Air Raid Precautions Committee: meeting, 3rd May, 1939 / Councillor Soulsby (Chairman).

Contributors

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AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Meeting: 3rd May, 1939.

Present :

COUNCILLOR SOULSBY (Chairman).

Councillors Ayerst, Mrs. Downer. Graves, Mrs. Greenhead, Harding, Hartley, Nichols, Ogden, Pratt, Simpson, Smart, Stinton, Stringer and Sutcliffe.

Messrs. L. J. Evans, W. R. Ford, A. N. Hartley, F. W. Lyons, H. Panton, M. Sullivan and S. Whistance.

MRS. O. E. WETZEL.

THE CLERK, TREASURER, ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR, AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS OFFICER, CHIEF OFFICER OF THE FIRE BRIGADE and CHIEF ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.

1. Chairman.

It was moved by Councillor Stinton and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Downer:

That Councillor Soulsby be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year,

It was moved by Councillor Hartley and seconded by Councillor Harding as an amendment:

That Councillor Sutcliffe be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting by the Clerk, was declared carried by 7 votes to 6.

The Clerk then put the amendment as the substantive motion, and declared the same carried by 7 votes to 6.

The counting of the votes for the substantive motion was disputed by several members, and after discussion it was moved by Councillor Simpson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Downer:

That a temporary Chairman be appointed, to act for this meeting only.

It was moved by Councillor Ayerst and seconded by Mr. Sullivan as an amendment:

That the voting for the election of Chairman, as declared by the Clerk, be accepted.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared not carried, 7 voting in favour and 8 against.

Councillors Ayerst, Harding, Hartley and Sutcliffe then left the meeting as a protest.

Whereupon it was RESOLVED:

That a temporary Chairman be appointed, to act for this meeting only.

It was further Resolved:

That Councillor Soulsby be appointed Chairman of this meeting of the Committee.

(Councillor Mrs. Greenhead and Mr. Sullivan left the meeting as this point.)

(Councillors Ogden, Nichols, Smart and Simpson and Mr. Panton entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

2. Dates and Times of Meetings.

It was RESOLVED:

That the ordinary meetings of the Committee be held on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.30 p.m., except in August when the Council is in vacation, and in December, 1939, when the meeting be held on the 29th November.

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3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 12th April, 1939, having been circulated, were taken as read, and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

4. Hayes and District Trades Council.

Arising from item 7, page 2, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 19th April, 1939, the Clerk reported that the Hayes and District Trades Council had appointed Mr. F. W. Lyons, of 4 Waverley Close, Harlington, as a co-opted member to serve on this Committee.

5. Accounts.

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) That accounts amounting to £206 4s. 2d. be forwarded to the Finance Committee for payment, subject to verification by the Chairman.
- (b) That an account of £55 14s. 2d. to Messrs. Joseph Gough (Builders), Ltd., in accordance with Certificate No. 426/7 issued by the Engineer and Surveyor, be paid forthwith, and be reported to the next meeting of the Finance Committee for confirmation.

6. Sub-Committee Re First Aid Party Depots and Ambulance Depots.

It was Resolved:

That the following minutes of the meeting of the above Sub-Committee held 21st April, 1939, be received:—

"SUB-COMMITTEE RE FIRST AID PARTY DEPOTS AND AMBULANCE DEPOTS.

Meeting: 21st April, 1939.

Present:

COUNCILLOR SOULSBY (Chairman).

COUNCILLORS NICHOLS and SMART.

(MR. A. J. Evans and Mrs. O. E. Wetzel-Non-Members.)

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS OFFICER.

(1.) First Aid Posts.

Arising from item 48 of the minutes of the meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Committee held 12th April, 1939, the Sub-Committee considered the above question and the letter dated 28th February, 1939, from the County Council to the Medical Officer of Health designating fixed First Aid Posts which had been approved by the Ministry of Health.

It was moved by Councillor Soulsby:

That the Council accept the proposals with regard to fixed First Aid Posts but that the County Council be informed that the Council consider that Harlington Cottage Hospital is inadequate and that the scheme as a whole is totally inadequate; further, that a delegation of three members be appointed to attend on the responsible authority with a view to obtaining better facilities.

The motion was not seconded.

It was then resolved to RECOMMEND (Councillor Soulsby voting against):

That the Council accept and adopt the proposals set out in the letter dated 28th February, 1939, from the County Council, but that a request be made for two additional Mobile First Aid Units, making a total of four to be stationed in this area.

Your Sub-Committee also RECOMMEND:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare plans for the adaptation of the three fixed First Aid Posts at Hayes Cottage Hospital, Harlington Cottage Hospital and Queen's Hall, Station Road, as may be required by the County Medical Officer of Health.

(2.) First Aid Party Depots and Ambulance Depots.

The Sub-Committee gave consideration to the report of the A.R.P. Officer dated 12th April, 1939, which was submitted to the meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Committee held on the 12th April, 1939, and it was resolved to RECOMMEND:

That the following First Aid Party Depots and Ambulance Depots be approved and adopted:—

GRANGE PARK M.C.C. SCHOOL, LANSBURY DRIVE.

First Aid Party Depot Ambulance Depot

3 First Aid Parties 4 Auxiliary Ambulances 3 cars for sitting cases.

SANDGATE HALL, STATION ROAD.

First Aid Party Depot Ambulance Depot

3 First Aid Parties 5 Auxiliary Ambulances 3 cars for sitting cases.

CRANFORD PARK SCHOOL, PHELPS WAY.

First Aid Party Depot Ambulance Depot

3 First Aid Parties 5 Auxiliary Ambulances 3 cars for sitting cases.

BATH ROAD M.C.C. SCHOOL, HARLINGTON.

First Aid Party Depot Ambulance Depot

2 First Aid Parties 3 Auxiliary Ambulances 2 cars for sitting cases.

YEADING COUNCIL SCHOOLS.

First Aid Party Depot Ambulance Depot 3 First Aid Parties 4 Auxiliary Ambulances 3 cars for sitting cases.

TOWNFIELD M.C.C. SCHOOL,

Park for reserve ambulances.

(Councillor Soulsby left the meeting during the above item, and Councillor Nichols took the Chair.)"

In connection with item 1 of the foregoing minutes, the Chairman submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 303-304, file 30, Reports of Officers, giving his observations thereon,

In connection with item 2 of the foregoing minutes, the A.R.P. Officer reported that he understood that the County Council now proposed to make a number of alterations to the sites proposed for Depots.

After consideration it was RESOLVED:

- (a) That item 1 of the foregoing minutes be approved, adopted and confirmed, but that, in addition, representations be made to the County Council for the extension of the list of First Aid Posts to be used and staffed by a mobile unit to include all the Posts previously designated as First Aid Posts, viz., Mellow Lane School, Yeading School, New Road School and Sandgate Hall, and further that such Posts be adequately equipped with the necessary medical and other equipment.
- (b) That consideration of item 2 of the foregoing minutes be deferred pending the receipt of further directions from the County Council.

(Mr. Evans and Mrs. Wetzel entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

7. A.R.P. Emergency Committee,

It was RESOLVED

That the following minutes of the meeting of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939, be received:—

"AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

Meeting: 24th April, 1939.

Present:

Councillor Soulsby (Chairman).

COUNCILLORS NICHOLS and SMART.

THE CLERK, ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR, AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS OFFICER, CHIEF OFFICER OF THE FIRE BRIGADE and CHIEF ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.

(1.) Procedure.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council had not yet confirmed the appointment of this Committee, but Councillor Soulsby stated that he considered that it was desirable to call an early meeting of the Committee in view of the Home Office circular dated 18th April, 1939, with regard to the acceleration of Civil Defence measures.

(2.) Chairman.

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Soulsby be appointed Chairman of the Committee.

(3.) Report Centre and Proposed Additional Cleansing Station.

Arising from item 22, page 73, and item 24, page 74, of the minutes of the meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Committee held 12th April, 1939, the Clerk reported that he had taken up with the County Council the question of the provision of an additional Cleansing Station, and he submitted a letter dated 21st April, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that it was thought that possibly the Council's long term Report Centre could be combined with a Cleansing Station for the balance of A.R.P. Personnel, 44 First Relief and 20 extra lockers for Second Relief, this method having been adopted at Feltham, with Home Office approval.

The County A.R.P. Officer also suggested that a conference should be held with the Engineer and Surveyor and the County Architect and that a rough sketch plan should be prepared as a basis of discussion.

Arising from item 16 (c), page 71, of the minutes of the meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Committee held 12th April, 1939, the Clerk reported that in the same letter from the County A.R.P. Officer it was stated that the cleansing of A.R.P. personnel of Public Utility Services was not the responsibility of the County Council.

After consideration, your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council agree to the principle of the construction of a combined Report Centre and Cleansing Station, and that such building be erected in the Town Hall Park on the vacant site between the car park and the fence of the Town Hall Caretaker's premises; further, that the County Council be asked to approve the construction of the necessary bases and the purchase of the timber and steel sheeting required for strengthening the Report Centre at the Town Hall if required in an emergency pending approval to, and the erection of, the combined Report Centre and Cleansing Station.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to proceed forthwith with the preparation of plans for the combined Report Centre and Cleansing Station and to interview the appropriate officers of the County Council thereon.

(4.) Auxiliary Fire Stations.

A joint report of the A.R.P. Officer and Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade was submitted (a copy of which is filed on page 281, file 30, Reports of Officers) stating that the Home Office had now approved six auxiliary fire stations for the district (instead of four previously sanctioned) but that additional appliances would not be provided.

The report further stated that it was considered in view of the above and the desirability of providing rest room accommodation for Fire Patrols, that the auxiliary fire stations and patrols should be re-sited as follows:—

Main Fire Station, Church Road, Hayes		***	6 Fire Patrols (including reserves)
Grange Park School, Lansbury Drive, Hayes		***	5 Fire Patrols
Yeading School, Carlyon Road, Hayes			5 Fire Patrols
Townfield Junior School, Coldharbour Lane, Hayes		***	3 Fire Patrols
St. Anselm's Hall, St. Anselm's Road, Hayes			4 Fire Patrols
M.C.C. School, Phelps Waye, Harlington			6 Fire Patrols
M.C.C. School, Bath Road, Harlington			3 Fire Patrols
	Total		32 Fire Patrols.

It was RESOLVED:

That the above location of auxiliary fire stations and fire patrols be approved, and be submitted to the Home Office.

Arising from item 26, page 74, of the minutes of the meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Committee held 12th April, 1939, it was Resolved:

That the question of providing blast and splinter-proof protection at such auxiliary fire stations be taken up with the Home Office.

(5.) Wardens' Posts,

The A.R.P. Officer reported that in accordance with the instructions contained in a letter dated 28th March, 1939, from the Home Office, he had prepared a plan showing suggested positions for 37 wardens' reporting posts, which had to be submitted to the Commissioner of Police by the 28th April, 1939.

It was RESOLVED:

That the plan as submitted be approved and be transmitted to the Commissioner of Police.

(6.) Stirrup Hand Pumps For Wardens' Posts.

The A.R.P. Officer reported the receipt of Home Office Circular No. 85/1939 dated 17th April, 1939, stating that stirrup hand pumps were available for issue, 60 of which were allocated to this district, at a price of 13/each delivered.

The A.R.P. Officer stated that as delivery of these pumps would be given in the rotation that the orders were received he had placed an order for the 60 pumps and also forwarded a money order for £3 18s. 0d. which was in accordance with the Home Office requirements, viz., that payment should be made immediately for the interim supply of 10% of the total number of pumps.

It was Resolved:

That the action taken be approved and confirmed."

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) That the foregoing minutes of the meeting of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939, be approved, adopted and confirmed.
- (b) That, with a view to assisting the acceleration of A.R.P. work, a sub-committee of 8 members be appointed with power to act on all matters deemed to be of an urgent nature, and also with a view to carrying into effect resolutions previously passed by the Council or this Committee; further, that the following constitute the members of such sub-committee:—

Councillors Mrs. Greenhead, Nichols, Smart, Soulsby, Stinton and Sutcliffe, and Messrs. Ford and Panton.

8. Sub-Committee Re Underground Shelters.

Arising from item 15, page 71, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, it was RESOLVED:

That the following be re-appointed the members of the Sub-Committee Re Underground Shelters:—

Councillors Ayerst, Nichols, Smart and Soulsby, and Messrs. Ford and Panton.

9. Training of Council Employees.

Arising from item 25, page 928, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, further consideration was given to the above, and it was moved by Councillor Smart and seconded by Councillor Simpson:

That the decontamination personnel be given practical training after normal working hours, the training to be carried out on a voluntary basis on the same system as the other volunteers.

It was moved by Councillor Stinton and seconded by Councillor Stringer as an amendment:

That the decontamination personnel be given, practical training after normal working hours, and that payment be made to the personnel concerned at the rate approved for grant by the County Council.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared carried by 8 votes to 2.

Whereupon it was Resolved:

That the decontamination personnel be given practical training after normal working hours, and that payment be made to the personnel concerned at the rate approved for grant by the County Council.

It was also RESOLVED:

That the Council's staff be asked to undertake training in anti-gas measures and first aid in their own time, after normal office hours.

(Councillors Mrs. Downer and Graves left the meeting at this point.)

10. Blast and Splinter Proof Protection For A.R.P. Personnel,

Arising from item 26 (a), page 74, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, and from item 4 of the minutes of the meeting of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939, it was RESOLVED:

That the work of providing splinter and blast proof protection at the Fire Station and at Auxiliary Fire Stations be put in hand upon receipt of approval from the Home Office.

11. Appointment of Controller and Deputy Controllers.

Arising from Home Office A.R.P. Department Circular No. 59/1939, dated 22nd March, 1939, with regard to provisional local war organisation, it was RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Clerk of the Council be appointed War-time Controller of A.R.P. services for this district.
- (b) That the Deputy Clerk and the A.R.P. Officer be appointed War-time Sub-Controllers.

12. Air Raid Wardens' Huts.

Arising from item 20, page 72, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Chairman and A.R.P. Officer reported that they had endeavoured to find a suitable site for the erection of one of the Wardens' Huts in Harlington, but were unable to do so, apart from the site belonging to the County Council on the Bath Road near to Harlington Corner, upon which a school was being erected.

Also arising from the same item, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 28th April, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that further wooden huts should not be erected with the idea that they would in war time be wardens' posts, but that if the Council required a third hut to serve the peace time purpose of a wardens' meeting place and no existing building could be used for that purpose, he could sanction its provision.

The Chairman and A.R.P. Officer also reported that they had selected the vacant site belonging to the Council between Central Avenue and Botwell Lane for the erection of the hut for the Botwell area.

After consideration, it was RESOLVED

- (a) That application be made to the County Council for permission to erect the hut for the Harlington area on the site adjoining the new school in course of erection on the Bath Road, and that in the event of permission being refused the Chief Warden for the district and the A.R.P. Officer be authorised to find another site.
- (b) That the Council be asked to agree to the use of the vacant land between Botwell Lane and Central Avenue for the erection of the hut for the Botwell area, and to make the necessary application for the appropriation of such land.
- (c) That the County Council be asked for confirmation of their approval to the erection of a hut for the Uxbridge Road area, and that the Council be asked to agree to the use of the vacant housing land on the Uxbridge Road for this hut and to make the necessary application for the appropriation of such land; further, that the Chief Warden for the district and the A.R.P. Officer be authorised to select the exact site on the Uxbridge Road land for the erection of the hut.
- (d) That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to proceed with the erection of the huts when available, and to determine the exact sites where necessary.
- (e) That the huts be made available for use by all the A.R.P. services in the district, by arrangement with the A.R.P. Officer.

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

13. Report of Chief Officer of Fire Brigade.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 305-306, file 30, Reports of Officers.

14. Issue of Home Office Equipment,

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade submitted details of equipment which had been received since the last meeting, and stated that he had been notified by the Home Office that it had been decided to make a further allocation to the Council of the following:—

- 1 heavy self-propelled pump.
- 6 large trailer pumps.
- 6 light trailer pumps.

15. Emergency Water Supplies.

Arising from item 3 of the Chief-Officer's report, it was RESOLVED:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to report on the measures required for making use of supplementary supplies of water from natural sources for fire fighting, and to submit estimates of the cost of such measure, to a future meeting of the Committee.

16. Decontamination and Cleansing: A.F.S. Personnel.

Arising from item 4 of the Chief Officer's report, it was RESOLVED:

That the appropriate officers be authorised to interview Home Office officials with regard to the question of the provision of decontamination and cleansing facilities for the Auxiliary Fire Service personnel.

(Councillors Smart and Stringer left the meeting temporarily at this point.)

17. A.R.P. Officer's Report.

The AR.P. Officer submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 307-312, file 30, Reports of Officers.

18. Stirrup Hand Pumps For Wardens' Posts.

Arising from item 1 of the A.R.P. Officer's report, and from item 6 of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939, it was RESOLVED:

That, subject to the approval of the County Council, the Finance Committee be recommended to approve payment for the following stirrup hand pumps for wardens' posts at a cost of 13/- per pump:—

6 pumps already delivered.

54 pumps to be delivered.

19. Public Meeting-Harlington.

Arising from item 32b, page 75, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the A.R.P. Officer reported that a public meeting for the recruitment of A.R.P. volunteers had been arranged to be held at New Road School, Harlington, on Monday, 8th May, 1939, at 8.30 p.m.

20. Instructors L.A.G.C.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that the following had qualified as Instructors L.A.G.C. at an examination held on the 6th April, 1939:—

Mesdames P. Massey, M. Moss.

Messrs, L. Bartlett, G. Blackmore, W. Browne, A. Fitch, H. Livings, F. Payne (Housing Dept.), A. Shepherdly and F. Tucker.

It was RESOLVED

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

21. Auxiliary Fire Service-Equipment.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade had requested that suits of training overalls, rubber boots, belts, axes, pouches and uniform caps for 50 of the Auxiliary Fire Service personnel who were undergoing, or who would shortly undergo training, should be obtained, and he submitted the existing quotation of Messrs. Rego Clothiers, Ltd.

It was RESOLVED :

That the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to invite further quotations for this equipment, and that the Chairman and A.R.P. Officer be authorised to accept the lowest quotation therefor.

The A.R.P. Officer also reported that 10 blue coat overalls with medium sized breast badges were required, and that he had invited quotations from five firms. The A.R.P. Officer stated that only one quotation had been received, viz., that of Messrs. Rego Clothiers, Ltd., at 7s. 11d. each.

It was Resolved:

That the quotation of Messrs. Rego Clothiers, Ltd., be accepted, and that the ten sets of overalls required be purchased at a cost of 7s, 11d. each.

22. Auxiliary Fire Service Uniforms-Orders In Advance.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted a letter dated 26th April, 1939, from Messrs. Rego Clothiers, Ltd., staing that there would shortly be a considerable increase in prices of A.F.S. uniforms, and inviting orders for uniforms to be delivered during the next 6 to 18 months at present prices.

It was RESOLVED :

That the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to obtain the observations of the Home Office on the matter.

23. Strength Return.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted a statement showing the strength return of the Air Raid General and Fire Precautions Services, a copy of which is filed on page 310, file 30, Reports of Officers.

24. Wardens' Meeting.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted the minutes of the Wardens' Meeting held 27th April, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 311-312, file 30, Reports of Officers.

Arising therefrom it was RESOLVED:

- (a) That the action suggested with regard to those volunteers who have not attended regularly for training be approved, and that the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to submit the list of such persons to a future meeting of the Committee.
- (b) That the Home Office be asked to allow 50% of all Wardens' equipment to be used for training purposes, instead of the present proportion of 20%.
- (c) That the Wardens be requested not to undertake any organised training on Sundays.

(Councillors Ogden, Simpson and Smart returned to the meeting during the foregoing item. Mr. Hartley entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

25. Requisition Books,

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

26. Appointment of Divisional Wardens For Police Liaison.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that a member of the wardens organisation was required to be nominated by the Council in connection with the above for the areas of this district lying in each police division (i.e., X Division Hayes and T Division Harlington).

It was RESOLVED:

That Mr. A. N. Hartley be nominated for X Division Hayes and Mr. W. R. Ford for T Division Harlington.

27. Engineer and Surveyor's Report.

The Engineer and Surveyor submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 313-320, file 30, Reports of Officers.

28. Progress Report.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported on the present position of the various A.R.P. schemes being carried out in his Department.

29. Making Permanent of Shelter Trenches.

Arising from item 13, page 69, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Engineer and Surveyor reported that he understood from the County Council that the Home Office would approve the lowest tender received for the above, even though it was received after the official closing date, having regard to the fact that the official advertisement inviting tenders was incorrectly copied in a journal circulating amongst contractors with a later closing date than that specified in the official advertisement. The Engineer and Surveyor submitted a copy of the journal containing the advertisement with the later closing date.

It was RESOLVED:

That, in the circumstances, a contract be entered into with the contractor submitting the lowest tender, viz., Messrs. Anti-Bomb Construction, Ltd., providing for the commencement of the work upon receipt of approval from the County Council; further, that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to such contract.

(Councillor Stringer returned to the meeting during the foregoing item.)

30. Acceleration of A.R.P. Work.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported with regard to the above (item 2 of his report) and arising therefrom it was RESOLVED:

- (a) That the question of ways and means of expediting the acceptance of tenders and the execution of contracts be deferred until the next meeting.
- (b) That the same departmental procedure be adopted in the preparation and execution of A.R.P. schemes as is adopted in the case of schemes for the ordinary Council work.

31. Adaptation, Etc., Fixed First Aid Posts.

The Engineer and Surveyor submitted the decisions reached at an inspection of the proposed Fixed First Aid Posts held on the 28th April, 1939, by Dr. Ewer, Assistant to the County Medical Officer of Health, accompanied by the Council's Medical Officer of Health, A.R.P. Officer and Chief Engineering Assistant (item 3 of his report).

32. Procedure.

At 10.30 p.m. it was Resolved:

That Standing Order No. 39 be suspended.

33. Combined Report Centre/Cleansing Station.

The Engineer and Surveyor referred to items 22 and 24, pages 73 and 74, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, and item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939, and submitted preliminary sketch plan for the above building.

The Engineer and Surveyor stated that he had discussed the matter with representatives of the County Council, when he was requested to proceed with revised preliminary plans and approximate estimates, and he reported that it was further suggested that the plan should be revised by the addition of a Rest and Mess Room approximately 30ft, by 20ft, at ground level.

It was RESOLVED:

That the plan as submitted be approved, and that the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare detailed plans and estimates for submission to the County Council.

34. Report Centre: Short Term Policy.

Arising from item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the A.R.P. Emergency Committee held 24th April, 1939,, the Engineer and Surveyor reported that he had raised with the County Council the question of the provision of the necessary materials for the protection of the Council Chamber as a Report Centre, by way of a short term policy, and that he had been informed that if the cost of the work did not exceed the appropriate allowance laid down in Home Office Circular No. 45/1939, dated 6th March, 1939, the materials required could be obtained without further reference to the County Council. The Engineer and Surveyor stated that he had requested written confirmation of this from the County Council.

It was RESOLVED:

That the necessary materials be acquired and the work put in hand upon receipt of confirmation of approval from the County Council.

35. St. Anselm's Temporary Church Hall.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported that Councillor Graves, whilst Chairman of the Council, had raised the question of the use of the above for a Lecture Hut and otherwise for the use of Wardens, and stated that he had taken up the matter with the London Diocesan Fund. The Engineer and Surveyor submitted a letter dated 18th April, 1939, from the Secretary of the London Diocesan Fund, stating that he was advised that a sum of £150 would be a fair price, plus the cost of removal.

It was RESOLVED:

That the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

36. Shelters for Persons at Their Place of Work.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported on the duty imposed on the Council by Part 3 of the Civil Defence Bill, in connection with the enforcement of regulations requiring the owners of commercial buildings to take steps to provide air raid shelter for their employees (item 7 of his report).

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Plans and Town Planning Committee be designated as the Committee responsible for this matter.

37. Appointment of Shorthand Typist.

Arising from item 27(b), page 74, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, it was reported that the County Council had approved the appointment of a shorthand typist in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department on Grade A.1 of the Council's scale.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Engineer and Surveyor be authorised to open the applications received for the appointment, and to compile a short list.

38. Protection of Essential Premises in Time of War.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported with regard to the above, and stated that it appeared to be most desirable that in particular arrangements should be made for the earmarking of transport and materials for the filling of sandbags.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported that the matter had been taken up with the County A.R.P. Officer, who was of the opinion that it was desirable for steps to be taken to make supplies of sand bag material available in an emergency.

The Engineer and Surveyor stated that he had taken up this question with some 12 Sand and Ballast Contractors owning pits in the neighbourhood, and he submitted the quotations received and drew particular attention to that submitted by the Feltham Sand and Gravel Co., Ltd., Feltham, Middlesex. The Engineer and Surveyor pointed out that it would be possible to enter into an arrangement with this firm providing for the retention of approximately 4,000 cu. yds. of rough dug sand at their Trotsworth Pit, Egham, at 2/6 per cu. yd. nett, on condition of the payment of a reservation fee of £5 5s. 0d. The Company would be prepared to deliver soft sand at the price of 4/9 per yard, but also drew attention to the difficulties connected with the reservation of transport.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported that on taking the matter up further with this firm, he understood that they would be prepared to include as one of the terms, an undertaking to supply up to 500 cu. yds. a day, provided that transport was made available.

The Engineer and Surveyor drew attention to Clause 48 of the Civil Defence Bill, which provided that upon an order being made by the Minister in the event of an emergency, a local authority might take possession of any vehicle and use it in the discharge of any of their civil defence functions, subject to certain reservations.

It was Resolved:

- (a) That, subject to the approval of the County Council, a contract be entered into with the Feltham Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd., providing for the retention of 4,000 cubic yards of rough dug sand at their Trotsworth Pit, and that the reservation fee of £5 5s. 0d. be paid; further, that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to such contract.
- (b) That arrangements be made with the owners of vehicles to provide for the transport required, and that the Traffic Commissioners be approached for their concurrence.

39. Auxiliary Fire Service Representative Committee.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 321-322, file 30, Reports of Officers, containing particulars of communications which had been addressed to the Chairman by Mr. J. G. Richardson, Secretary, Hayes and Harlington Fire Service Representative Committee, raising several questions with regard to the Auxiliary Fire Service.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be instructed to reply to the communications to the effect that the same have been referred to the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade to explain the position on each question raised, and that any further questions should be raised direct with the Chief Officer in the first instance.

40. Provision of Air Raid Shelters.

The Clerk submitted notes on a conference of Chief Officers held on the 2nd May, 1939, with regard to Home Office Circular No. 91/1939, dealing with the above, a copy of which is filed on pages 323-325, file 30, Reports of Officers.

It was RESOLVED:

That the matter be referred to the sub-committee appointed in item 8 (b) hereof, with power to act.

41. Training Accommodation: Wistowe House.

Arising from item 54, page 79, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Clerk reported that the question of the legal costs in connection with the lease of Wistowe House had been the subject of correspondence between the lessor's Solicitors and himself, and that Home Office approval had been obtained to the payment of the full amount of such costs, viz. £6 13s. 4d., but that he was endeavouring to obtain a reduction.

42. Purchase of Further Towing Vehicle.

Arising from item 6, page 67, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Clerk reported that a further Fordson vehicle had been purchased from Messrs, Crimbles, of Staines, at a cost of £50, for towing purposes.

It was RESOLVED:

That the action taken be approved and confirmed.

43. Finance: Air Raid General Precautions.

The Clerk submitted a copy of a letter dated 1st May, 1939, addressed to the Treasurer by the County Accountant, stating, inter alia, that he appreciated the position of the Council in having to wait some time before the balance of 10%, or whatever became due after audit, was paid, and that he would suggest to his Committee this month that the 90% should be increased to 95%.

44. St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society.

Arising from item 8, page 1020, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for the deputation mentioned in such item to meet the appropriate sub-committee of the County Council on the 26th April, 1939, but, owing to the fact that the information required from the two societies was not forthcoming, the meeting had had to be postponed.

The representatives of the two societies, Mrs. Wetzel and Mr. Evans, were asked to supply the information required, which they promised to do if possible.

45. Vehicles for Decontamination Purposes.

Arising from item 17, page 72, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 2nd May, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that Home Office policy in regard to vehicles for decontamination purposes was not yet settled, but that it was probable that the basis of allotment would be one vehicle per 5 or 6 decontamination squads, and that in anticipation of Home Office sanction the adaptation of one of the Council's refuse freighters at a cost of £85 had the County Council's approval.

46. Preparation of Maps.

Arising from item 16 (g), page 72, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 1st May, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that there was no objection to the provision of maps of the district showing mains, sewers, fire hydrants, etc., and to a portion of the cost being debited to A.R.P., provided the financial limit laid down in Home Office A.R.P. Circular No. 703,214/9 of the 30th November, 1938, was not exceeded.

47. Cricket Facilities: A.R.P. Wardens "C" Division.

Arising from item 21 of the minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Cemeteries Committee held 1st May, 1939, it was RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

48. Additional Telephone Lines.

Arising from items 16 (e) and 17 (b), page 72, of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 1st May, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that (a) he did not think that the proposal for a private wire from the Report Centre to the Electricity Company's Depot at Hayes Court would be agreed to by the Home Office, and (b) he was in some doubt as to whether the proposed extension at the Minet Drive Depot could be regarded as entirely for A.R.P. purposes and having no peace time use.

It was RESOLVED:

That the matter be referred to the Works Committee.

49. Applications for Increases in Salary.

The Clerk submitted applications for increases in salary, (a) from the A.R.P. Officer, dated 29th April, 1939, and (b) from Mr. P. King, Clerk in the A.R.P. Department, dated 1st May, 1939.

It was Resolved:

That consideration of the applications be deferred until the next meeting.

50. Whole Time Volunteers.

Arising from item 24, page 1022, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st March, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer reported that he had taken up with the Home Office the question of the difference in wages to be paid to men and women volunteers, and had received a reply to the effect that a circular would shortly be issued on this matter.

Chairman.

The meeting terminated at 11.20 p.m.

What for could be referred of a Winter Securities. Control of the contro