

Air Raid Precautions Committee : meeting, 12th April, 1939 / Councillor Soulsby (Chairman).

Contributors

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Meeting, 12th April, 1939.

Present :

COUNCILLOR SOULSBY (Chairman).

COUNCILLORS AYERST, MRS. DOWNER, GRAVES, MRS. GREENHEAD, MONGOR, NICHOLS,
OGDEN, PRATT, SIMPSON, SMART, STRINGER and VIVEASH.

MESSRS. L. J. EVANS, W. R. FORD, A. N. HARTLEY, H. PANTON and M. SULLIVAN.

THE CLERK, TREASURER, ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS OFFICER, CHIEF OFFICER OF THE FIRE BRIGADE

and CHIEF ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, having been circulated, were taken as read, and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Apology.

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Mrs. Wetzel.

3. Emergency Hospital Transport.

The Medical Officer of Health submitted a report dated 12th April, 1939, a copy of which is filed on page 227, file 30, Reports of Officers, containing a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health with regard to the above, setting out details of the present establishment laid down for this area, and asking the Council to designate an officer to be responsible for this service and to supervise the training of volunteers.

Arising from such report, your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the A.R.P. Officer be designated as the officer responsible for this service.

4. Stretchers Purchased During Crisis.

The Medical Officer of Health submitted an account for £12 10s. 0d. from Messrs. Newbold and Stevens in respect of stretchers supplied during the last crisis.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the account of £12 10s. 0d. be paid.

5. Report of Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade submitted a report dated 6th April, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 228-229, file 30, Reports of Officers.

6. Purchase of Towing Vehicle.

Arising from item 6, page 1019, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Clerk reported that the sub-committee mentioned in such item had purchased a Fordson vehicle at a cost of £60, it being intended to purchase the second vehicle at a cost not exceeding £50 in order to keep within the approved expenditure of £55 per vehicle sanctioned by the Home Office.

It was RESOLVED:

That the action taken be approved and confirmed, and that the Committee's best thanks be extended to Mr. Panton for the work he has carried out in connection with the purchase of this vehicle.

7. Issue of Home Office Equipment.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade reported details of equipment received from the Home Office up to and including the 6th April, 1939 (item 2 of his report).

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8. Honarium: Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade drew attention to the following extract from Emergency Fire Brigade Organisation, Information Circular, March, 1939, and asked that consideration should be given to the payment of the honorarium mentioned:—

"In cases where the Local Authority regard the payment of an honorarium to the Chief Officer to be justified in consideration of the work devolving on him in connection with the recruiting and training of the Auxiliary Fire Service personnel and other emergency measures, such payments will be allowed to rank for grant in proper cases. Any payment of this nature will require specific approval if it is to rank for grant.

"Generally speaking, the amount approved for grant will be limited to a sum not exceeding one tenth of the Officer's annual emoluments and to a fixed period, generally one year in the first instance."

It was pointed out that the amount of an honorarium based on the above would be £37 10s. 0d., of which the Home Office would bear 60% of the cost (£22 10s. 0d.) if approved, the Council having to bear the balance of £15.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That, subject to the approval of the Home Office and the Finance Committee, an honorarium of 10% of the salary of the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, amounting to £37 10s. 0d., be paid to the Chief Officer, in consideration of the work carried out by him in the recruitment and training of the Auxiliary Fire Service personnel.

9. Accounts.

Your Committee concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee in their minutes for 11th April, 1939, item 2, so far as it relates to A.R.P. accounts amounting to £208 19s. 9d. and £28 2s. 1d. for inter-departmental work.

10. Engineer and Surveyor's Reports.

The Engineer and Surveyor submitted reports dated 6th, 11th and 12th April, 1939, copies of which are filed on pages 230-253, file 30, Reports of Officers.

11. A.R.P. Trenches: Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.

Arising from item 60, page 1,000, of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 22nd February, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted a letter dated 8th March, 1939, from the above firm with regard to certain items in their account for the construction of A.R.P. trenches during the last crisis for which payment had been disapproved, together with his observations thereon. He submitted a further letter dated 3rd April, 1939, from the Company, stating that should their charges be disallowed, they would have no alternative but to revert to the original arrangements, that is, cost of work plus 15%.

After consideration, your Committee RECOMMEND:

That, subject to the approval of the County Council, the Council adhere to their previous decisions in each case, and that a copy of the correspondence with Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Construction, Ltd., be sent to the County Council.

12. A.R.P. Trenches: Messrs. Joseph Gough (Builders) Ltd.

Arising from item 14, page 926, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted a letter dated 15th March, 1939, from the above firm, in connection with an account for £55 14s. 2d. for work carried out on the construction of A.R.P. trenches during the last crisis, for which payment had been disapproved (pages 3-4 of his report).

The Engineer and Surveyor stated that he was of the opinion that the contentions made in the letter as to the amount of work carried out were correct, and that his object in drawing particular attention to the matter in his report of the 1st January last was on account of the small amount of the materials used which were not returned to store.

Your Committee RECOMMEND (Councillor Mongor voting against):

That payment of the account for £55 14s. 2d. be approved, and that the goods not returned to store be written off.

(Councillor Stringer entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

13. Making Permanent of Shelter Trenches.

Arising from item 8, page 816, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 4th January, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor reported with regard to the above (pages 4-5 of his report), and arising therefrom your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council agree with the principle that (i) reinforced concrete in-situ construction should be adopted and (ii) the concrete should be composed with a 50% mixture by weight of portland cement and trass.

Arising from item 25 of the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held 5th April, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted the following report dated 12th April, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 252-253, file 30, Reports of Officers, on the tenders received for the making permanent of A.R.P. trenches:—

"I refer to paragraph 2 (c) of my report dated 6th April, 1939, for consideration by the Committee this evening. It is pointed out therein that tenders have been based on a schedule of prices, and not in the form of lump sums for the completion of the whole of the work.

"The following is the estimated cost per yard lineal, for the carrying out of the work under the several tenders received, including only those items provided for in the Home Office Circular. It is to be understood that there are several other items, additional to the foregoing, and thus the costs per yard given below are not a true estimate of the total cost per yard. It is understood, however, that they should form the basis of comparison between the several tenders.

"It is to be observed that Tenders 8 and 9 were received after date, but in view of all the circumstances, particularly the fact that the cost of the work will be met in full by the County Council, if approved, it was considered desirable that these should be opened. The Committee are asked to approve this action.

"Several firms who obtained documents, found themselves unable to submit a tender for the whole of the work, as they specialised in the manufacture and supply of units for the lining only. In these circumstances, the Committee are asked to approve the repayment of the deposits made by those firms.

"In considering the above tenders, with a view to the provisional acceptance of one tender, the Committee is requested to have regard to the period for the completion of the works, stated in the tender.

"It should also be observed that in view of the County Council's decision, one of the tenders in the third column, should be provisionally accepted.

"It is to be noted that the tenders provide for the making permanent of approximately 480 lineal yards of trench. The question of the fencing of the scheme should also be considered."

SCHEDULE OF TENDERS FOR LINING TRENCHES.

No.	Tenderer, and Period For Completion	1.	2.	3.	4.
		Home Office Type £ s. d.	Precast Alternative £ s. d.	In-situ Concrete £ s. d.	Combination of 2 and 3 £ s. d.
1.	D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd. 26 weeks.	4 14 6	—	—	—
2.	A. Robinson ... No time stated.	—	—	10 13 0	—
3.	J. L. Keir & Co., Ltd. 16 weeks.	—	5 0 4	—	—
4.	Tarslag (1923), Ltd. ... 12 weeks.	—	—	8 15 6	—
5.	E. C. McDermot & Co. ... 10 weeks.	—	5 16 6	—	—
6.	Kerman Construction Co., Ltd. 26 weeks.	4 15 0	4 14 0	4 13 0	4 14 0
7.	J. A. King & Co. ...	—	No Tender	—	—
8.	Wembley Construction Co. ... 10 weeks. (Received 6/4/39.)	—	—	—	5 13 3
9.	Anti-Bomb Construction, Ltd. 12 weeks. (Received 11/4/39.)	—	—	4 7 3	—

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

1. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Normal Individual
2. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Diabetic Individual

3. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Obese Individual
4. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Thin Individual

5. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Elderly Individual
6. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Young Individual

7. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Male Individual
8. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Female Individual

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16. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Female Individual

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31. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Male Individual
32. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Female Individual

33. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Normal Individual
34. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Diabetic Individual

35. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Obese Individual
36. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Thin Individual

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No.	Tenderer, and Period For Completion	1. Home Office Type £ s. d.	2. Precast Alternative £ s. d.	3. In-situ Concrete £ s. d.	4. Combination of 2 and 3 £ s. d.
10.	St. Keverne & Associated Quarries, Ltd.		No Tender		
11.	Wates, Ltd.		No Tender		
12.	A. O. Laird, Ltd.		No Tender		
13.	Richard Costain, Ltd.	—	2 18 7 for supply of units only.	—	—
14.	W. H. Wheeler & Co., Ltd. ... 13 weeks. (Received 12/4/39.)	—	—	5 19 0	—

It was moved by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Ayerst :

That the tenders received after the closing date be not considered.

It was moved by Councillor Graves and seconded by Councillor Soulsby :

That the whole matter be referred to the County Council.

Councillor Mongor gave notice of his intention to move a further amendment.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared not carried.

It was then moved by Councillor Mongor and seconded by Councillor Stringer as a further amendment :

That the County Council be informed that the Council are of the opinion that the lowest tender received before the closing date, i.e., that of Messrs. Kerman Construction Co., Ltd., should be accepted, but that their attention be drawn to the fact that a lower tender was received after the closing date, the acceptance of which would effect a considerable saving.

The further amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared carried, 9 voting in favour and 6 against, and by 8 votes to 6 upon being put as the substantive motion.

Whereupon it was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND :

That the County Council be informed that the Council are of the opinion that the lowest tender received before the closing date, i.e., that of Messrs. Kerman Construction Co., Ltd., should be accepted, but that their attention be drawn to the fact that a lower tender was received after the closing date, the acceptance of which would effect a considerable saving.

The voting was as follows :

In favour—Councillors Mrs. Downer, Mrs. Greenhead, Mongor, Ogden, Smart and Stringer ; Messrs. Hartley and Panton.

Against—Councillors Ayerst, Graves, Nichols, Pratt and Soulsby ; Mr. Evans.

Your Committee also RECOMMEND :

- That the action taken by the Engineer and Surveyor in opening tenders received after the closing date and submitting the same be approved and confirmed.
- That the Council authorise the return of deposits to those contractors who were unable to tender.
- That this matter be referred to the Finance Committee to provide ways and means of financing the scheme.

14. Steel Garden Shelters.

Arising from item 19, page 1,021, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor reported that no action had been taken in connection with the above having regard to a letter dated 29th March, 1939, from the Home Office, stating that it had been decided to postpone the issue of specimen steel shelters to local authorities until such time as it was possible to contemplate distribution in the areas under their control.

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The Engineer and Surveyor also reported that it was advisable to designate one of the officials of the Council to supervise the work of distribution and erection of the shelters when received, and stated that the Parks Superintendent was willing to carry out this work, subject to the services of an Engineering Assistant being made available to him.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That, subject to the approval of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee, the Parks Superintendent be appointed to carry out this work, and that the services of an Engineering Assistant be made available to him.

15. Underground Shelter.

(a) PREPARATION OF SCHEME.

Arising from item 7, page 1,019, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, wherein the Committee agreed in principle to provide complete protection against high explosive bombs, the Engineer and Surveyor reported in detail upon the considerations to be borne in mind in preparing a scheme for the provision of an underground shelter (pages 6-8 of his report).

It was RESOLVED:

That a sub-committee of six members be appointed to consider this question, and that Councillors Ayerst, Nichols, Smart and Soulsby, and Messrs. Ford and Panton constitute the members of the sub-committee.

(b) SOUTHALL BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 4th April, 1939, from the Town Clerk of Southall, asking the Council to support the following resolution which had been passed by his Council at their last meeting:—

“That the Town Clerk be authorised to make representations to the County Council for an examination to be initiated into the question of the provision of deep underground shelters in Middlesex.”

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council support the resolution, and that the County Council be informed accordingly.

(c) HAYES (WEST WARD) RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Arising from item 3, page 1,042, of the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held 8th March, 1939, the Clerk reported that the following question raised by the above Association was referred to this Committee for consideration:—

“What steps are the Council taking to urge the need for deep bomb proof shelters in view of the inferior type of construction of the houses on new estates?”

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Association be informed of the action taken in items (a) and (b) of this item.

(Councillor Nichols left the meeting temporarily at this point.)

16. Conference With Public Utility Undertakings.

Arising from item 12, page 1,020, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor reported in detail upon the conference with representatives of public utility undertakings held on the 1st March, 1939, and matters arising therefrom. A copy of such report is filed on pages 237-240 and 248-251, file 30, Reports of Officers.

Arising therefrom, your Committee RECOMMEND:

(a) That the report be submitted to the County Council for their observations.

(b) That the question of the statutory undertakings being represented on this Committee be referred to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(c) That the County Council be asked if this Council should make provision for the decontamination of personnel of the statutory undertakings.

The following is a list of the names of the members of the American Medical Association who have been elected to the office of President for the year 1914. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—April, 1939.

- (d) That in the event of an emergency permission be given to the statutory companies to store replacements on land adjoining the Minet Drive Depot.
- (e) That a direct telephone line to the Hayes Court Depot of the Uxbridge Electricity Co. be installed, subject to the approval of the County Council.
- (f) That consideration of the question of providing facilities for the training of personnel of the statutory companies be deferred pending the coming into operation of the Civil Defence Bill.
- (g) That application be made to the County Council for grant towards part of the cost for the preparation of maps of the district showing mains, sewers, fire hydrants, etc.

17. Decontamination Squads.

The Engineer and Surveyor referred to Home Office Circular No. 700,257/111 of 2nd February, 1939, in which the Lord Privy Seal indicated that he might be prepared to approve for grant purposes expenditure on adaptation of vehicles for decontamination purposes not exceeding £85 per vehicle, and to item 12 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, and stated that this matter had been further considered, and that it was now thought:—

- (a) That since three decontamination squads were being maintained, three vehicles should be adapted for decontamination work.
- (b) That three additional vehicles should be converted, the exhausters being regarded as a reinforcement only since it was not available for carrying tools.
- (c) That since the decontamination squads were formed from the cleansing section of the Works Department the vehicles adapted should be refuse freighters.

The Engineer and Surveyor submitted a quotation from Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., dated 27th March, 1939, amounting to £85 per vehicle in respect of vehicles supplied by them, the prices being nett at works.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

- (a) That, subject to the approval of the County Council, the quotation of Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., for the conversion of three refuse freighters at a cost of £85 per vehicle, be accepted, and that on approval the work be put in hand.
- (b) That application be made to the County Council for approval to the installation of an extension line from the telephone exchange in the Stores Office to the Cleansing Foreman's office at Minet Drive Depot.
- (c) That the Clerk be instructed to make application to the Post Office authorities for one of the overhead telephone lines to Minet Drive Depot to be placed underground.

18. Road Repair Squads.

Arising from item 7 of the Engineer and Surveyor's report, your Committee RECOMMEND:

That subject to the approval of the County Council the road repair personnel be given a full course of nine one-hour lectures in anti-gas instruction, to take place outside normal working hours.

19. Materials Purchased During the Crisis.

Arising from item 10, page 1,020, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted copy of letter dated 24th March, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that pending the receipt of further instructions, materials purchased during the crisis, other than timber and corrugated iron for trenches, should be retained.

20. Air Raid Wardens' Huts.

Arising from item 20 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted copy of letter dated 22nd March, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, giving approval to the erection of two huts, including lighting and heating.

1. The first of the three is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

2. The second is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

3. The third is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

4. The fourth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

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5. The fifth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

6. The sixth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

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16. The sixteenth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

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18. The eighteenth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

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19. The nineteenth is the fact that the library is not a collection of books, but a collection of people.

It was moved by Councillor Ayerst and seconded by Mr. Ford :

That one of the huts be erected in the Harlington area and one in the Botwell area, and that the selection of sites in these areas be left to the Chairman and appropriate officials.

It was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Smart as an amendment :

That one of the huts be erected at Botwell on a site to be selected, and the other on the Council's land fronting Uxbridge Road, and that application be made to the County Council for approval to a further hut for the Harlington area.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared not carried, 4 voting in favour and 7 against.

Whereupon it was resolved to RECOMMEND :

That one of the huts be erected in the Harlington area and one in the Botwell area, and that the selection of sites in these areas be left to the Chairman and appropriate officials.

It was then moved by Councillor Ogden, seconded by Mr. Panton, and resolved to RECOMMEND:

That application be made to the County Council for approval to a further hut for the Uxbridge Road district.

Your Committee also RECOMMEND:

That application be made to the County Council for approval to the purchase of the necessary furniture required for these huts.

(Councillors Ogden, Smart, Stringer and Simpson and Mr. Sullivan left the meeting temporarily at this point).

21. Shelters for Wardens Posts.

The Engineer and Surveyor drew attention to paragraph 3 of M.C.C. Circular No. 23/1939, dated 20th March, 1939, and arising therefrom your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council agree in principle to the provision of double steel shelters adjacent to wardens posts for protection.

22. Report Centre—Structural Adaptation.

Arising from item 10, page 817, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 4th January, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor reported in detail with regard to the above (pages 13-15 of his report) and submitted copy of letter dated 30th March, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, together with observations of the County Architect and plan enclosed with such letter.

After consideration, your Committee RECOMMEND :

That the County Council be informed that after having carefully considered their proposals, the Council are of the opinion that apart from the fact that the Council Chamber is the only accommodation available for meetings of the Council and its Committees and that such accommodation would be considerably reduced if the County Council's proposals were adopted, they are far from satisfied that such proposals will adequately provide the accommodation and protection needed for the personnel of the Report Centre and cannot accept the same, and suggest that consideration be given to the construction of a separate Report Centre in the grounds adjoining the Town Hall. Further, that the County Council be asked to receive a deputation of the Chairman and appropriate officials in connection with this matter.

23. Proposed A.R.P. Store, Minet Drive Depot.

Arising from item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 18th January, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted copy of letter dated 1st April, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer authorising the Council "to obtain tenders and proceed with the construction of the building as planned except that in order to secure the necessary Home Office approval for grant the height to the eaves should not exceed 9ft."

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Your Committee RECOMMEND :

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare revised plans and specifications for a building 9ft. to eaves and to invite tenders by public advertisement therefor, for submission to this Committee; further, that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee as to ways and means.

24. Proposed Cleansing Station, Minet Drive Depot.

Arising from item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 18th January, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor submitted copy of letter dated 1st April, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, intimating the County Council's approval to amended plans submitted for the above, and stating that the exact amount of sanction would be determined when tenders were received.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare specifications and to invite tenders by public advertisement for submission to this Committee; further, that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee as to ways and means.

Your Committee also RECOMMEND :

That the County Council be asked to agree to the principle of the provision of a further Cleansing Station, particularly in view of recommendation (c) of item 16 hereof, and that the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to report on suitable sites.

25. Proposed Clothing Decontamination Building.

Arising from item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 18th January, 1939, the Engineer and Surveyor reported that detailed plans and estimates for the above had been submitted to the County Council, who had invited the Home Office to comment on the proposal, and he submitted copies of such plans and the revised estimate of £978 8s. 6d.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare specifications and to invite tenders by public advertisement for submission to this Committee upon receipt of approval to the scheme; further, that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee as to ways and means.

26. Blast and Splinter-proof Protection for A.R.P. Personnel.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported on information which had been obtained from the Home Office regarding the above, and submitted his observations with regard to road repair gangs, rescue and demolitions squads, etc., and also with regard to sandbags (item 14 of his report).

Arising therefrom, your Committee RECOMMEND :

(a) That further consideration of this matter be deferred pending the result of the decision of the Home Office on the Council's application for approval to six auxiliary fire stations being provided for this district.

(b) That representations be made to the County Council for the issue to the Council of 12 further sand-bag filling machines.

(Councillor Pratt left the meeting temporarily during the foregoing item).

27. A.R.P. Staff, Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

(a) Technical Assistant.

Arising from item 59, page 1,000, of the minutes of the February meeting of the Council, the Engineer and Surveyor reported that Mr. G. C. V. Fenton, of 20 The Ridings, Hanger Lane, Ealing, W.5, had been appointed to the above position by the Chairmen of the Air Raid Precautions and Appointments Committee, on a probationary period of one month in the first instance.

(b) Clerical Assistance.

The Engineer and Surveyor asked for approval to the making of an application to the County Council for sanction to the appointment of a temporary shorthand-typist not less than 19 years of age on Grade A.1 of the Council's scale in his Department for A.R.P. work in view of the heavy pressure of work.

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Your Committee RECOMMEND :

- (a) That application be made to the County Council for approval to the appointment mentioned, and that the necessary advertisements be issued upon receipt of approval; further, that the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Air Raid Precautions and Appointments Committees be authorised to make the appointment.
- (b) That the person appointed be a contributory employee under the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

28. Timber for Private A.R.P. Shelter.

The Engineer and Surveyor submitted a letter from Mr. D. Bain, of 12, Cranford Road, Hayes, asking to be supplied with timber for a private A.R.P. shelter which he was constructing at his residence.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That Mr. Bain be informed that the Council regret that they are unable to accede to his request.

(Councillor Mongor left the meeting at this point).

29. A.R.P. Officer's Reports.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted two reports, dated 4th and 12th April, 1939, copies of which are filed on pages 254-263, file 30, Reports of Officers.

30. A.R.P. Exercise.

The A.R.P. Officer reported on the combined exercise of the district held on the 15th March, 1939, and stated that representatives from the Home Office and County Council who attended as official observers expressed their opinions regarding the satisfactory state of efficiency shown by the A.R.P. services of the district by this exercise.

31. A.R.P. Exercise—Damage; The Lake, Botwell.

Arising from item 10 of the minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held 27th March, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer stated that he had had no report of damage to fencing at The Lake, Botwell, during the A.R.P. exercise on 15th March, 1939, by the A.R.P. services, and added that this damage might have been caused by the public watching the exercise.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That application be made to the County Council for their approval to meet the cost of the damage, £6 17s. 11d.

32. Public Meeting.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that on the instructions of the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Committee, a public meeting was arranged at the Albert Hall, Station Road, on the 27th March, 1939, for the purpose of appealing for more volunteers in Harlington, and that 16 persons had enrolled in response to this appeal.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that at that public meeting, residents of Harlington suggested that a further meeting should be arranged in Harlington.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

- (a) That the action taken be approved and confirmed.
- (b) That a further public meeting be held, in Harlington, and that arrangements therefor be left in the hands of the Chairman and appropriate officials.

33. Local Government Officers and National Service.

Arising from item 24, page 955, of the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held 8th February, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer submitted particulars concerning the present staff of the A.R.P. Department, and recommended that all their services be retained by the Council for A.R.P. services in the event of an emergency (item 5 of his report).

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It was RESOLVED :

That the Committee concur with the recommendation of the A.R.P. Officer and refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee.

34. Expenses of A.R.P. Volunteers.

Arising from item 22, page 928, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer submitted a letter dated 22nd March, 1939, from the Home Office stating "it is considered reasonable that volunteers should be reimbursed expenses necessarily incurred in performance of Air Raid Fire Precautions and that a mileage rate of 2d. per mile for private cars would not be considered unreasonable, if the authority regard it as appropriate, and would rank for grant. I am to add that this rate is that which has received the Minister's approval in connection with the Air Raid General Precautions Scheme."

Also arising from the same item, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 22nd March, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that the County Council, as at present advised, could not authorise motor-car allowances on a higher scale than the Home Office would approve for grant.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to press for the scale of allowances suggested by the Council to be adopted.

35. Procedure.

At 10-30 p.m. it was RESOLVED :

That Standing Order No. 39 be suspended.

36. Town Hall Caretaker.

Arising from item 31 of the minutes of the meeting of the Works Committee held 3rd April, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer submitted a letter dated 4th March, 1939, from the County Council, approving the payment of overtime to the Town Hall Caretaker when necessarily engaged on duties in connection with A.R.P.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Town Hall Caretaker be asked to submit details of overtime worked by him in connection with A.R.P. matters, and that application be made to the County Council for approval to make retrospective payment for overtime worked prior to their approval, if necessary.

37. Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence.

Arising from item 37, page 1,025, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer reported with regard to the above, and stated that a branch of the Women's Voluntary Service would be formed in Hayes on receipt of a formal letter from the Council requesting arrangements to be made, and that the services of a Voluntary (Women's) Staff would then be provided for the purpose of recruiting women volunteers and to help in arranging for their training, the branch staff using such accommodation as might be provided by the Council, the furniture and equipment for which would rank for grant.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be instructed to make the necessary application forthwith for a branch of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence to be set up in Hayes.

38. Wardens' Meeting.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted the minutes of a meeting of the Wardens held at the Town Hall on the 23rd March, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 259-260, file 30, Reports of Officers.

Arising from item 2 of such minutes, it was RESOLVED :

That the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to supply Mr. Panton with further particulars of this matter.

39. Instructors L.A.G.C.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that the following had qualified as Instructors L.A.G.C. on the 13th March, 1939:—

Mesdames Soulsby and Ballard.

Messrs. Ford, Richings, Topley, Cayless, Glenister, Yarnold and Wheeler.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the above persons be employed as instructors in this district as and when required.

40. Third Course L.A.G.C.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that requests had been received from the following to attend the 3rd course for Instructors L.A.G.C. at the M.C.C. Hayes Branch School for which there were only 8 vacancies; and that a similar request had been received from the A.R.P. Officer of Southall:—

Mesdames Leslie (A Divn.), McGarry (A Divn.), Haldane (B.R.C.S.).

Messrs. Buck (A Divn.), Casey (E Divn.), Gray (Engineer and Surveyor Dept.), Marsh (Engineer and Surveyor Dept.), McGarry (A Divn.), Mitchell (A Divn.), Poole (E Divn.), Warren (Engineer and Surveyor Dept.).

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

(a) That Mrs. Leslie and Messrs. Casey, Gray, Marsh, McGarry, Mitchell, Poole and Warren be nominated to attend the course.

(b) That the A.R.P. Officer of Southall be informed that his request will be borne in mind.

(Councillors Ogden and Smart returned to the meeting during the foregoing item.)

(Councillor Mrs. Greenhead left the meeting at this point).

(Councillors Nichols, Pratt, Simpson and Stringer returned to the meeting at this point).

41. Strength Return.

Thse A.R.P. Officer submitted a statement shewing the number of volunteers on the Council's books on the 1st April, 1939, a copy of which is filed on page 261, file 30, Reports of Officers.

42. National Service Committee.

Arising from the foregoing item, the Chairman reported that he had been in touch with the Member of Parliament for the district, Lt.-Col. Llewellyn, with a view to arranging a Towns Meeting for the purpose of obtaining A.R.P. volunteers.

It was RESOLVED:

(a) That the action taken by the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(b) That the question of ascertaining the position with regard to a meeting of the National Service Interviewing Panel for this district be left in the hands of the Chairman and Clerk.

(c) That the question of a Town Meeting be referred to the National Service Committee.

43. Publications, Circulars, Etc.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted details of the various publications and circulars which had been issued to the members since the last meeting (item 12 of his report).

44. Control of Rescue and Demolition Services.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that it would be advisable to appoint one of the officials of the Council to take charge of the rescue and demolition services in the event of an emergency, and that the Estate Manager had intimated his willingness to do this.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Estate Manager be appointed to control rescue and demolition services in the event of an emergency, subject to the approval of the Housing Committee.

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—April, 1939.

45. Requisition Book.

The Chairman was authorised to sign the Requisition Book submitted from the A.R.P. Department.

46. Appointment of Assistant A.R.P. Officer.

A joint report by the Clerk and A.R.P. Officer was submitted, a copy of which is filed on page 264, file 30, Reports of Officers, pointing out the need for the appointment of an Assistant A.R.P. Officer in consequence of the heavy administrative and training duties placed upon the Clerk and A.R.P. Officer through the increase in the Council's A.R.P. obligations during recent months, and in view of the additional statutory duties to be placed upon local authorities by the Civil Defence Bill now before Parliament.

The report further stated that in a letter dated 3rd April, 1939, the County Council had approved of an appointment being made at a salary of £300 per annum.

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) That an Assistant A.R.P. Officer be appointed at a salary of £300 per annum, and that the necessary advertisements be issued.
- (b) That the person appointed by a contributory employee under the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

47. Wardens Service.

Arising from item 19 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee, held 15th February, 1939, the Clerk submitted a report dated 30th March, 1939, of a conference in regard to the proposed transfer of the Wardens Service to the Commissioner of Police, together with copy of a letter dated 24th March, 1939, from the Home Office to the County Council on the subject. A copy of such report and letter is filed on pages 265-269, file 30, Reports of Officers.

48. First Aid Party Depots and Ambulance Depots.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted a letter dated 28th February, 1939, from the County Council to the Council's Medical Officer of Health designating the following fixed First Aid Posts, which had now been approved by the Ministry of Health:—

Fixed First Aid Posts.

Hayes Cottage Hospital,
Harlington Cottage Hospital,
Queen's Hall, Station Road.

First Aid Posts to be used in the event of an air raid in the vicinity and to be staffed by a mobile unit.

Hall in Cherry Lane (Clinic),
Grange Park School (Clinic),
Warren Park Recreation Pavilion.

Mobile First Aid Posts to be stationed in this area.

Two.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that as a consequence of the re-siting of the First Aid Posts it was desirable that the earlier arrangements for First Aid Depots should be revised, and he submitted his suggestions for the re-siting of these Depots (pages 1 and 2 of the addendum to his report, dated 12th April, 1939).

It was moved and seconded:

That the County Council be informed that the Council disapprove and cannot accept the proposals set out in their letter of 28th February, 1939.

The motion, upon being put to the meeting, was declared not carried.

It was then RESOLVED:

That the following sub-committee be appointed to consider the whole question in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health and A.R.P. Officer:

The Chairman and Councillors Nichols and Smart.

The Engineer and Surveyor stated that he assumed that no action could now be taken with regard to the provision of splinter and blast-proof protection at First Aid Depots until the Ministry of Health had considered any representations which the Council might make and the Committee concurred with this view.

48. Insurance of A.R.P. Volunteers.

Arising from item 32, page 1,024, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 24th March, 1939, from the Home Office, stating that in view of the recent announcement by the Lord Privy Seal that insurance of A.R.P. and A.F.S. volunteers in respect of disablement, death or incapacity, would in future be dealt with by the Home Office and not by insurance companies, it would not be necessary for the Council to effect any additional cover.

50. Cranford Cross and District Residents Association.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 28th February, 1939, from the above Association, proposing that in the issue of steel garden shelters priority should be given to Reservists.

It was RESOLVED:

That the letter be noted.

51. Wardens—"G" Division.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 2nd April, 1939, signed by seven Wardens in Sectors 6 to 11 of "G" Division, stating that the following resolution was passed at their last weekly meeting:—

"That the Wardens present resolve to inform the A.R.P. Committee of the Council that they dis-associate themselves from the recent action taken by an ex-warden of the "G" division who was responsible of despicable conduct, by having her supposed grievance broadcast by the medium of a handbill at the Public Meeting for Wardens, held at the Albert Hall, Monday, 27th March. The Wardens present wish to record their complete faith in the Council's A.R.P. Insurance Scheme and of the Council's intention to honour all authentic cases of injury sustained by Wardens on duty."

It was RESOLVED:

That the letter be acknowledged with thanks.

52. National Service Committee.

The Clerk submitted two letters from the Secretary of the County of Middlesex National Service Committee, asking (a) for a census to be taken of employers in the district undertaking their own schemes of training employees in A.R.P. and A.F.S. duties, and (b) if the Council had endeavoured to obtain additional recruits by means of a house to house canvass.

The Clerk also submitted a letter from H.M. Lord Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex, addressed to the Chairman of the Council, with regard to recruitment for National Service.

It was RESOLVED:

That consideration of the above be deferred pending the result of the enquiries to be made under resolution (b) of item 41 hereof.

53. First Aid Training.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 16th March, 1939, from the Clerk of the Ruislip-Northwood U.D.C., stating that he had been instructed by his Council to urge the Home Office to consider the question of issuing a modified and simplified course of first aid training for personnel, as it was considered that many volunteers were discouraged by the academical nature of the opening lectures, and asking whether the Council would support the action taken by his Council.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That no action be taken.

54. A.F.S. Training Accommodation: Wistowe House.

Arising from item 58, page 1,000, of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 22nd February, 1939, the Clerk reported that he had received the approval of the Home Office to the leasing by the Council of Wistowe House, Church Road, for a period of three years at a rent of £60 per annum, and for the necessary adaptations to be carried out to the buildings at an estimated cost of £93.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be authorised to put the work in hand.

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—April, 1939.

55. Provisional Local War Instructions.

The Clerk submitted Circular No. 25 of 1939 from the County Council asking the Council to set up forthwith the following war-time organisation, unless this had already been done:—

- (a) officers who would act as the Executive Controller and Sub-Controllers;
- (b) an Emergency Committee of not more than three members, with wide powers to act on behalf of the Council, and to keep in touch with all developments.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council agree to the principle of the appointment of an Emergency Committee of three members, with wide powers to act in the event of an emergency, and that the following constitute the members of such committee:—

The Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Air Raid Precautions Committee, and Councillor Smart.

56. Issue of Training Equipment.

Arising from item 31, page 1,024, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Clerk reported that as notification was received from the Home Office after the Committee's resolution was passed that 35 suits would be issued to the Council, and a further 6 suits from the Sunbury Urban District Council, he did not make the representations to the County Council mentioned in such item.

57. Sick Pay—Mr. W. T. Jacob.

The Clerk submitted a claim received from Mr. W. T. Jacob for the sum of £6 to be paid to him for sick pay during his absence from the week ending 2nd February, 1939, to week ending 16th February, 1939, while employed as Clerical Assistant in the A.R.P. Department, and he reported on the position.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That no action be taken.

58. Thanks to Chairman.

The Chairman thanked the members and officials for their co-operation during his year of office.

A vote of thanks was moved by Councillor Nichols, seconded by Councillor Smart, and passed to the Chairman for his services during the past year.

Chairman.

The meeting terminated at 11.45 p.m.

1. The Air Force Reserve Act, 1938

The Air Force Reserve Act, 1938, is an Act to amend the Air Force Act, 1936, and to provide for the raising and training of a reserve force for the Royal Air Force, and for other purposes connected therewith.

(a) The Air Force Reserve shall consist of such number of personnel as may be determined by the Air Force Council, and shall be raised and trained in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) The Air Force Reserve shall be subject to the same discipline and control as the regular force.

(c) The Air Force Reserve shall be subject to the same conditions of service as the regular force, and shall be entitled to the same benefits and privileges as the regular force.

(d) The Air Force Reserve shall be subject to the same conditions of service as the regular force, and shall be entitled to the same benefits and privileges as the regular force.

2. The Air Force Reserve Act, 1938

The Air Force Reserve Act, 1938, is an Act to amend the Air Force Act, 1936, and to provide for the raising and training of a reserve force for the Royal Air Force, and for other purposes connected therewith.

3. The Air Force Reserve Act, 1938

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