



Froyle

1894 to 1994

A commemoration of 100 years
of Froyle Parish Council

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FROYLE PARISH COUNCIL

1894 to 1994 - The first hundred years

THIS year sees the centenary of the creation of Parish Councils in this country and to commemorate the formation of Froyle Parish Council in December 1894, we are publishing this booklet which will tell the story of some of the trials and tribulations of a small Parish Council in North-East Hampshire. But where did the whole idea begin?

Until well into the nineteenth century the most common form of local administration was the parish vestry. These were meetings of the male ratepayers which carried out the civic functions of a parish and which sometimes had authority in the expenditure of the church rate - they took their name from the fact that they originally met in the church vestry. Rates were levied for poor relief and the repair of highways. The Vestry appointed Churchwardens, Sexton, Overseers of the Poor, the Surveyors of the Highways and Constables

The last half of the century brought about a revolution in government. The Victorian Civil Service became a professional body, with people being employed on merit, rather than as a result of wealth, and the revolution spread outwards. The Local Government Act of 1888 established County Councils and in 1894 another Act transferred the civil functions of vestries outside London to the new Parish Councils and Parish Meetings. All county and parliamentary voters were given one vote each. In rural parishes, an open meeting, known as the Parish Meeting (to which all ratepayers and lodgers might come), would convene and elect a committee to govern. Those electors - including women - who had been resident for 12 months were eligible for election. It is important to remember that the right to vote in parliamentary elections was only given in 1867 to the working man in towns and the agricultural labourer had to wait until 1884 to receive his franchise. This new power increased the interest in the new forms of local government.

Froyle's Parish Council was born at 6.30pm on Tuesday, December 4th 1894 in the Schoolroom in Upper Froyle - now a private house. The proceedings were minuted - as are all meetings - and so began a form of local government that would guide the fortunes of the village for the next 100 years.

This booklet must by necessity be only a glimpse of the work of the Parish Council. We have tried to select events that are memorable and sometimes amusing. The actual quotes from the books are printed in *italic text*. If you want to research further, the original Minute Books are held by the County Records Office at Winchester, and are available for anyone to read.

Annette & Chris Booth, Autumn 1994



Froyle School and School House in 1900

December 4th 1894 - The First Parish Meeting

“The first Parish Meeting was held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday Dec. 4th at 6.30 pm. Mr John Simpson, Overseer, explained the object of the meeting. The Rev.H.C.Floud, Vicar, was voted to the chair. Sixteen valid nominations were handed in.” A show of hands could not produce the required eight councillors and a Poll was demanded.

December 17th 1894 -The Election

“The Poll was held on Monday Dec. 17th in the Schoolroom from 12 noon till 8pm. W.W.Downes being Deputy Returning Officer.”

The resulting Parish Council consisted of Joseph Bainford, Frederick Boman, Walter Brownjohn, John Alfred Candy, Henry Kemp, John Simpson, Joseph Stockdale, and James Yalden. It seems that it was not necessary for the Chairman, the Rev.H.Castle Floud, who was Vicar of St.Mary’s, to stand for election.

August 31st 1896

“An application was made by the Clerk for some receptacle for the custody of the Parish Book and Documents. This application being considered by the Council to be necessary, it was agreed that a Japanned Deed Box be provided, to be obtained from Hadden Best & Co., size 24” long, 16” broad & 13” deep, price 24/-, which the Clerk was directed to get.” Whatever happened to that?

The Annual Parish Meeting on **March 24th 1902** was only worth a short entry! *“The meeting opened with six persons present and no business to discuss the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.”*

The Minutes of a meeting held in **February, 1909**, serve as a reminder of how things

have improved during the last 100 years. *“Letter read from Major Bryan as to advisability of petitioning county council to close the schools owing to the continuation of Diphtheria among the children for a period of 3 or 4 weeks and to thoroughly disinfect the rooms.”* while, in the same year, a letter to the Parish Council from the Postmaster only goes to show us what we have lost:-

“June 10th - Letter read from Postmaster, Alton, with regard to alteration in hours of business at Upper and Lower Froyle. Upper Froyle from 8-8 and Lower Froyle 8.15-6.30. Sunday business to be abolished altogether at Lower Froyle with the exception of delivery and collection.”

In 1917 the Parish Council were still meeting in the Schoolroom and the Precept for the coming year was set at £5. The Precept represents the amount of money the Parish Council felt they would need for parish business during the coming year. In 1994 the Precept is set at £3,500.

As time went on, more and more rules and regulations were laid down regarding the smooth running of the Council:

August 23rd 1935

“All must stand when addressing the Chair and council and use a tone of voice that is audible to all present”.

April 17th 1941

“Also resolved that in future all meetings of Parish Council shall be announced several days previously and on printed notices displayed in prominent positions in the two parts of the village.”

Mr. Walter Brownjohn had been Clerk to the Parish Council since its conception. In 1946 he retired, after 51 years. The newly retired Froyle Headmaster, Mr. Tom Knight, took over, with a salary of £15 per year.

May 22nd 1946

“Sir Hugh Smiley read letter from War Dept. giving authority for the removal of barbed wire from various spots in the village.”

In 1949 the Parish Council decided to join the Hampshire Association of Parish Councils. Membership cost £1.10.0.

As the Council moved into the 1950's, one issue causing concern was the quarry.

March 16th 1953

“After some discussion about the Lime Dust at Lower Froyle from Froyle Quarries the Clerk was instructed to write to the Clerk RDC pointing out that something should be done on grounds of health.”

Generally, however, there seemed little public interest in parish affairs.

March 12th 1956 - *“One member of public at annual parish meeting.”*

As the swinging 60's dawned, Froyle residents were very worried about the state of the village pond!

May 24th 1960 - *“Concern over mosquitoes breeding on the pond. The Medical Officer had examined same and said it was unlikely.”*

There were rumours of a new school, which came to nothing:-

February 18th 1963

“School Managers had accepted offer for Hampshire County Education Authority to build a new village school in Lower Froyle.”

March 16th 1964

“When asked about new school at Annual Parish Meeting, County Councillor Major Palmer replied it would be at Bentley, perhaps in 10 years time.”

He was certainly right about that, but it took a little longer than 10 years!

The Parish Council was equally concerned about its elderly residents:-

June 1st 1964

“Welfare sub-committee formed to look after the interests of old-age pensioners. (Consisting of) Mrs.Emery, Mrs.Bush, Mr.Robertson and Mr.Eve.”

Life was made a little easier for the Clerk, Mr.Walter Start, in November 1965. *“Secondhand typewriter acquired for Clerk at a cost of £10.”* Five years later they bought him a new one for £20.

March 21st 1972

“Notice boards erected Lower Froyle Stores, Village Hall and Upper Froyle Stores.”
Remember the days when we were blessed with two village shops!

In 1972 the Local Government Act put an end to the old Alton Rural District Council and brought about the creation of East Hants District Council.

January 1st 1973

“A letter was read from Alton RDC asking if the Parish Council required the new authority to take over some of the duties of the Parish Council. It was agreed not to accept the offer!”

In November 1974 the village pond was on the Agenda again and it was agreed to spend £12 to stock it with fish.

January 1st 1974 - *“35 to 40 tench were placed in the pond. Anyone fishing would be expected to return all catches.”*

The newly appointed authority were keen to make their mark:-

January 1st 1975

“Letter received from Chief Planning Officer EHDC that Upper & Lower Froyle be designated as a Conservation Area. More information was to be sought.”

There was a move afoot in **1975** to start a Parish Magazine, a *“Broad Sheet embracing the whole of the Parish and not only dealing with Church matters. To be discussed.”*
The Reverend Daubney took up the challenge.

August 1975 - *“A Vote of Thanks from the floor thanking Lt.Colonel Willcocks for the efficient, understanding way in which he has conducted the meeting.*

(The electrical supply had failed halfway through the meeting)”

At the beginning of 1976 it was decided that Lower Froyle should probably not be made a Conservation Area, but that certain carefully presented areas would be declared of Special Interest. And were you aware that the Post Office had declared Froyle a "Rural Area" and that "*the public could officially hand letters to the Village Postmen as they were on their rounds.*"

Those fish in the village pond made the Minutes again!

July 1976 - "*Tench removed from the Pond to avoid their dying due to continuing drought. The fish were dying as the water dried up. Mr. Blake from the local Fishing Club agreed to remove them. The fish to be returned when the drought ends.*" In September that year the drought had obviously ended, as the Minutes state that the pond is filling up again and "*The school children were cleaning round the edge of the pond.*" But there's no mention of those fish being returned! 1982 was the year of the grand pond clean-up. At the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April, the Chairman, Mrs.Pat Morris, "*congratulated Mr.Figgins and The Hampshire Volunteers for cleaning out the pond. Ducks had now been placed on it.*"

May 1983 - "*Mrs. Booth reported on the set out of the Newsletter, now entirely supported through Parish funds. It was agreed that the Newsletter should be regarded as a secular publication. A space to be provided for the new Vicar to give details of church services etc.*"

Feb 1985 - "*Mrs.Morris summarised meeting at which it had been made clear that Froyle School would close in July 1986. Council were adamant that "free" school transport should be available for the children travelling to their new school in Bentley.*"

In **February 1988** the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Froyle was discussed, while the Poll Tax gets a brief mention in November of that year:- "*Council considered whether to hold Poll Tax lecture but decided not to as Ladies Group were already having one.*"

There was plenty to talk about at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 1990. Brian Davies, Principal Engineer for Southern Electricity, spoke to the assembly about the storms of 1990. S.E had received 75,000 telephone calls during the power failures. The Chairman, Mrs.Jean Benson, spoke of the loss of both village shops.

September 1992 - Waste recycling bins agreed. The Local Government Review would involve the councillors in a lot of discussion over the next two years.

March 1994

"Mrs.Booth advised she was compiling a booklet on the history of Froyle" (in commemoration of 100 years of Froyle Parish Council). Councillors present were: Mrs.J.Benson(Chairman), Mr.I.Black, Mrs.A.Booth, Mr.R.Cranford, Mrs.M.Fry, Mr.R.Norkett, Mr.A.Pritchard (Vice-Chairman), and Mr.M.Wells.



Sylvester's Farm, Lower Froyle, in 1915

ALLOTMENTS

SINCE 1870 English agriculture had virtually collapsed, following the growth of overseas suppliers, the Americas and Australia in particular, and people were leaving the land in droves. Smallholdings Acts were passed in 1892 and later in 1908 which empowered local councils to provide land to give the labourer an incentive to be industrious and frugal. Allotments had already become fairly commonplace and, as we shall see, their provision provided much work for the new Froyle Parish Council. The Allotments themselves were in fields running alongside the Beeches and in part of, what is today, Westburn Fields.

February 21st 1895

John Candy offers whole or none of arable Park to the council at 30/-an acre. He will lay down about 8 acres of the land now in turnips providing outlay of seeds is paid by council. Mr. Bamford said interview with allotment holders revealed they would prefer land in Lower Froyle, since most were from Lower Froyle. The Council to investigate same. Allotment collector - Mr. Robinson.

March 4th 1895

“No land for allotments in Lower Froyle as Westbrook & Peddle declined to let land, only that in surrounding hills. Further alterations to rent for allotments

“.....with frontage on Beech Walk as follows:-No 1 (1 acre) & No 28 (.25 acre) 2/-, 29a & 29b (20 poles) 1/-. Vacant plots granted to:- Henwood & Hadwick No 30 a & b 10 poles each. John Smith 16, 20 poles, Charles Stent 11a, Charles Rampton 10 (not let).”

It was not until **March 1903** that management arrangements for the Allotments were finalised.

“The Chairman pointed out to the Council that the rates would not be responsible for any deficiency that may be incurred from the Allotments and in consequence of this some provisions would have to be made in case of any unforeseen difficulty which may arise, and to meet this a less price per acre would have to be obtained, or a slight charge made on the Allotments which the Council wished to avoid if possible. Sir Hubert Miller was willing to let to the Council at old rate of 30/-per acre and would, when a deficit presented itself very kindly meet the Council for his part.”

A copy of the Notice to Allotment Holders was produced and approved and printed copies were to be given to each Holder, showing when the rent would be collected.

May 4th 1903

“Complaints were lodged with the Council respecting Mr.Baigent who was in habit of riding across various plots, which, the Council promised, should receive attention.”

But enthusiasm for plots appears to have waned amongst Froyle residents:

January 26th 1914

“Clerk to make best terms on any plot with anyone who wanted one!”

September 8th 1915

“Park Field Allotments - existing holders had been approached and were under impression that land would be handed back to landlord if unwanted plots could not be filled. Council considered this only course to pursue. Holders therefore asked to give up land at Michaelmas next.”

March 23rd 1927

“Clerk to send written notice to Mrs.Burningham by registered post of their intention of giving up a portion of land now rented for allotments to the extent of from 6 to 7 acres in Butts Piece at Michaelmas.”

By the 1950's there were still a few Allotments left in the village:

May 2nd 1955

“Clerk reported that of 8 allotments only 3 appear to be in use.”

The Froyle Allotments finally disappeared altogether in the mid 60's:

March 21st 1966

“Because of poor attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting (only 1 member of the public), Clerk instructed to insert notice in local paper (at a cost of 7/6) regarding Parish Council's intention to dispose of parish allotments. Meeting opened at 8pm and closed at 8.30pm.”



Hadwick's Corner, Lower Froyle, in the 1940's

HIGHWAYS

SINCE the very first Parish Council Minutes, the condition of the roads through the village have been of major concern to Councillors.

December 12th 1898

“A resolution was passed that the clerk write to the District Council calling their attention to the filthy condition of the roads and footpaths in Froyle viz at Ryebriidge and Husseys Lane, also that the heaps of dirt be removed from the sides of the roads being dangerous for public travelling.”

Then along came the motor car!

September 14th 1903

“The business of the meeting was the consideration of the reduction of speed with regard to the Motor Act of 1903 and the safety of the public through certain parts and places of the Parish of Froyle and the setting up of signposts denoting such dangerous corners and precipitous places. The meeting having been called by the District Council through a letter received from the County Council. The Parish council felt that rates of speed should be reduced through the parish for safety of public on such narrow roads which in some parts measured only from 12 to 14 feet in width. The Parish Council recommended that danger boards should be erected at the Hen & Chicken, Quarry Bottom, the crossroads by Highway leading to Isington and Froyle and in various places through Lower Froyle which was especially dangerous at such times of Motor traffic. A letter to this effect was sent to the District Council for their perusal.”

Almost 100 years later letters are still being written to the District Council about the dangers of motor traffic!

On the subject of road signing, it is heartwarming to read that those early Councillors had got their priorities right!

March 23rd 1908

“Necessity of finger post at Blundens (I think he means Hadwick’s) corner, Lower Froyle, leading to the Prince of Wales.”

Complaints about the state of the roads through the village appear every year, but in **1930** they are particularly bad, *“following laying of electric light cable.”*

By the way, it is interesting to note that, in the Minutes of the **1935** Parish Council Meetings, Bamber Lane is known as “Bambrous Lane”.

November 11th 1937

“Col.Greville suggested man should be employed permanently on roads of Froyle to clear up litter and keep ditches in order. A 30 mile an hour speed limit or white line asked for in Lower Froyle - driving being considered dangerous to the public at present.”

December 10th 1946

“Clerk instructed to write to County Surveyor pointing out that warning signs should be placed at the entrances to the village, owing to the narrow and winding nature of the roads.”

March 13th 1947

“Flooding Lower Froyle still problem. Clerk instructed to write to the effect that “the time has come when something really must be done.”

In **December 1959** a Meeting was held regarding the proposed new layout of the A31 and its effects on the parish. *“Mr.Butler concerned that cattle have to cross road at Hen & Chicken. Mr.Lowy raised problem of possible flooding at Coldrey Underpass but was assured this would not be a problem.”* Mr.Lowy knew what he was talking about - that underpass has flooded to this day!

June 1st 1966

“Mrs.Emery asked if names could be given to various roads in the village. Clerk to write to Alton RDC.”

In November the go-ahead was given for name plates for Hussey’s Lane, Park Lane, and Bamber Lane.

July 30th 1975

“It was decided that the roads from Anchor P.H. to Copse Hill Farm, Prince of Wales to Well and roads from Westburn Fields to West End Farm be declared a Black Spot Area.”

December 6th 1989

“Mr.Chris Booth had handed the traffic survey which he has prepared to the County Councillor, Mr.Andreae, who thinks we have grounds for a lorry ban through the village.”

April 25th 1990

“Annual Parish Meeting - Anxiety was expressed about the volumes and speed of traffic through the village. “

July 25th 1990

Concern expressed by Council and residents following Quarry contract resulting in 183 lorry movements a day through Lower Froyle.

September 18th 1991

Mr. Alan Giles, HCC's Project Manager addressed the meeting re Bentley Bypass.

November 25th 1993

“Work was now proceeding on construction of the Bentley Bypass. A public presentation had been given in Bentley Memorial Hall on 12th Nov. '93, which only by chance had we heard about. The Chairman had attended and made known our feelings about the lack of consultation.”



Beechcroft, now Beech Cottage, Lower Froyle, in 1915

RECREATION

July 23rd 1897

“The application for a Recreation Ground at Lower Froyle was discussed, it was proposed that the Chairman be asked to approach both Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Stockdale on the subject with a view of obtaining either of their permission for the use of a meadow to play cricket in for the time being.”

April 18th 1898

“The Recreation Ground report was not of a satisfactory nature, as no amicable arrangement could be arrived at by the farmers, it was proposed . . . that the Clerk be instructed to write to Sir Hubert Miller’s agent (Mr.Downie) in respect of a field known as Workhouse Field, Lower Froyle, being thought by the council a most suitable place.”

Mr.Downie replied in **May 1898** that a definite answer on the Recreation Ground could not be given as Sir Hubert was away. Meanwhile Mr.Westbrook had once more approached by the Chairman (Harry Coster) and had granted the use of a piece of land (believed to be opposite Hodges Farm) providing gates and fences were kept in good condition. These conditions were passed on to the Froyle Rovers Cricket Club, who had made the original application.

March 4th 1907

“Annual Assembly of Parish. A Form drawn up and signed by 34 parishioners who were desirous of obtaining a recreation ground at Lower Froyle was produced. Proposed that committee of five be appointed to investigate.”

Committee: Messrs.Pearce, Brownjohn, Kemp, Steer and Coster.

In fact everyone had to wait another 13 years before anything was done!

March 31st 1920

“List of names handed in for recreation ground in Lower Froyle opposite the Froyle Institute, now rented by Mr.G.H.Westbrook. Unanimous wish of meeting that Sir Hubert write to Mrs.Burningham with a view to obtaining this. Messrs Andrew & Ridgers appointed to meet her on the subject. “

May 19th 1920

“Andrew & Ridgers reported that Mrs.Burningham refused on the grounds that it would be detrimental to letting of the farm in the future.”

June 3rd 1920

“Recreation Ground. No land found. Clerk to write to county for their assistance in providing a piece of land by compulsory measures.”

June 16th 1920

“County Council asked to make an order under the Land Clauses Act in respect of portion of land in the occupation of G.H.Westbrook (present rec.)”

January 21st 1924

“Mrs. Burningham having made an application through the Ministry of Agriculture for payment of an Extraordinary Tithe upon the land taken over by the Parish Council for a Recreation Ground. The Ministry suggested that the Parish council pay a capital sum of about £3.16.0. “

March 31st 1924

“Mr. Brandale asked whether a charge for admission could be made to the Recreation Ground on special events. Sir Hubert Miller to look into the matter.”

April 16th 1924

“Charges for entry to Recreation Ground were explained and it was found that such could be made indirectly under the control of the parish council.”

April 18th 1929

“Gate leading into Recreation Ground to be fitted with padlock and key kept at Post Office when not required.”

March 31st 1930

“Mr. Ridgers asked permission to graze the Recreation Ground owing to shortage of feed. Carried on condition that he provide horse for mower during the cricket and tennis season.”

In **April 1937**, under the chairmanship of Sir Hubert Miller, the question of rolling the Recreation Ground by steam was discussed, the price being 5/- per hour, to include fuel, but no water. It was decided to hire the roller for 3 days at £2 per 8 hour day. The Council were not too happy with this outlay and were delighted when in August of the same year Capt. Duncan offered to cut and roll the Recreation Ground in exchange for the grass.

Ten years later the Council appear to have persuaded the Sports Clubs (presumably Cricket, Football & Tennis), to be responsible for the Rec's upkeep.

December 8th 1947

“Miss Pelton gave views of Sports Club as to upkeep of recreation ground and Hut, the main idea of which was that the various clubs should pay annual subscriptions and have a gala day to be supplemented by a grant from the parish council. Council does not approve of making a definite annual grant, but will be responsible for the Hut and leave the clubs to deal with the recreation ground.”

However, this idea was not very satisfactory and in **February 1954** it was suggested that Froyle Parish Council *“should take over the upkeep of the whole rec. At present they cut outfield while sports clubs attend to and bear expense of cutting the pitches.”*

In **1959** the roller was converted to tow behind a tractor, at a cost of £6.5.0., and, in the same year, permission was given for Mr. Smith of the Prince of Wales to sell ices, sweets and soft drinks at matches on the recreation ground for the 1959 Cricket Season. With regard to play equipment in the Recreation Ground, the first swings appear to have been erected in 1959 at a cost of £43.10.0., while in **January 1961** Mr. Pritchard proposed the purchase of 4 new metal swings.

January 16th 1962

“Groundsman hired by Parish Council to see that people do not contravene the by-laws. Mr.W.Rhodes has agreed to take on the job, which carries a salary of £10 per year.”

November 19th 1962

“It was proposed that a Metal Slide be purchased from Messrs.Wicksteed & Co. for the sum of £143.1.3.”

More play equipment was purchased in **1967**, in the form of a Roundabout. Councillors agreed to spend up to £120 on this item. Paving slabs were purchased for swings.

April 21st 1982

“Annual Parish Meeting. ... Recreation ground - roundabout had been removed as it was unsafe. Ball wall to be erected.”

May 1983

“Ball wall considered by many to already be a ‘White Elephant’.”

November 12th 1986

“Council agreed construction of suitable Climbing Frame. Technical advice and a contractor to be sought.”



The original “Prince of Wales” at the turn of the century

THE VILLAGE HALL

THE first Village Hall on the Recreation Ground was a wooden hut, which stood parallel to the hedge, backing on to Mrs. Goschen's field. Its repair is mentioned in several Minutes, but it would seem that the Whist Drive committee were the first village group to hire it, when they asked the Parish Council if they could use it for their meetings.

January 22nd 1934

“Council agreed to lay on gas to Hut in Recreation Ground if it did not cost more than £7. They would pay half of this amount. Gas fires would replace stoves. Furniture and crockery to be property of Whist Drive committee with sole right to make a charge whenever used. Light and Heating to be paid for as used. Charge of Hut 2/6 per meeting. Free access to be allowed for Teas for Sports, such as Tennis, Football or Cricket.”

August 22nd 1934

“A letter was read with regard to the 2/6, asked for, per meeting, of the Mothers Union which stated they could not afford that amount. On reflection it was agreed that 7/6 be accepted for the season.”

The Second World War was a time of pulling together:

March 21st 1941

“Letter read from Miss Pelton of Oak Cottage on behalf of W.I. of Froyle stating that Ministry of food in issuing instructions for jam making required that jam must now be made in public buildings and not in private dwellings. Hut on rec was only place available. That a sink with waste was required and special cupboard accommodation would be required also.”

March 26th 1942

“Chairman stated Hut had no proper blackout curtains but that recent whist drive in connection with War Week Collections had made them imperative. Mr. Hill had provided and fixed same at a cost of £3.10.0.”

July 1945

“A Special general meeting was called to discuss letter received from RDC as to building of a block of cottages outside Alton for small villages as a war memorial which was considered. It was given that a fund was running for a new village hall and put to the meeting for a decision it was agreed that a new hall be built as a memorial.”

May 2nd 1949

“Hut cleaned and prepared for the issue of Ration Books.”

September 21st 1953

“Mr. Freeman was granted permission to place a portrait of Her Majesty The Queen in the Hut.” In 1955 a new Village Hall was erected on what is now part of the car park of the present hall.

May 12th 1955

“It was proposed that the Village Hall Committee be offered a site for the Village Hall on a lease for 99 years at a yearly rental of £1. The Committee to erect and maintain the hall.”

September 7th 1955

“Village Hall in future to be known as Froyle Community Association and Hall known as Froyle Community Centre. “

The old Hut was used for a while by Froyle Youth Club for boxing and, in 1956, after confirming that none of the Sports Clubs wanted to take it on, the Council advertised for tenders for its demolition and clearance of the site.

November 26th 1956

“Mr. Andrew’s tender of £33.10.0 accepted.”

January 16th 1962

“Car park at Community Centre to be enlarged. Committee formed and empowered to spend up to £65.”

The Village Hall was to serve the community well for almost 30 years. In **June 1984**, following the erection of our present hall, the old building was dismantled and sold for £100. The new hall was officially opened by Mr.Derek Evans on Fete Day of that year. In **1992** a store room was added to the building.



Brownjohn’s Stores, Lower Froyle , date unknown

HOUSING

May 1st 1919

“Building of Houses for Agricultural purposes in Upper & Lower Froyle was discussed. 8 applied for in Lower Froyle and 4 in Upper Froyle.”

June 12th 1919

“Erection of houses for working classes. Site for 8 in Lower Froyle to be in a field adjoining Wesleyan Chapel, named Adams, belonging to Mr. Westbrook. 4 in Upper Froyle would be built, 2 now, 2 later, on Sir Hubert’s estate by him.”

December 15th 1919

“Proposed working class houses. Council felt that rent of from 15/- to £1 per week was utterly impossible to obtain, 5/- per week considered ample for working man to pay. They therefore cancelled request.”

September 23rd 1947

“Letter from Alton RDC re seeding & upkeep of greens & verges at Housing Site (Westburn Fields). Clerk instructed to reply that as two Council Roadmen live in the houses it might be made an overtime job for them.”

February 2nd 1948

“Letter from RDC asking for suggestions re naming of pre-war council houses.”

June 28th 1948

“The Clerk was instructed to suggest to Alton RDC that the old Council houses should be known in future as Nedfield Terrace.”

February 1988

“Letters regarding “Homes for Local People”. Council were keen to make this their No.1 priority for 1988”.

November 1988

“Survey sent to all residents regarding low cost housing.”

January 1989

“Housing Needs of Froyle Report produced and sent to NAC Rural Housing Trust. As a result they had recommended 6-8 shared ownership and 4 rented. One acre of land would be required.”

March 1991

“Chairman reported availability of £273,600 from Government Central Funds to finance 6 rented houses. Procedures need to speed on to take advantage of this money during 91/92.”

April 1992

“The majority of the Barnfield Close properties are now occupied. The occupants are Froyle people, and include eight young couples. Mrs. Benson took the opportunity to wish them all a happy future in their new homes.”

THE WAR MEMORIAL

FROYLE'S War Memorial was dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford on Thursday, April 14th, 1921, in the presence of "*an exceedingly large gathering*". Engraved on it were the names of thirty Froyle men who gave their lives in the Great War.

April 20th 1921

"Meeting arranged to decide who should be responsible for War Memorial. Carried unanimously that parish council would be most fitting body."

March 21st 1941

"Council considered condition of war memorial. Clerk recalled that it was some time since the women of the village had made an effort towards keeping it clean and tidy, but the members of the Froyle Branch of the British Legion had been under orders to do the work but lately very little had been done. Chairman requested to communicate with Lady Smiley, President of Froyle W.I., asking her to form band of helpers to keep it in a clean and tidy condition."

In 1945 it was suggested, albeit briefly, that the war memorial be brought into the recreation ground to stand alongside the proposed new village hall!

September 23rd 1947

"Letter from Sec. Froyle Welcome Home Fund, re surplus funds. Asked to have 1914-18 Memorial names cleaned and names of men who lost their lives in the 1939-45 War added. Council whole-heartedly agreed. "

April 21st 1982

"Annual Parish Meeting. War Memorial in process of being cleaned."



Approaching the Beeches in the 1940's

SPECIAL EVENTS

WE end this look back through the Parish Council Minute Books by sharing with you some of the national events that touched the lives of Froyle people.

April 22nd 1901

“The Chairman, having received cards from the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire for subscriptions towards the Queen Victoria Memorial Fund, it was resolved that one be placed at each Post Office at Upper and Lower Froyle and School.”

March 21st 1935

“Meeting devoted to Jubilee Celebrations of 25th reign of King George. Further Meeting to be held in Hut for collection of subscriptions.”

March 29th 1935

“Sir Hubert Miller reported that £42.0.5. had been collected for the Silver Jubilee. He had made enquiries with regard to obtaining a Band from the West Yorkshire Regiment which price was to be £25 from 4pm to 8pm. It was suggested that a tree should be planted to mark the event. “

April 15th 1935

“Commencing the day with Service at St.Mary’s at 11.30, other items were as follows - tea for children, with mugs to be given by Sir Hubert as his present to the children. Tea for adults, if possible. Sports, cricket, dancing and a bonfire.”

May 22nd 1946

“Committee of 12 have been formed for Victory celebrations.”

November 6th 1947

“It was decided to celebrate the Royal Wedding on Nov.20th by giving all children in the parish a tea, to be followed by a conjuring performance. Chairman arranged for a tea for about 90 children to be provided by the Swan Hotel, Alton at 2/-each.”
(What a lot of children we had in the village then!)

March 16th 1953

“The next £40 by Precept be allotted to Childrens Coronation Festivities.”

April 27th 1953

“Vicar to be interviewed about ringing the churchbells for the Coronation. Froyle W.I. were given permission to plant four trees to commemorate the Coronation, the site to be fixed later.”

February 26th 1965

“Special meeting held to consider the Winston Churchill Memorial Appeal. Agreed to have house to house collection from 20th March-27th March.”

December 1st 1976

“It was thought undesirable to join in joint Jubilee Celebrations with Binsted & Bentley. Date suggested was 7th June 1977.”

February 2nd 1977

“Jubilee Celebrations to include:-childrens races, a tea, bonfire and Village Dance organised by the Football Club - tickets £1. It was hoped to include dances suitable for all ages. Lord Mayor Treloar College to be approached so that pond at Upper Froyle be turned into a Jubilee Green.”

April 14th 1977

“LMTC hand over Upper Froyle Pond at West End at rent of £1 a year.”

May 22nd 1977

“Jubilee celebrations programme:-11:00 - Races organised by the Prince of Wales, 2.45 to 3.45 - Football Club event, 3.45 to 4.45 - Childrens races, 5 pm - Childrens teas, 6 pm - Bonfire, 8.30 pm - Village Dance.”

September 28th 1977

Jubilee Committee decided to provide a suitable seat for the Recreation Ground.

November 30th 1977

“Jubilee Auction raised £184.45. Froyle Cook Book raised £120.05.”

May 1981

“It was agreed that the Council should not organise any event for the Royal Wedding Day.”

November 23rd 1994

The Council discussed plans for celebrating the Anniversary of V.E. Day on May 8th, 1995. It is hoped to provide a tea party for the children and a bonfire, barbecue, and firework display in the evening.



St. Joseph's Church, Lower Froyle, at the turn of the century

Published on behalf of Froyle Parish Council by Annette & Chris Booth