

APPENDIX 4

South Bedburn

Parish Minutes

**An account of Beating the Bounds
followed by extracts of Parish minutes
from 1930 to 1950**

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Report of the Boundary Committee

The ancient custom of Beating the Bounds of the Unenclosed Commons in the Parish of Hamsterley was revived. After about thirty years, on Wednesday, the 25th of September 1929. The proceedings were organised jointly by the two Parish Councils of Hamsterley and South Bedburn.

Portions of the Moors or Commons within the Parish were enclosed under an Enclosure Act passed in the year 1758, and, under the Award made in pursuance of the Act, 2,000 acres of the same were left unenclosed. In the Award Map these are described as Brown Law, Hopyland Fell, and Shipley Fell. Brown Law is the Western portion, Hopyland is the Central, and Shipley is the Eastern.

The members of the two Parish Councils; a large number of the residents in the Parish; School children, and Visitors assembled on the Hamsterley Green at 9. o'clock. After an explanation of the custom etc., the party moved off. About 60 were mounted on horseback and the remainder followed on foot.

The party proceeded together as far as the Grove (Redford) where they divided. A small party proceeded West and entered Brown Law Common through the roadway shown on the Award Map and marked 'Road for John Blackett and Mr. Maddison to Brown Law Common'. This party then proceeded West and then North on the Common to Brown Law Currock.

The larger party proceeded North from the Grove along Redford Lane towards Honeybee, then turned West on the road to Ape Shields. When they got on to the Brown Law Common they proceeded South, West and North along the Boundary to Brown Law Currock, where they joined the smaller party.

Several youngsters were here "bumped" on the Currock Stones.

The whole party next proceeded North to the Loop of the Grains, and from there, on the South side of the South Grain, Eastwards to the meeting of the Grains at Ape Shields. Here they ascended a steep hill and proceeded due East by Heart Soulings on to Hopyland Fell, and from there to Doctor's Gate, near Green Thorn Currock.

It was pointed out that the Boundary Stones from Ape Shields to Doctor's Gate had been allowed to fall into decay and new stones had been erected some hundreds of yards to the South of the old Boundary.

When the party arrived near Doctor's Gate it was found that on the West of the old Road a portion of land had been enclosed by a Wall, and another portion on the East of the Road, and a plantation of Trees was growing there. The property is believed to have been taken off the Common some years ago by the owner of the St. Johns Estate.

The party were unable to find Green Thorn Currock which is, undoubtedly, now enclosed.

Stones were removed from these Walls.

Proceeding further East the party came to the Straights, which is a piece of land bounded on either side by Stone walls and connecting Hopyland Fell and Shipley Fell. Here they found the Road between the two walls occupied by a Quarry Company and absolutely impassable. The mounted section of the party had to dismount and get through the Quarry as best they could.

About half way between the two Commons the Main Highway between Hamsterley and Walsingham crosses the Straights. The entrance to this Road from the Straights was fenced along the side of the Highway and the fence was knocked down to allow the party to get on to the Highway.

Having crossed the Highway, and got on to the East of the Straights, Lunch was partaken of. The horses taking part in the ride were paraded and prizes awarded. Prizes were also awarded for the best boy riders.

Cont'd.....

It was found impossible, owing to quarrying, to reach Shipley Fell through the Straights, so the party travelled over the land to the North of the Straights, and entered Shipley Common at the East end of the Straights. They then proceeded round the Northern and Eastern Boundaries of this Common and found a number of Quarries and had great difficulty in travelling.

The Common was left near Knitsley Currock; Harthope Road was reached, and from there the party returned by Road to Hamsterley Green, having been travelling from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. but nevertheless enjoying the ride very much.

At Hamsterley several Horse Races were held and prizes awarded.

The Boundary Committee complain very much at the interference with the Straights by the Quarry Companies. They are of the opinion that the Straights are an allotted Road under the Award and should not be interfered with.

They also complain that the Quarry Companies have removed the Turf on various parts of the Commons, no doubt with a view of prospecting for Stone, and have not filled up the openings which consequently fill up with water and the herbage is thereby ruined. The Committee think something should be done to prevent this.

It was also noticed that a quarry has been made in the middle of the old Pack Road between Honeybee and Doctor's Gate and passengers, either on foot or on horse, have to travel for a considerable distance over very bad ground consisting of heaps of debris from the Quarries, and ditches made by the Quarry Companies, which in very bad weather are practically impassible.

This Road, and also the Straights, are marked Yellow on the Award Map which indicates that they are either Ancient Roads, or Awarded Roads, and should therefore not be interfered with by any persons working the Stone on the Moors.

The Boundary Committee recommend the two Councils to take up these matters with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who are the Lords of the Manor.

Note : The places named in the above Report are taken from the Award Map.

Approved by Joint Councils.

T.W. DOWLING

Chairman.

Chairman
Clerk

Annual Parish Council Meeting held
23rd May 1960

This meeting was held after the joint meeting with Hamsterley at 8 o'clock. First business was the election of Officers.

It was moved and agreed for the same Officers to remain. Mr. A. Raine Chairman, next was mainly discussion.

cost of meeting 4/-

A. Raine

Beating the Bounds

1st day of June 1960

Councillors from Hamsterley and South Bedburn Parishes and a few Villagers walked the boundaries of Hamsterley Common and encroachments were found, fences had been put up, and gates fastened with wire.

The party held their claim by removing a top rail from the fences and opening the gates, a notice-board stating no vehicles allowed beyond this point, although it is a Highway over the common was pulled down.

The party returned to the village at 3 P.M., and a meeting was to be arranged to see what further action should be taken.

A. Raine

joint meeting
13th June 1960.

Moved Mr. J. for the report to be adopted.

There were some objections to the encroachment.

It was moved that Mr. Hartley should be asked to remove the fences by Mr. J. for a letter to be sent to the notice.

Moved Mr. J. for a letter to be sent to the notice.

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MAKING THE BOUNDARY
Report of the Boundary Committee

The earliest portion of Section the bounds of the Greenhead Common in the parish of Haverley was a narrow one. It was about thirty years, or thereabouts, the parish of Haverley was enlarged. The Greenhead was originally jointly by the two Parishes of Haverley and North Hants.

Portions of the Green and Common within the parish were enclosed under an Act of Parliament in the year 1774, and under the Act were in possession of the late Sir John Lubbock. The Greenhead was enclosed. In the year 1800 the Green was divided into three lots, the first was the Greenhead, the second was the Green, and the third was the Green. The Greenhead was the central, and the Green was the eastern, and the Green was the western portion.

The members of the two Parishes consisting a large number of the residents in the parish and visitors remained on the Haverley Common at 7 o'clock. After an explanation of the matter the party moved off. About 90 were present on Haverley and the remainder followed on foot.

The party proceeded together on foot on the Green (redford) where they divided. A small party proceeded west and entered Green Lane Common through the Haverley Common on the road to the Green. This party then proceeded west and then north on the Common to Green Lane Common.

The larger party proceeded north from the Green along Haverley Lane towards Haverley, then turned west on the road to the Green, and then north on the road to Green Lane Common. They proceeded north, west and north east, the boundary to Green Lane Common, where they joined the smaller party.

Several boundaries were here "bumped" on the Common stones.

The whole party next proceeded north to the top of the Green, and from there, on the south side of the Green, towards the south, of the Green at the Haverley. Here they ascended a steep hill and proceeded down past the Haverley Common to Haverley Hill, and from there to Doctor's Gate, near Green Lane Common.

It was pointed out that the boundary stones from the Green to Doctor's Gate had been allowed to fall into decay and new stones had been erected near Haverley of the parish to the south of the old boundary.

When the party arrived near Doctor's Gate it was found that on the west of the old road a portion of land had been enclosed by a wall, and another portion on the east of the road, and a plantation of trees was growing there. The property is believed to have been taken off the Common some years ago by a third owner of the St. John's Estate.

The party were unable to find Green Lane Common which is, undoubtedly, now enclosed.

Stones were removed from these hills.

Proceeding further west the party came to the Straights, which is a piece of land bounded on either side by Haverley Hill and Haverley Hill. Here they found the road between the two hills occupied by a quarry Company and absolutely inaccessible. The southern portion of the party had to attempt and get through the quarry as best they could.

About half way between the two Common the main Highway between Haverley and Haverley crosses the Straights. The entrance to this road from the Straights was fenced along the side of the Highway and the fence was knocked down to allow the party to get on to the Highway.

Having crossed the Highway, and got on to the east of the Straights, Lamb was portman of. The horses being put in the race were packed and prizes awarded. Prizes were also awarded for the best be. riders.

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Joint meeting with Hammetley was held
15th June 1960.

Moved Mr. Donald second Mr. Jewett that the report on Beating the Bounds be adopted.

There was discussion regarding the encroachments on the Common.

It was moved by R. Weir second F. Hantley that a notice be sent to Mr. Island and F. Harrison to move the fences by 15th May 1961.

Moved F. Jewett second V. Simpson to send a letter to Mr. Pease concerning the notice board, vehicles not allowed.

Moved Mr. Donald second J. Pickering for a letter to be sent to Mr.

F. Collinwood, hoping he will have an early recovery from his illness.

Members present

Hammetley South Beddman.

Chairman J. S. Brown, Thomas

A. Raine

Donald

W. Weir

T. Pickering

J. Pickering

R. Weir

F. Hantley

F. Jewett

V. Simpson

Clerk J. Entwistle

W. Stephenson Clerk.

Cost of meeting 2/6

A. Raine

Hamstley & S Bedburn

Joint Parish Council Meeting
Held August 20th 1929

This meeting was convened to consider the advisability
of Reading the Banns of the Commons

Members Present

Hamstley

Messrs B Humes Mr Lacklin J Blakett
G Thompson & J Smith
S Bedburn

Messrs G Richardson of Greenwell T Cranston
L Thompson of Coatsworth & Col J Dowling
Proposed by Mr Humes

Sec .. Mr Greenwell

That Col J Dowling take the chair

After a lengthy discussion on the matter
and the Account given by Mr Shaw
with regard to the Last Reading of the Banns
Dated

A resolution was made by Mr Humes

& Sec by Mr G Coatsworth

that the old Customs be kept & that the
Date be fixed for Wednesday September 25th 1929
and that the school children be invited

Proposed by Mr Humes

Sec by Mr L Thompson

That a subscription list be opened to provide
refreshments,

Proposed by Mr Humes

Sec by Mr Coatsworth

That Mr Mc Lacklin act as Treasurer
& that the Clerks act as joint Secretaries

Joint Council Meeting Held
October 23rd 1929

South Bedburn & Hornotley Parish Councils

Reheating
Bounds

This meeting was convened to settle up and have the final Report of the Boundaries Committee

A resolution was made by J E Brown Humes Esq
Seconded by Mr J M Greenwell

That mugs be got for all that went round the bounds also school children

The mugs to bear the date of the event with photo of the Parish Church

Proposed by J E B Humes Esq
Seconded by Mr J M Greenwell

that the Report of the event given by Col J Dowling be accepted as satisfactory and that the report be inserted in the

Minutes Books of the above named Parishes
Proposed by Mr J A Smith

Seconded by Mr J W Coatsworth

That a copy of the Report be sent to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners

asking them to do something with regard to the derantation of the Common by the Quarry Co.
a vote of thanks was moved by Mr Greenwell

Seconded by Mr Cranston

to the Ladies that took part in the providing and distributing of refreshments especially Mrs Smith & Mrs Blackett

The question of the Renovation of the War Memorial was then discussed

it was agreed that each Parish be responsible for half the expenditure, a Receipt was made on the Rating Authority and signed by the

S B Council for £12 to defray expenses of the same

Parish Council Meeting held

21st Aug 1950

This was a meeting called for the Surveyor of Public Rights of Way to attend, to discuss with the Councillors the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

A number of Paths were traced on the maps and numbered on the forms.

It was then decided on, for some Councillors to take the maps and trace the paths in there area, and to meet in the School again on Sat 26th Aug and number the paths on the forms.

It was also dicided to have another meeting on Wed. 30th Aug and the Surveyor would again attend at this meeting.

Members present

Mr. Raine, Wood, Walton,
Simpson, Weir, Cost 2/6

T. Wood,

Meeting of Councillors held

26th Aug 1950

Short meeting of Councillors
for the Survey of Rights of Way
Cost of meeting 2/6

T. Wood

Annual Parish Council Meeting held
13th April 1951

First business was the election of Officers.

It was moved and agreed on for the same Officers to remain.

A letter was then read from Barnard Castle Rural Council with a report from the County Council regarding Harperley Footbridge. The Parish Council was asked to give their observations on the matter.

After some discussion and reports that Mr. R. Walton was able to give, it was moved by Mr Wood second by Mr Simpson for Mr Walton and the Clerk to get together and send a letter giving the Council's observations.

Next business was National Parks and Access to the Countryside and the Survey of Rights of Way.

This matter was going to require a good deal of time, so it was agreed to have a meeting later on and fix a date to meet the Surveying Authority.

The Clerk told the Members that he had been informed by the Clerk of the Trustees for the School that all Council meetings from the 31st Mar 1951 would be four shillings.

Members present were

Mr. Wood, Hartley, Weir, Walton, Simpson,

Cost of meeting 4/-

Parish Council meeting held.

15th June 1951

This meeting was for the Survey of Rights of Way.

The Maps and forms were completed.

It was moved by Mr. R. Walton Secd by Mr. W. Weir, to arrange with the County Surveyor to walk the paths 25th June 1951.

Members present.

T. Wood.

R. Walton.

W. Weir.

F. Hartley.

Cost of meeting 4/-.

T. Wood

Parish Council meeting held.

1st Feb 1952

It was moved by Mr. V. Simpson Secd Mr. F. Hartley for Mr. T. Wood to take the chair.

A. precept was signed for £10.

Mr. Hartley rose the question concerning a stile, which is used every day, being very bad and awkward to get over.

Moved F. Hartley Secd. R. Walton to report the matter to the local Authority.

Mr. R. Walton then brought up the question concerning the bus run to Crossfield.



Joint meeting with Hamsterley,
Lynsack, Softley, and South Bedburn
was held in the School at
Hamsterley on Tuesday 14th Aug 1952.

Mr. J. G.
Brown-Thames
Chairman

This meeting was to settle the
question of Footpaths leading
from the Lynsack and Softley
Parish across Hamsterley
Common.

It was moved by Mr. R. Walton
Secd by Mr. V. Simpson. South
Bedburn that two paths
branching off the Wolsingham
road over the Common should
be deleted, which was agreed on.
All other paths were discussed
and claimed.

It was now getting late and
it was moved to close the
meeting, and hold another
on the 28th Aug 1952 when all
forms will be signed.

There were 6 members from
each Parish present.

Arthur Raine
23/10/52

Second

Joint meeting of Hamsterley,
Lynsack, Softley, and South Bedburn
was held in the School on
28th Aug 1952.

Present, Hamsterley 6 South
Bedburn 4 Lynsack & Softley 4
Chairman Mr. W. Liddle.

Business Rights of way and
Public Parks.

Proposed by Mr V. Simpson

South Bedburn Decided by
Mr. J. W. Make-peace that Paths
marked x be deleted it was
carried anonymously.

The chairman signed the forms
and the meeting closed.

Arthur Raine
23rd 10/52

P. C. Meeting held 23rd Oct 1952
First business was a letter from
the County Surveyor asking for our
observations regarding a bridle
road through Dryden Dale
plantation to Ruddy Carr.

There is some dispute about this
road being an Estate road, but
as it had been walked, and
passed at the public, and joint
meeting with Lynsack, Softley,
and Hamsterley ~~it was~~ without
objection it was proposed by
R. Walton Secd by J. Pickering
to claim the road.

A vote was taken, and carried
to this effect.

The question of the Coronation
was then brought up, and
was proposed by R. Walton
Secd Wm Weir, for the clerk
to arrange with Hamsterley
to have a joint meeting.

Mr. R. Walton also proposed
that ~~a length of~~ for the
attention of the Surveyor should
be called to a length of fencing
knocked down on Bedburn Bank

regard to the price of
fireworks to buy none.
Prop. Mr. R. Walton
Secd. Mr. W. Weir to publish
the event in the Newspaper.
Prop. Mr. F. Collingwood
Secd. Mr. Nickolson for a
notice to be placed in the
Post Office giving the sums
of money collected.

This concluded the meeting.
A good attendance of Parishners
were present.
cost of meeting 2/-

A Raine

Joint meeting with Hamsterley
South Bedburn Lynesack and Softley
Parish Councils held 2nd Mar 1953
Mr J. E. Brown-Humes took the
chair.

It was proposed by Mr. W. Liddle
Secd by Mr. F. Collingwood that
members of the public can be
present and allowed to speak
The business was to discuss the
Bridle Road from Black-Burn Lodge
to Ruddy Car, across Lands
Common, and through Dryden Dale
onto the Wolsingham Road, which
has been objected to being a

public right of way and claimed
to be an Estate Road.
After a lengthy discussion, it was
proposed by Mr. W. Liddle,
second by Mr. G. Row that it be
left to South Bedburn Parish
Council to collect Evidence during
the Month
cost of meeting 2/-

A Raine

Parish Council meeting held
25th Mar 1953

This was a short meeting to
settle accounts.

Two cheques were signed one for
£1-18-0 Mr. H. Wilkinson for meetings, and
one for the clerk, salary and to
£8-6-4 settle small accounts.

members present Mr. A. Raine
Weir, Pickering, Walton,
A Raine

Meeting of the Assembly held
25th Mar 1953.

Letters were read from the
Clerk of the County Council, and
County Surveyor concerning
rights of way.

After discussions, it was
agreed on to ask for the help
of the central Rights of Way
Committee, and this concluded the
meeting. Costs 4/-



Annual Parish Council meeting
held 25th April 1953.

Business was the ~~collection~~ ^{appointment} of
Officers.

Moved by Mr Wood, Secd Mr Weir
for the same Officers to stand
which was agreed on.

Some letters were read from
the County Surveyors concerning
footpaths, and objections.

A number of forms which had
been sent for collecting evidence,
it was moved by Mr R. Walton
secd by Mr V. Simpson for these
to be handed out to those
objecting to certain rights of
way.

Regarding footpath No. 19. running
along the north side of the Mill race
from Hedburn to the Forestry
Commission, through the footbridge
been washed away, should be returned
to its original site along the South
side of the race as Mrs Roberts
has put a new bridge over.

The clerk was instructed to inform
the Surveyor that there need not
be a hearing concerning this
path.

Members present

Mr Raine Walton, Weir, Wood,
Simpson, Pickering, Hartley.

cost of meeting 4/-

A Ruine

balance
£2-3-0 to pay
leaves a balance of 39-7-6
which is to be used on the
Memorial, by the two Parish Councils
Prop. H. Jewitt sec'd R. Allinson
for the balance sheet to be put
in the Post Office window for
14 days.

There were two dozen beakers
short, and it was agreed to
get them.

Prop. R. Walton sec'd J. Pickering
that this concluded all
concerning the Coronation.
cost of meeting 2/-

A Raine

Parish Council meeting held
15th June 1953

A letter was read from the
clerk of the County Council
stating place, day, and time
for the hearing of objections
to rights of way. Mr. W. Weir,
Mr. R. Walton, Mr. J. Pickering
and the clerk were elected to
attend the hearing at Barnard
Castle 25th June 1953 at 10. A.M.

Meeting of the Assembly
held 18th March 1957.

It was moved by F. Hartley
Secd R. Walton for a letter to be
sent to William Martindale
concerning the locking of a gate.
Moved R. Walton, secd J. Pickering
for a letter also to be sent to
the Forestry Commission asking
them to clear a footpath of
branches, and the fence along
the Mayland, Woodland Road.
Cost of both meeting 4/-

A Raine

Annual Parish Council, and
Public meeting held 18th April 1957
Parish Council Meeting was for
the election of Officers.

It was moved and agreed for
the same Officers to remain

Mr. A. Raine chairman and
Mr. R. Walton representative for
the Bull Piece Property.

At the Public meeting a dispute
was brought forward regarding
a right of way on West Shipley
Farm, nothing was settled and
a motion was made to refer the
matter to the County Surveyor

A Raine

Memorial

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Road No. 31

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A joint meeting with Hamsterley
Parish Council was held
11th March 1958.

Memorial

Mr. J. E. Brown Humes took the chair
Minutes were read, and was
moved by Mr. Walton second by Mr
R. Weir they be signed.

It was stated that the amount
raised to do the alteration was
£163-2-5.

Mr. C. Simpson estimate to do
the work was £146-5-0 which
was accepted.

Moved Mr Nicholson second Mr
Walton to settle the account.

Moved Mr. J. Pickering second
Mr W^m Weir for the balance
of £17-9-11 to remain Banked.

Members present

| Hamsterley | South Bedburn |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Councillors J. E. Brown Humes | A. Raine |
| Rev. D. Smith | W ^m Weir |
| T. Nicholson | R. Walton |
| R. Weir | J. Pickering |
| H. Jewitt | W. J. Stephenson (Clerk) |
| J. W. Coatsworth (Clerk) | |

A Raine

Meeting of the annual Assembly
held 11th March 1958

A quiet meeting.

Road No. 31 A letter was read from the
County Surveyor stating that the
road in dispute at Shipley was
a footpath, and not a road for
vehicles. Cost of both meetings 4/-
A Raine.

A joint meeting with Hamsterley
and South Bedburn Parish Councils
was held 10th Aug 1959

This meeting was for a further
discussion with regard to beating
the Bounds.

After a discussion, and lack of
interest by the public it was
prop. by Mr Donald & second by
Mr D. Smith to postpone the
matter until 1960.

Members Present

| Hamsterley | South Bedburn |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chairman J. E. Brown-Humes | W ^m Weir |
| D. Smith | J. Pickering |
| T. Nickolson | F. Hartley |
| R. Weir | W. J. Stephenson. Clerk. |
| H. Jewitt | |
| F. Collingwood | |
| J. Donald | |
| Clerk. J. Coatsworth | |

cost of meeting 2/-

T. Wood

Parish Council meeting held
~~the~~ 10th Dec 1959.

This meeting was to deal with
correspondence

Letters were read from the County Council
and Rural Council concerning Rights of
Way, and County Boundaries

Members Present

W^m Weir, R. Walton, A. Raine,
cost of meeting 4/-

A Raine

Parish Meeting

By direction of the County Surveyor South Bedburn had a Parish Meeting on Wed, 20th June 1962 this was to give the public an opportunity of raising relevant matters.

A number of matters were raised regarding the Definitive Map and public Rights of Way.

I. Was the Forestry Commission justified in closing all roads on Ashit Monday.

Is Road No 20 down to the Camp a right of way.

Mr. Hodgson of Snape Gate asks for a footpath made in front of his house should be withdrawn from the Map, as the old footpath which had been washed away was now repaired. He also brought up a doubt about Road 37 being a bridle-road or footpath.

Mr. Raine owner of Hoppyland thought a little footpath crossing one of his fields should be crossed off the Map. No. 24.

Cost of meeting 5/-

J. Hartley

this ended the meeting for the
Parish Meeting at 8 o'clock.

A letter was read from the Church
Council asking if the South Bedburn
Churchyard Parish Council would subscribe towards
the upkeep of the churchyard.

Mr. R. Walton pros, secd by A. Whitaker
for the clerk to write and get more
particulars.

It was stated that the floods had
washed a portion of the bank away
at Harperley Bridge making it that
people could not get on, or off.

Prop by J. Pickering, secd by J. Hartley
for the clerk to inform the County
Surveyor.

There was no more business.

Cost of both meetings 10/-

Arthur Raine

P.C. Meeting held 13th April 1967

Third quinquennial Review of Definitive
Map and Statement.

Apart from the diversion of Footpath
No. 19 since the last Review, there is
no question or complaint for the third
Review, a letter to this effect was
sent to the County Surveyor.

There was no further business apart
from Nomination Papers being handed
out.

Members present, A. Raine, R. Walton,
W. Stephenson, J. Pickering, W^m Weir, J. Hartley,
Clerk from J. Walshaw,

1933

Cost of meeting 10/- A Raine