

Local Government 1864

- Roads Board Style

(In our last issue we traced the early beginnings of local government in Wardenry, starting with the setting-up of the Wardenry Roads Board in 1862. This information was derived from the Board's first minute book ~~which are the~~ ~~some~~ from ~~notes~~ rough notes made by the writer back in ~~the~~ original minute book of ~~the~~ our first Roads Board has been mislaid ^{by the district} - we kept only temporarily - so that makes these ~~sketchy~~ notes, even though ~~sketchy~~ ~~incomplete~~ sketchy of even greater importance as some record of our early Roads Board's affairs)

Annual Budget of \$780.

At its meeting on Nov 19th, 1864, the Roads Board's estimates for the ensuing year showed its requirements for the year to be \$780 and the amount available, with the striking of a 1/2 rate, was £ 789-18-2 - close financing.

The Unpopular Road Tolls

A petition from ratepayers asked that the Wardenry Toll Gate be removed from its present site to a point in the Wardenry Road known as Lizzenders Corner. But the meeting decided that it should be retained in its present site.

In that same year (1864) two members of the Board, Messrs Wilson and Bowman, moved that a reduction be made in the scale of tolls. For

2
This, too, was defeated, and no alteration made.

Henry Gours was appointed Rate Collector; his remuneration: 5% of the amount collected.

Petitioners Try Again

~~At the same~~
The tolls continued to be a source of contention, and at the Board meeting on Dec 3, 1864, a petition was received from 34 ratepayers praying that the Wandering Toll Gate be removed from its present site to a point on the main Wandering Road where it would be less injurious to the interests of the Wandering district at large; also that the scale of charges be reduced by half.

Another petition was also received from a number of inhabitants of the Berwick Roads District on the same subject.

The Tolls Obviously Paid

There were no less than three tenders for the right to ~~conduct the toll~~ lease the Wandering Toll Gate up to Dec 31, 1865. Obviously there was money in it for the gatekeeper, for Mr Matthew Harvey, the successful tenderer, tendered \$477 for the privilege, to be paid to the Board at the rate of \$39-186 per month.

The minutes disclose that at the time the Board was meeting "at its office, the Bridge Hotel," under Mr G Hughes as chairman.

At a special meeting on Dec 31st - a deputation consisting of a number of ratepayers of the Wandering district was received and Messrs (Smithson) Colles, Rudduck & others urged upon the Board

the desirability of removing the Wardenry Toll Gate. After
considerable discussion ~~it was~~ Messrs Kemp & Potter moved
"That the toll-gate be not removed for 6 months"

Messrs Wilson & Bowman countered with an amendment
"That the Toll Gate be removed at once" — but the motion was the day

Even in those days of restricted revenue the Board,
showed its charity by voting a donation of £10 to
the Melbourne Hospital.

Stone For Church Quarried
From Main Road

At the meeting on Jan 28, 1865 ~~a letter~~ correspondence included
a letter from S. Brown asking permission to quarry stone
out of the main road for the foundations of a Landings first
Roman Catholic Church. On the motion of Messrs Charles Potter
and Wilson approval was given, but ~~a time limit~~ it was
stipulated the permit was only for 14 days

It was at this meeting, too, that it was decided to write
to the Moorabbin District Board asking their co-operation to
endeavour to get lower Bridge St proclaimed a main road

Forming Honsdale Street

Another motion — by Messrs Wilson & Bowman — was "That the
engineer be instructed to bring up a report as to the
cost of forming Honsdale St from Walker St to Foster St

Keyle Eyes On Expenditure

Just how close a rein was kept on expenditure was shown

5

Apparently Mr Bowman's offer was not accepted for the minutes recorded that immediately it was proposed by Messrs Chandler & Keys "That the Board meeting be held at the Landing Hotel for the next 6 months"

But Messrs Wilson & Potter moved an amendment that the meeting remain at the Bridge Hotel.

Although the motion was carried, there was obviously some feeling displayed, and even at this stage the father of

There was a notice of motion that the sum of £30 be voted for clearing a portion of the Canal Creek; also forming a drain at the culvert near the 5th Main Road.

After some discussion (the minutes didn't disclose the subject) the chairman declared the meeting dissolved

Protests

Two protests were immediately forthcoming: Mr A W Bowman put his in writing: "I hereby give notice that I protest against the legality of this meeting held at the Board Room office, Bridge Hotel, the said meeting being called for 20th day, which was not held till 4th day."

Mr Henry Wilson: I protest that the meeting dissolved this evening by Mr Hughes is illegal, he having no authority for doing the same.

Finally Mr Bowman withdrew his protest; & Mr Wilson's protest, at the wish of Mr Bow & Childs was allowed to stand over.

6

The minutes of the meeting on Mar 25, 1865 disclosed that the revenue had been stored to the Board Hotel.

Mr Robert Huxton's tender of £12 for rolling the main street was accepted and it was decided to call tenders for clearing the Wandering Creek to an extent of 20 chains.

Tenders were also called for 1000 yds of gravel for the main road. James O'Donnell was the successful tenderer at £272.

At the meeting on May 20 R. Ring asked for compensation for damage done to his property by a drain cut on his land by the direction of the Board.

Mr Huxton wrote stating that the ² road alongside his paddock which had been opened some time ago by order of the Board had again been closed up and asked the Board to cause the removal of the fence. The clerk was instructed to reply asking Mr Huxton to give the name of the person causing the obstruction. Mr Huxton's reply on June 3 stated that Mr Brennan caused the obstruction. Mr Brennan was given notice to remove the fence completely or otherwise the Board would take proceedings.

On June 17th the Board called tenders for clearing and forming a part of Attenborough Road.

The tolls again ~~came~~ came up again on July 1st & it was decided that the Clerk invite the co-operation of the Cranbourne & Berwick District Boards in the removal of the Wandering Toll gate from its present position to Lavender's (?) corner.

The Board on July 1st decided that Mr Thos Dellimore be appointed labour to the Board, by the week, at a salary of 30/- per week.

New Bridge Needed

On July 15 the Clerk was instructed to write to the Cranbourne & Berwick District Boards asking their cooperation in urging upon the Government the necessity of a new bridge over the creek (at) Dandenong

The ~~estate~~ fencing funds persisted. On July 19 Mr John Brennan asked the Board to cause a fence erected by Mr R. Hickson on one of the district roads to be removed. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Hickson asking him if his fences on the road and if so, to request him to remove it.

From the Berwick District Board drawing the attention of the Board to the impassable state of the road at the junction of the Giffland and Westmoreland Rds.

The ~~road~~ toll ~~opponents~~ ^{were} still rankling and yet another petition was received from 33 inhabitants and ratepayers of the Dandenong Road District seeking the removal of the Dandenong toll gate.

The Board decided to call a special meeting to discuss the matter.

At the same meeting 17 ratepayers petitioned complaining of the impassable state of the Springvale road and asked the Board to take the necessary steps to repair same. — The engineers recommended the forming and embanking of about 14 chains of Springvale Rd and graveling at a cost of £90. However, the Board, with an eye to its limited budget, decided that the engineers

prepares specifications for forming & embanking a path of 1/4 mi at a cost of abt \$1000⁷⁸

~~Report~~ Take-over Suggestion

When the Board met on July 29 the Clerk was instructed to write to the Commissioner of Lands & Survey asking him to "hand over the Moorabbin & Middlesex Farmers Commission to the Board".

When a special meet. was held on Aug 8 to consider the desirability of removing the Dandenong Toll Gate, no decision was reached as the meet. was adjourned until Sat Aug 12.

When Aug 12th came Mr. Charles Keys was in the chair. A letter was received from the Hon. W. B. Stubbins that he had no objection to the removal of the Dandenong Toll Gate if such did not affect the distribution of proceeds. But the Premier declined to give an opinion.

Finally, on the motion of Messrs A. W. Bowman & O. G. G. it was resolved "that the Dandenong Toll Gate be removed from its present site to a position on the main Dandenong Rd near the Mole Creek."

It was also decided that a further special meeting be held for the purpose of considering the site for a check gate.

Aug 12th meet. decided to offer to expend $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of a new bridge over the Dandenong Creek.

Such to the toll gates on Aug 26th when it was decided that the Check Toll Gate be erected on or near "The Blue-pot".