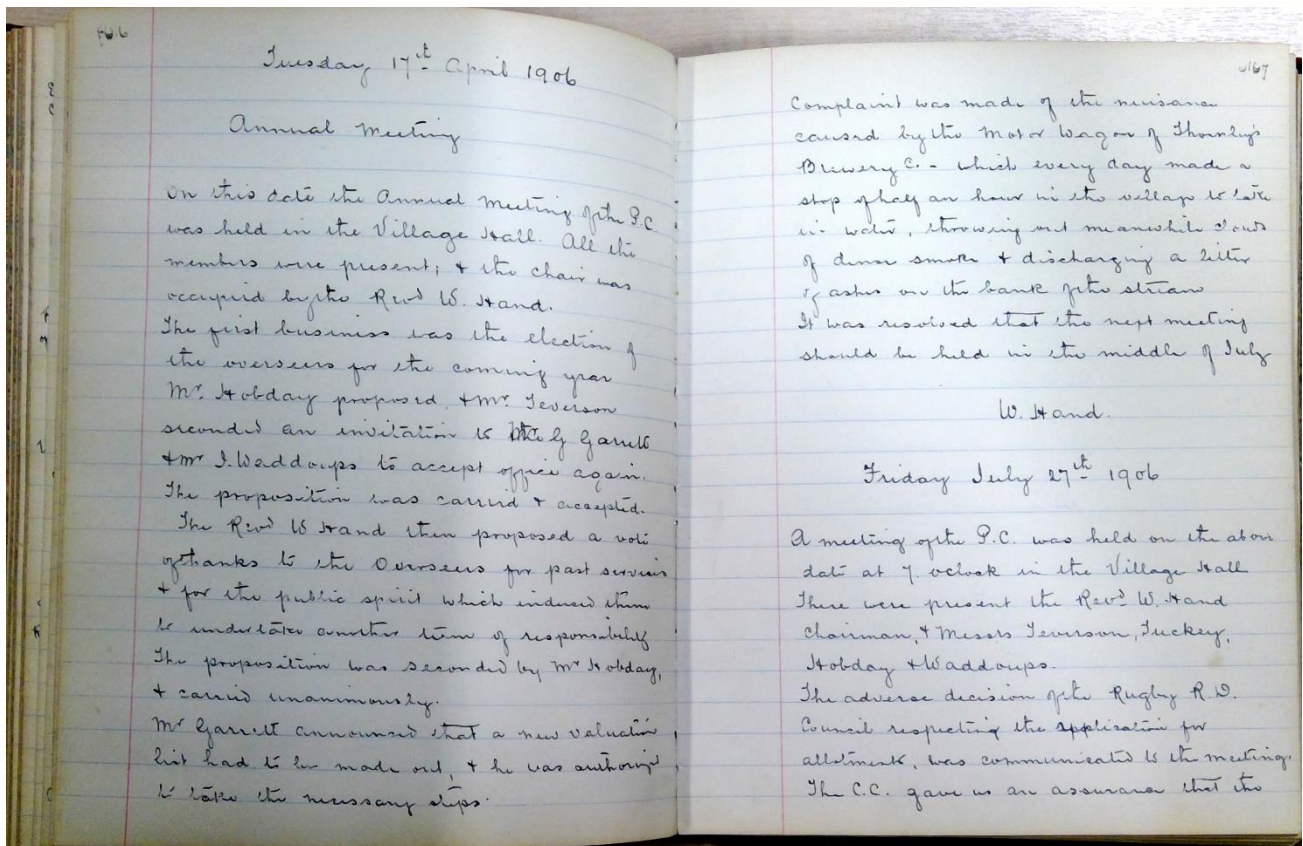


Princethorpe Parish Council Minutes, 17th April 1906, CR5136/2

February's Document of the Month is an entry in the minute book for Princethorpe Parish Council. In the minutes for the Annual Meeting, dated Tuesday 17th April 1906, the council discussed the election of new overseers for the upcoming year, and the creation of valuation lists. The final topic of discussion at this meeting was the "nuisance" being caused by a motor wagon belonging to H.E. Thornley's Brewery. The vehicle was stopping in the village of Princethorpe every day to take in water. During this time, it was creating plumes of smoke and leaving ash on the bank of the stream.



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Princethorpe Parish Council, 17th April 1906, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR5136/2.

“Complaint was made of the nuisance caused by the Motor Wagon of Thornley’s Brewery Co. which every day made a stop of half an hour in the village to take in water, throwing out meanwhile clouds of dense smoke + discharging a litter of ashes on the bank of the stream”¹

Nothing more is discussed about the matter until the next parish council meeting, which took place on Friday 27th July. In the minutes for this meeting, it is recorded that the matter would be “abated”². Unfortunately, there is no further mention of the matter in the minutes.

H.E. Thornley’s Brewery

H.E. Thornley’s brewery was founded by Henry Edward Thornley in Radford Semele, Leamington Spa. A detailed biography of Henry can be found on the Leamington History Group website³. Thornley began brewing for his workers. When his product started to gain in popularity, he began the business⁴. According to the obituary for Thornley in the Royal Leamington Spa Courier and Warwickshire Standard newspaper, he started brewing from his home at Radford Hall in 1899. In 1902, he had the brewery built at Radford Semele⁵. In a talk to Sydenham History Group, the great grandson of Thornley talked about how his ancestors did most of the building work for the brewery themselves⁶. In 1933, the company merged with Kelsey Limited to form Thornley-Kelsey Limited. They owned a number of public houses in the County, including some in Birmingham. The Radford Hall brewery closed in 1968 to allow the company to concentrate on their wholesale wine business. Davenport’s of Birmingham later purchased the majority of the company’s tied houses, and the brewery itself was demolished⁷.

¹ Princethorpe Parish Council Minutes, 17th April 1906, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1536/2

² Princethorpe Parish Council Minutes, 27th July 1906, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1536/2

³ <https://www.learmingtonhistory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Thornley-Full-June-2016.pdf>

⁴ Warwickshire World, *Ploughshares to Pints at Radford*, <https://www.warwickshireworld.com/sport/nostalgia/ploughshares-to-pints-at-radford-2341823> (accessed 07/01/2021).

⁵ Leamington Spa Courier, 30th June 1916, Warwickshire County Record Office.

⁶ Warwickshire World, *Ploughshares to Pints at Radford*, <https://www.warwickshireworld.com/sport/nostalgia/ploughshares-to-pints-at-radford-2341823> (accessed 07/01/2021).

⁷ Joseph McKenna, *Warwickshire’s Breweries*, Tempus Publishing Limited, Gloucestershire, 2006, page 83.

Princethorpe

Princethorpe is a small village located roughly halfway between Rugby and Royal Leamington Spa, although it sits inside the Rugby district of the County. It forms a parish with neighbouring village, Stretton-on-Dunsmore. The Fosse Way runs through the village⁸.

Parish Councils

Parish councils are a civil local authority. They, along with town, community and neighbourhood councils, form the lowest tier of local government in England, which is given the universal term of local council. According to the National Association of Local Councils, there are currently 10,000 local councils in England⁹.

Local councils can provide and maintain several services such as community safety and crime reducing measures. A more extensive list of the local services they provide and maintain can be found on the National Association of Local Councils website.

In our collections, we have records relating to Princethorpe Parish Council dating back to 1894. The catalogue for these can be found on our online catalogue, Warwickshire's Past Unlocked.

⁸ Information gathered from *Princethorpe, Our Warwickshire*, <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/location/princethorpe> (accessed 06/01/2021).

⁹ National Association of Local Councils, *About Local Councils*, <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about-local-councils> (accessed 06/01/2022).