

Ownership of land called "Set Aside" and land containing allotments which borders this.

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 the Suffolk Record Office was visited and the following information discovered. In 1963 the Parish Council had deposited a number of documents with them. These are registered as **EG511**. This deposit contains mostly allotment cash booklets which do not have a description of what allotments they appertain to and a minute book from 1894 onwards which is registered as **EG511/1**.

The staff first showed me a **1903 Land Registry Book** within which several pages were dedicated to Hessett. Apart from the normal farms and individual properties there were **two parcels of land that was designated Parish Officers Land. One of these was labelled "Allotments"**.

A map of Hessett dated 1903 was examined. This showed one extended area of land that was designated "allotments" in the village. This including the area which today are called "Set-aside" and the adjacent "Allotments" (see sketch below).



Rough sketch of land designated  
"allotments".

An older map dated in 1883 was examined. This showed this area of land designated as agricultural and was called "The Heath".

Therefore the land must have become under the ownership of the Parish Council between 1883 and 1903.

It was also noted that the road now called "Heath Road" was on the 1903 map called "Old Hall Road". Woods below this land was called "Shadacres Queach" in 1903 but Shadacre Grove in 1883.

The “Minute” book for 1894 EG511/1 was examined and the following was found:

**January 17<sup>th</sup> 1895**

**3<sup>rd</sup> item: To form a committee to inquire into the allotment question. It was proposed by W Palmer sec. By H Green that steps be immediately taken to obtain land for Allotments either by agreement or otherwise, under the powers conferred by the Local Government Act 1894 which was put to the meeting, five voted for the question. For: - W Palmer. F Munn, H Green, B Ottley, J Last.**

It was agreed that a committee be formed to inquire into the question. The following were chosen:-  
W Palmer. J Squirrell, F K Rogsham. (Difficult to tell spelling). *Copy off original document below.*

January  
17<sup>th</sup>  
1895

## Parish Council Meeting

At a meeting held this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January of which notice was duly given, all members of the Council being present, Mr. Harrold in the chair, read the

minutes of the previous meeting & signed the same.

Business. 1<sup>st</sup> To provide for expenses of Election &c. Bills were read by the Chairman. The Clerk was then instructed to prepare a precept for £5-0-0. to be served on the Overseers.

2<sup>nd</sup> To transact necessary & immediate business in connection with the transfer of power from the Overseers, Churchwardens, or any other authority, to receive & to provide for the custody of all Parish Books & Documents.

No documents being there, It was proposed by W. Palmer & seconded by M. Otley that a Committee be formed, to inspect the books &c. of the Parish Chest in the vestry. The following were chosen:—  
J. H. Naynham, F. Mann, & F. Givinsell.

3<sup>rd</sup> To form a committee to inquire into the allotment question. J. H. Naynham & F. Givinsell have left the meeting. It was proposed by W. Palmer sec: by C. Green that steps be immediately taken to obtain land for allotments either by agreement or otherwise, under the powers conferred by the Local Government Act 1894. which was put to the meeting, five voted for the question, viz:—

W. Palmer, F. Mann, C. Green, M. Otley, & J. Last  
It was agreed that a committee be formed to inquire into that question. The following were chosen:—

W. Palmer, F. Givinsell & J. H. Naynham  
It was agreed that a new table be made for the use of the council, & the order was given:—

(Signed) W. Harrold, Chairman

F. G. Givinsell, Clerk

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July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895

Allotments:- Proposed by John Goodman and seconded by Simon Green that the Clerk of the council write to the District Council and make application for the land which has been sequented and has early as possible was carried unanously.

Copy of original document below.

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895 <sup>quarters</sup> The ~~council~~ meeting was held in the School room at Hesse the fourth day July and the to be done was has stated below. The reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting.

Allotments 1. Proposed by John Goodman and seconded by Simon Green that the Clerk of the council write to the District Council and make application for the land which has been requested, and has early as possible was carried unanimously.

Parish Terrier &c. Proposed by Frederick Nunn and seconded by Simon Green that the Clerk write to the County Council asking them to what extent can the Parish Council have control over the Parish Terrier and Maps. Carried unanimously.

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October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1895

Allotments item 2:- It was proposed by John Goodman and seconded by Frederick Nunn that there be a management committee formed to take the money as Poor Allotments rents. Unanimously.

Allotments item 3:- It was proposed by John Goodman and seconded by James Cocksedge that Richard Ottly be one of managing committee for the Poor Allotments, carried unanimously.

Allotments item 4:- It was proposed by James Cocksedge and seconded by John Goodman that T Nunn be one of managing committee for the Poor Allotments, carried unanimously.

Allotments item 5:- It was proposed by Richard Ottley and seconded by Simon Green that James Cocksedge be one of managing committee for the Poor Allotments, carried unanimously.

Allotments Item 6:- It was proposed by John Goodman and seconded by James Cocksedge that Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> day October should meet and take money from the Allotment tenants at 7.30 in the evening with the clerk, carried unanimously.

Copy of original document below.



1895.

margin and the Councillors present were as follows.  
James Cockledge, Simon Green, Frederick. Kunn. John  
Goodram. Richard Otley. Walter Harrold in the  
Chair

Charities 1 It was proposed by John Goodram and seconded  
by James Cockledge that the Clerk write to the  
Charities Commissioners and request them to send  
one commissioner down and make a full enquiry  
into the Charities For the Parish of Thurstle has the  
Old trustees and the new trustees have met and  
could not come to terms. carried unanimously

Allotments 2 Resds. It was Proposed by John Goodram and seconded by  
Frederick Kunn that there be a managing committee  
formed to take the money as Poor Allotments rents. unanimously

Allotment 3 Committee. It was Proposed by John Goodram and seconded by James  
Cockledge that Richard Otley be one of managing committee for  
the Poor Allotments. carried unanimously.

Allotments 4 Committee. It was Proposed by James Cockledge and seconded by.  
Simon Green that F. Kunn be one of the managing comm-  
ittee for the Poor Allotments. carried unanimously.

Allotments 5 Committee. It was Proposed by Richard Otley and seconded by.  
John Goodram that James Cockledge be one of managing  
committee for the Poor Allotments. carried unanimously.

Collecting 6 Cents For allotments It was Proposed by John Goodram and seconded by James  
Cockledge that Thursday the 10th day October <sup>managing</sup> should meet  
and take the money from the Allotments tenants,  
at 7.30. in the evening with the Clerk. carried  
unanimously.

Reducing 7 Rents of Allotments It was Proposed by John Goodram and seconded by  
Simon Green that the Allotment rents should be  
reduced from 8 shillings to 6 shillings. per quarter  
of a acre carried unanimously

Signer

Walter Harrold

Chairman

## Conclusions.

The area of land called the “Set-aside” and the adjacent “Allotments” is a small remaining part of land originally obtained by the PC between January 17<sup>th</sup> 1895 when a Committee was set up to obtain the land and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1895 and when a committee was set up to charge tenants.

After October 1895 Allotments are not mentioned in the minutes

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1895 the Clerk was instructed to write to the District Council concerning land that had been sequented?

## Background information

**Poor Allotments** – The record office stated that this term came into common use during the 1800’s.

Allotments were conceived as a way to alleviate the distress of the rural poor. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, many rural labourers lost their land and jobs. The misfortunes of those workers had been largely blamed on the process of enclosure.

**The Local Government Act 1894** This is the Act of the Parliament that reformed local government in England and Wales outside the County of London.

The Act followed the reforms carried out at county level under the Local Government Act 1888. The 1894 legislation introduced elected councils at district and parish level.

The principal effects of the act were:

- The creation a system of urban and rural districts with elected councils. These along, with the town councils of municipal boroughs created earlier in the century, formed a second tier of local government below the existing county councils.
- The establishment of elected parish councils in rural areas.
- The reform of the boards of guardians of poor law unions.

The new district councils were based on the existing urban and rural sanitary districts.

The act also reorganized civil parishes, so that none of them lay in more than one district and hence didn't cross administrative boundaries.

## **Powers and duties of Parish Councils**

The parish councils were given the following powers and duties:

- Appointment of overseers of the poor
- Maintaining and repairing closed churchyards
- Holding or maintaining parish property (including village greens, allotments, recreation grounds) for the benefit of the inhabitants
- Election of allotment managers

- The power to adopt, following a poll of the parish electors:
  - The Lighting and Watching Act 1833 and the Baths and Washhouses Acts 1846 to 1882
  - The Burials Act 1852 to 1885
  - The Public Improvements Act 1860
  - The Public Libraries Act 1892
- Acquisition of buildings for parish purposes
- Acquisition of land for allotments, public walks and recreation grounds