the transcription:—

Whereas these undernamed have withdrawn themselves from this parish and suffered themselves to be put of the book, out of lucre to save their Taxes which makes the taxes lie very hard on the present Inhabitants. It is therefore unanimously agreed by these Inhabitants whose names are here subscribed now at a vestry that no such person that shall put himself out of the Poor Book shall ever be admitted into our Poor Book unless He or they shall first pay all the Taxes that shall be deficient from the time of his or their going out to the time of their demanding to be set down: and never be admitted unless by the consent of the majority of the Parish or Vestry.

Edw ^d Martin vic:	
J. Pelham Constable	
Benj ⁿ Bartlett	} Churchwardens
Wm Wilson	
Hugh Roberts	} Overseers
W ^m W Turner	
<small>HIS MARK</small>	
&c., &c.	

Then follow the names of the persons who have absented and left the town, eleven in number.

A very interesting light is thrown upon customs now lapsed, in the following, which is peculiar in being twice dated; the first, April 5th, 1743, when it was signed by the Vicar and Constable only, and the second time, March 31st, 1766, when the first date was struck through and the new one inserted. The Churchwardens and numerous other inhabitants added their signatures.

Whereas it hath been Customary time out of Remembrance; for the Constable and Minister of the Borough of New Shoreham for the time being to ask Demand and receive of every Master or Masters of Vessell or Vessells that shall come into the said Port or Harbour of New Shoreham Laden with Coals Salt or any sort of Grain and Deliver the same in the said port) One Bushell of Coals, one Bushell of Salt and one Bushell of any Grain Imported to the said port out of each

vessell as a perquisite belonging to the said Constable and Minister of the said Borough. together with all Boomage of each Vessell that shall come in or go out of the said port or Harbour of New Shoreham as a perquisite belonging to the said Constable.

Notwithstanding the said Custom several Masters of Vessells have denied to pay to the Constable and Minister their said perquisites.

We therefore the Officers and Inhabitants of the said Borough whose hands are hereunder sett and subscribed are determined not to have the said privileges and Customs lost but are resolved to stand by the said Constable and Minister for taking their said dues as aforementioned in Case any Suit or Action shall be brought against them by any such Master or Masters of such Vessells. In witness whereof we have hereunto sett our hands the day and Year first above written.

Edw^d Martin Vic.
Robt. Johnson
&c., &c.

The following memorandum is appended to one of the usual meetings for passing Overseers' or Churchwardens' accounts; it is dated October 27th, 1745:—

Memorandum at the same time the Vestry agreed to fence the Garden of the Alms house and to build a Brewhouse and a necessary House to the same. And at the same time allowed the Cloaths to the poor as under

To Wickers Children a Jacket a pair of Breeches and one Shirt
Dame Pledger, one shift
Dame Moorey a pair of shoes
Betty Gardner a shift
Robert Langley a Jackett & breeches & shirt
Langley's girl a shift & a cap
Dame Uphil a shift and an apron
Dame Robinson a shift.

1752 March 30

We whosse names hereunto set Churchwardens Overseers and other Inhabitants of this parish of New Shoreham in the County of Sussex have unanimously agreed to have the Church whitewashed and other necessary repairs as leading and other things wanting.

Daniel Stow } Church
Ben. Bartlett } Wardens
&c., &c.

A meeting of importance was that summoned for August 27th, 1753, when a change was made in the manner of providing for the poor chargeable to the parish.

1753 Aug^t 27th

At a Vestry held at the Usual place in New Shoreham Daniel Stow and Benjamin Bartlett Churchwardens Adam Daniel and Rich^d Tilstone

Overseers and other Inhabitants of the said parish present. It was agreed and Concluded on by the said Churchwardens Overseers &c. with Thomas Frost That He the said Thomas Frost is to keep and maintain the several poor now under weekly pay or all such poor that may be hereafter committed to his care by the Officers or Overseers at the time being: at two shillings the week for each person so committed by them to his care, the said officers first at the parish expence to provide a proper house and bedding, with several Implements for their working employ, and the said Thomas Frost to provide for them one hot meal of wholesome meat every day. And at the expiration of this Agreement to leave them Appareld in the same manner as they are in when He takes them. This agreement to continue from the 9th day of September next ensuing to the full End and Term of One Year

Witness our hands

Here follow a number of signatures as usual.

The next extract shows the parish in debt from the adoption of the above agreement.

1755 April 6

At a Vestry held at the Usual place in New Shoreham Harry Bridger and Daniel Stow Churchwarden and James Newman and William Rusbridge Overseer and other of the Inhabitents of the said parish present.

Whereas the parish is greatly in debt by having much enlarg'd and thoroughly repair'd the Alms house and other heavy Expences which have lately happen'd to the said Parishioners We do hereby give full power and Authority to the said Officers and their successors to borrow Eighty pound at the rate of four pounds per cent per annum for the Use and account of the said parish and immediately therewith to pay off and discharge all the said Bills for which they now stand indebted or as many of them as the said sum of eighty pounds will amount unto

Edw^d Martin
 Harry Bridger } Churchwardens
 Daniel Stow }
 &c., &c.

1755 April 13th

Be it remembered that we Harry Bridger and Daniel Stow Church Wardens James Newman and William Rusbridge, Overseers of the parish of New Shoreham By virtue of an order agreed and granted the 6th of April 1755 Have borrowed of M^r Thomas pool the said sum of eighty pounds at the interest mentioned in the said order

And paid the same away immediately as followeth

	£	s.	d.
To Edward Boyce	31	07	6
To Messrs. Robinson & Bawcombe....	29	03	0
To Adam Daniel late Overseer	19	09	6
	<hr/>		
	£80	00	0

And at a Vestry this day we have agreed to let the poor of the said parish to John Parsons at the price of 1^s 9^d per week each person to maintain and to deliver them at his leaving them in the same Quantity and Quality of Clothing as He receives them with: This agreement to continue till next Easter

Harry Bridger	}	Churchwardens
Daniel Stow		
W ^m Rusbridge	}	Overseers
&c., &c.		

The remaining entries of the volume are of no special interest, being chiefly concerned with the passing of accounts; but the last page in the book shows that they had again run into debt, for it contains, under date February 4th, 1779, a notice given out in church for a vestry to be held the following day "for the purpose of borrowing the sum of £100, so much money as is due and owing to Mr. Henry Robinson, one of the Churchwardens on bond of the said parish."

Before finally closing this interesting old volume of "parish business" there remains to be noticed the code of rules drawn up in 1714 for the government of the Charity School maintained by the parish; which rules will not be found unworthy of perusal. No doubt they were placed in the centre of the volume to be more easily accessible and distinguished from ordinary parish meetings, but effluxion of time at last caused them to be overpassed and surrounded by the ordinary records of Vestries held.

June y^e 6th 1714

At a Vestry held then at y^e schole house of New Shoreham in y^e Church of y^e s^d parish we y^e parishioners do unanimously agree to y^e rules hereunder written concerning y^e Charity School and shall stand to every pt thereof Witness our hand the day & year above written subscribing our names to y^e rules under written.

Whereas that some well disposed pson or psons shall of his their Bounty and Charity pay or cause to be paid to a Schoollmaster for y^e teaching and instructing of twenty or thirty Children of y^e parish of New Shoreham in y^e County of Sussex upon condition the whole Parishoners of the said parish w^{ch} payeth taxes to Church & Poor shall subscribe to stand to & keep the rules and orders hereunder written.

First That y^e Schoolmaster shall be a pson of a sober life & conversation and well grōuded in y^e principles and Discipline of the establish'd Church of England and constantly attend the duties thereof, and that he shall teach his schollers the true spelling of words and distinction of syllables with the points and stops and to write a legible hand with the grounds of Arithmetick, and bring the children that shall be under his care to Church, twice every Lords day and as often in the week days as there shall be divine service performed, and shall teach them to behave themselves with all reverence and Devotion while they are in the house of God; and to join in the publick Service of the Church, and to have their Bibles and Common Prayer books bound together; for their better instructions in the Duty of divine Service And when capable the said schoolmaster is to teach his schollars the Church Catechism, and cause them to come to Church to be Catechiz'd by the Minister every Lords day. And for the better performance of which duty: the Master shall always every Thursday in the Afternoon and Saturday forenoon teach all his schollers the Church Catechism, and further learn them the meaning of the said Catechism according to the exposition of some approved author of the established Church upon the same.

3^{dly} The master shall use prayers in the school morning and evening with his schollers every day, and teach his schollers to pray att home when they go to bed and when they rise up, and to use graces before and after meat, which prayers and graces are to be approved of by the Minister of the place.

4^{thly} That whereas M^r Rice Williams our present Minister is so well pleased for the better care towards the improving and promoting of so good an intention and instruction of the Children of the said parish in good Learning, Religion and manners as aforesd to take the care and trouble upon himself to teach a school in our said parish in all due maner and form in all things as are thereunto necessary.

We therefore the inhabitants of the said p̄ish and Burrough do hereby fully approve of the same and do promise to stand by and to the best of our endeavours shall keep and observe all things specified, and shall not encourage promote or permit any other person or persons whatsoever to teach any School in our said parish but our said Minister as long as he will be pleased to teach and take care of our school as aforesaid. And we do further agree with one consent for the better ordering and regulating all things concerning the said Charity School: That the Minister, Constable, Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of our said Parish for the time being; and twelve others of the chief inhabitants, that payeth most Taxes to the Church and poor in our said parish, or the major part of them to be overseers to order and direct who are & shall be the fittest persons to have their Children to be taught, in the number of them that shall be taught in the Charity School, to place and displace as they think fit, and meet and to do all things else that are or may be needfull or necessary to be done for the good order and government of the said Charity School in

such maner and method as such like othe Schooles are ordered.
 Witness our hands y^e 6th day of June Anno Domini 1714

Rice Williams Clr'
 Gabriel Guilford } Churchwardens
 John Pelham }
 Thomas Edwards
 Thomas Denton senir
 William Ledger
 William Haselgrove
 Tho: Jeffereys
 William Foster
 James Browne
 Josep Gulford
 Stephen Hart

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