



City Council Business

The usual monthly meeting of the members of this Council was held at the Council House yesterday (Thursday) morning. The ex-mayor (Councillor Parker), in the absence of the Mayor, presided, and there were also present: Aldermen H. Brown, W. Hick, J. Style, Norton, and W. Read; Councillors W.M. Hammick, W. Marlow, C. Haskins, A Whitehead, E.J Brittan, J. Folliott, D. Stevens, G. Fullford, Co. Moody, and E. Waters.

The Free Library Question

The Town Clerk read the following report from the Mayor upon the recent poll of burgesses on the adoption or otherwise of the Free Libraries Act: - "City of New Sarum. The Public Libraries (England) Acts. To the Town Council of Sarum. Gentlemen, - I have to report to you the receipt, in April last, of a requisition signed by upwards of ten ratepayers of this borough, to convene a public meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts, 'to consider the advisability of adopting the aforesaid Acts in this Borough.' I accordingly convened such public meeting, and the same was duly held at the Council Chamber on the 5th May last. A poll of the burgesses was then demanded, and voting papers were accordingly issued. The result I hereby certify to be as follows:- Total number of burgesses on the list, 2,838. In favour of adopting the Acts, 984; against the adoption, 856; voting papers improperly filled up, marked neutral, or otherwise not returned, and arising from deaths, removals, and duplicate qualifications 998, total 2,838. - Dated the 2nd of June, 1890. - GEORGE NODDER (Mayor).

The Town Clerk: The return has already been made public, and the Mayor has discussed with me as to whether the majority was a sufficient adoption of the Act. There seems to be certain doubts about it, and it has been suggested that the facts should be laid before the Local Government Board and asking their opinion on it. For the purpose of putting it on the minute book, I shall ask you to adopt the following letter which I will read :- "Town Clerk's office, Salisbury, 5th June, 1890. Sir, - I am directed by the Town Council of this city to inform you that consequent on the receipt by the Right Worshipful the Mayor on the requisition as to the adoption of the Public Libraries (England) Acts within this city, voting papers were issued to ascertain the opinion of the burgesses, and which resulted as follows :- Number of burgesses on burgess roll, 2,838. Voting papers collected :- In favour of adopting the Acts, 984; against the adoption, 856; voting papers collected :- In favour of adopting the Acts, 984; against the adoption, 856; voting papers improperly filled up, marked neutral or otherwise not returned, and arising from deaths, removals and duplicate qualifications, 998; total, 2,838. The foregoing totals show that a majority of the burgesses who actually voted were in favour of the adoption of the Acts, the figures being 984 for and 856 against. A question, however, is raised as to whether the majority of votes must not be an actual majority of the number of burgesses on the burgess roll, and if this contention is correct, it is without doubt admitted the required majority has not been obtained. I have therefore to ask

the opinion of the Honourable Board as to whether or not your consider, upon the above statement, the above Acts have been legally adopted by the burgesses.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, W.C. POWNING (town clerk). The Secretary, Local Government Board, Whitehall, London, S.W.

Councillor Moody : Supposing you do not get a decisive answer to that letter, what then?

The Town Clerk : I would rather wait until the time comes.

Councillor Moody : Thy will refer us to our legal advisor.

The Town Clerk: I shall be prepared then to tell you what to do.

Councillor Fullford moved that the letter read by the Town Clerk be adopted by the Council and forwarded to the Local Government Board, the resolution being seconded by Councillor Stevens, and carried unanimously,

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