25/3/86

From. Country Landowner February 1986 P.8

Ownership of Church Pews

Pews

In the case of 'Re St. Mary's Banbury' the Oxford Consistory Court had to decide whether to grant a faculty for the removal of pews (to facilate the use of the Church as a concert hall) and what rights the objectors had in their capacity as successors in title to those who had been allotted the pews under a 1790 statute. Under the Act, parishioners had been able to subscribe for, and be allotted particular pews which would be vested in them and their heirs and assigns.

The objectors were each able to prove title to a numbered pew derived from one of the allottees, and the question arose as to whether the objectors held a freehold interest in the pews and the soil thereunder or some other proprietory interest in the woodwork of the pew.

Court The Court held that neither of those interests existed. At Common Law the freehold of the pew was vested in the incumbent, and clear and express words would be required to override that. The 1790 Act only allowed a subscriber to be granted a limited right in the nature of an easement for the exclusive use of a pew for worship, and not the freehold of it.

However that exclusive right still subsisted, as did a right of access to the pew, and those rights could not be replaced by a right to use chairs in substitution. There was thus no jurisdiction

Faculty to grant the faculty to remove the pews.

25/3/86

Churchyard retaining wall

1985 Repairs Wall

Early in 1985 it was noticed that an obvious movement had taken place in the stonework of the yard retaining wall a few yards below the main entrance gate, there was a considerable bulge overhanging. On April 29th I helped Brian Pulman and David Thorne erect scaffold poles with planks supporting the stonework and straffed these back to short poles driven in the ground by the pathway.

Dyer Our Architect, Mr Dyer, had detailed repair work to these retaining walls in his outline specification prepared in September 1983 for S/W tower buttress repair and other matters in support of our request for a grant from the Historic Church's Preservation Trust.

Grant Considering this specification to be over costly in material required for a thicker than necessary wall — 36 inches of blockwork behind the stone facing — and following discussion at PCC I visited the Architect at his office on October 2nd. But he still felt that the facing stonework was merely cosmetic.

It was however decided to do the rebuild that autumn rather than wait till the spring of 1986.

On Monday, October 28th 1985 work on taking down the existing wall, and because of its very poor condition the whole was removed from about 10 to 12 ft below the entrance gate down to the boundary with the old Vicarage property. It was about 2' thick.

Sage

On Tuesday and Wednesday Arthur Sage used his farm digger to remove about 2ft more of the bank behind the wall and also to dig the trench at its base about 3ft wide and 1ft deep below road surface level. Steps were formed with pegged boarding and Ready mixed concrete arrived at 4-30pm This was laid as a firm base for a new wall. 6 cubic metres of concrete was laid.

On this base concrete blocks were built with about 6 course at 27 inches wide, then a further few course at 18 inches and a top section at 9 inches. The whole of this was then faced with about 9 inches of stonework. Stainless steel ties were built in as directed by the Architect to bond blocks and stonework together, and loose stone filled in behind the blockwork as it proceeded, finally topped off with soil and turfs.

The work was finished on Friday 15th November and surplus stones cleared from the car park.

Costs

6 c.m. Concrete	174-00
1112 – 140mm Blocks	455-76
24 – 100mm "	7-92
Coarse and fine sand	146-20
43 bags cement £121-26. 35 bags lime £98-35	219-61
250 Stainless Steel wall ties	62-50
38-75mm Land drain pipe	10-64
Hire of warning lights	14-40
Petrol for mixer	6-50
Transport 75 miles @ 15p	11-10
Labour 321 hrs @ £4-10	1316-10
V.A.T. at 15%	363-71
	2788-44

11h

Pastoral

Diocesan Pastoral Committee
Categorisation of Churches 19th June 1985

a/ xx Buildings having priority for assistance from Diocesan Resources towards repairs.

b/ x Buildings suitable to be considered for assistance from Diocese towards repairs.

c/ Buildings for whose repair assistance from Diocese would not normally be available.

Two stars	xx	Axminster	St Michael and All Angels
		Beer	St Michael
		Colyton	St Andrew
		Honiton	St Paul
		Seaton	St Gregory
		Uplyme	St Peter and St Paul
One star	x	Awliscombe	St Michael and All Angels
		Axmouth	St Michael
		Branscombe	St Andrew
		Combe Raleigh	St Nicholas
		Cotleigh	St Michael and All Angels
		Dalwood	St Peter
		Dunkeswell	St Nicholas
		Farway	St Michael and All Angels
		Gittisham	St Michael
		Kilmington	St Giles
		Luppitt	St Mary
		Membury	St John the Baptist
		Musbury	St Michael
		Northleigh	St Giles
		Offwell	St Mary the Virgin
		Sheldon	St James
		Shute	St Michael
		Southleigh	St Lawrence
		Stockland	St Michael and All Angels
		Upottery	St Mary the Virgin

cont.

× Widworthy St Cuthbert
Yarcombe St John the Baptist.

hospital ✓ Axminster — Woodbury Holy Cross
Colyford Chapel St Michael
Combe Pyne St Mary the Virgin
Dunkeswell Abbey Holy Trinity
Honiton St Michael.
Monkton St Mary Magdalene
Whitford St Mary at Cross

Barnfield Project

27/3/84

Barnfield 1984

A Parish meeting was arranged for 12th September 1984 to be held at a barn at Mosshayes Farm, in the absence of a Village Hall, by Luppitt Parish Council to discuss the proposal to purchase the property and adapt it to accomodate about 12 mentally handicapped persons aged 19 and upwards.

Mr & Mrs Walker of Redhill, Surrey explained in some detail their proposals and how they envisaged such a community could integrate into village life. Mr Wright who runs a similar home at Stallcombe House Farm at Colaton Raleigh also spoke.

Many views were put forward by the large gathering of parishioners present, some prepared to give the scheme a try, some others quite opposed to the suggestion.

After about 2 hours of discussion the Parish Council chairman Mr A Davey asked for a vote. Those for 46. Those against 23 abstentions 14.

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Greenacres Community February 1985.

Dear Fellow Suffitt Residents.

The Greenacres Home at Barnfield —
What's it all about?

Those of us who are normal (whatever that is) or who have normal children are relatively unaware of the plight of the mentally Handicapped. Up to recently, these people were put into institutions and lived under a rigid routine of discipline and had all their needs provided without much involvement on their part. The regime eventually led to uninspired lethargy almost without hope. Recently, a change in policy has occurred and most of these people are housed in small self-contained homes and learn to their particular ability level to contribute to their own welfare and home making. The result of this has been dramatic and the beneficial changes in these people has been most inspiring. There will always be those who will have to stay in institutions, these being the severely retarded.

Greenacres is now a home registered with the Charity Commissioners and will eventually house twelve mentally Handicapped persons in two family type groups with full supervision to enable them to reach maximum self-sufficiency. We do ask you to recognise this home as an integral part of the Suffitt community. Please know that you are most welcome to visit us at any time as you would a neighbour.

We shall receive our first residents probably about mid-April. If you feel that you would

like to assist please tell us how you can help.
We have a Friends Committee in formation and should like more local people to volunteer their time, talents or money.
We shall keep you informed of our progress and meanwhile, if you can attend our Friends meeting at Barnfield on Thursday 14th March at 8 P.M please be assured of a warm welcome.

Refer back to P 90

Visit to Chippenham 20th to 24th July 1984
Endeavoured to find a burial ground at Allington, but eventually told by a man whose father had come up from Buckerell, that there was no church or burial ground there. He had a small building on his farm that had been used for worship but was now a store. He suspected that Mr W Sage would have been buried at St Pauls' Chippenham. Lena later confirmed that probably this was the case. I searched but was unable to find any tombstone.

Refer to ho 277 Page 14 of Vol III Sage

1988 May have been at Kington St Michael

1984 Income Tax, See P. 154

September 1986
Mr Warren of Membury Court gave me an old rate book for the exhibition on 24th at the Village Hall.

Sage

At ho 277 reference was made to Ararat and the owner was Mr William Sage of Bullidge Farm, Kington St michael Chippenham, for year of assessment 1910-1911.

Later deposited at Devon Record Office

Vol I
P. 301 and
P. 322

Luppitt Village Hall

1977

First mention of East Devon District Council's Rural Aid Scheme was given to the Village Hall Committee in April of 1977 and in June a decision was made to apply for aid under the Scheme for Stage I. to build a permanent kitchen, entrance, and toilets. Plans were prepared and submitted. In August the Committee were told that a grant of £6,650 had been approved and in September planning permission was received.

Stage I was completed by 31st March 1978. The trusses had proved to be 5 inches too long and Argus Engineering had had to visit the site and correct the error.

In May of 1979 it was decided to apply to E.D.D.C. under the Rural Aid Scheme again for a grant to continue with Stage II the rebuild of the main hall. In November it was stated that a grant of £3000 had been approved and it was decided to call a Parish meeting to assess the situation Held on 12th December the decision was taken to go ahead. During 1980 the possibility of obtaining a loan was investigated and in October it was decided to build foundations to D.P.C. at back and lower end.

In March 1981 we were informed that the grant allocated would be for £4.600, and it was decided to call another Parish meeting. Held on April 9th the decision was taken to remove the wooden structure on Easter Monday 20th April.

During May and June building progressed until in early July when about 2/3 of the roof tiles had been laid it was realised that the roof trusses prefabricated on site were not strong enough and were causing the walls to spread. The E.D.D.C. were informed and on 8th July the planning authority put a stop on the work, as it was realised there were serious problems. The steel truss calculations were checked and found to be 6 times undersize. On 22nd July a Hall sub-committee met a representative of Argus Engineering who stated that steel trusses strong enough to carry the roof of concrete tiles as specified by E.D.D.C. would overload the walls. In September two members of the Hall committee approached solicitors as the planning authority appeared not to be interested in finding a solution. In November it was pointed out that use of the kitchen area might have to be refused due to the risk of a collapse of the main hall roof; and it was decided that photos of cracks etc should be taken and on 5th December the tiles were voluntarily removed.

On the 19th March 1982 the committee were confidentially informed that solicitors had approached a Queen's Counsel in London and his detailed reply was read. The Chief Building Officer of E.D.D.C. had advised that we get a qualified structural engineer to design a roof for the Hall, and this was agreed on. The Community Council of Devon had also informed us that a grant of £5,000 had been approved.

On March 29th 5 drawings prepared by an engineer were considered and his No 5 was accepted. Subsequently the Chairman and V.Ch. of Hall committee were informed that E.D.D.C. would not accept the drawing of our choice, but had now produced one of their own, having previously refused to do so, similar to one of the 5 which the Hall committee had rejected. The E.D.D.C. plan included retention of the walls which our engineer had advised against, and so it was proposed that a sub-committee draw up a strong letter to the E.D.D.C. This letter was sent on 13th July 1982

On 13th October a village Hall sub-committee met a representative of E.D.D.C insurers on site but they were not prepared to accept responsibility for our problems.

In December Chairmen of E.D.D.C committees met to endeavour to sort out a solution and a wooden truss design was suggested.

At a committee meeting on 28th February 1983 the Secretary indicated that local organisations had collectively assessed their losses due to having no village Hall available at £703.

However the many meetings held had led the E.D.D.C. to suggest that as they were unable to grant aid the building of the walls twice, if other moneys could pay for this then they would pay for the roof. It was therefore decided to demolish the block walls to D.P.C. and advertise for tenders on present plans.

Tenders were received and discussed and one accepted, work to commence in May.