

THE LORDS OF LOWER BORNAL.

A sketch of what might have taken place at a Black Country Town Council Meeting in by-gone days.

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Characters:

Dick Doity.	Chairman.
Isaac Smellarat.	Councillor.
Aynock Cornuck.	Councillor.
Ali Kali.	Councillor.
Wilfred Watercress.	Councillor.

- D.D. Well here we bin agen at the Rose & Crown gentlemen. Afore the meeting starts, however, I must bring up a complaint I've had from the Landlord regarding Councillor Kali getting drunk after the meeting on the Bank Holiday Monday.
- A.K. But I wore drunk.
- D.D. Of course yo was, if yo'd ave been sober yo would av ad sense enough as to know that yo was drunk. Anyway, goo steady in future or we'll have to hold our meetings in my big coal shed agen, and there ay too much room in there at present, what with the missus putting the babbies pram in and me having five tons of coke delivered. Well Watercress, Get on with the minutes.
- A.C. Whats the matter Dick.
- D.D. I've lost me left ear-plug Aynock. No I ay, I've left it in the wash basin, I uses it ter plug that too. Now I shall ave ter hear Watercress and I woe be able to concentrate on me pools.
- W.W. These are the minutes of the 521st Meeting of the Lower Bornal Town Council held in the back room of the Rose & Crown. The Rose & Crown is an inn overlooking the richly perfumed Cradley cut. This is the cut referred to by poet Price in his Black Country Ballad - "Over the Cut to Die". An apology was received from Councillor Bloggs. This was Councillor Bloggs third consecutive apology during his enforced absense and the council were pleased to learn that if his good behaviour continued, his sentence would be reduced from 12 to 9 months. Councillor Cornock spoke on the inadvisability of again electing Councillor Bloggs to the office of Borough Treasurer upon his return. Councillor Doity, however, maintained that Councillor Bloggs was well suited to the office, which called for a man with ability to extract money from the rate payers without fear of scruple or conscience. Councillor Doity then went on to opine that if everyone had their deserts on this earth the rest of the Borough Treasurers in this country would be inside with poor old Sam Bloggs. With reference to Housing which was next discussed, the Council were pleased to learn from Councillor Kali that the head collector was recovering from the malicious attack made upon him after the last rise in rents. Councillor Kali said that he was happy to announce that plans had been approved for the erection of another Council House in the district. He admitted, however, after being questioned by Councillor Cornock that this would not relieve the housing shortage very much, since two houses have to be demolished to make room for it. There being no further business the meeting closed.
- D.D. Well we doe seem to have done much at the last meeting. Shall I sign the Minutes.
- A.C. He doe seem to have put that bit in about the Council maintaining your allotment while yo'm at the meetings.
- D.D. I know he ay, and I had'not ought ter remind yo Aynock Cornock that when yo was Chairman he day put that bit in about yo borrowing the Borough Steamroller for your lawn. Shall I sign em.
- A.C. Yo've got me Dick. Sign em I woe stop thee.
- D.D. Any apologies.

- A.C. Are, one from Sam Bloggs who's still inside in jail. One from Amos Nock who's outside in the Bar. One from fat Jack who's playing Dominoes, and one from Albert Funnybone who's missus woe let im come.
- D.D. Well, what's next on the agenda Watercress.
- W.W. Correspondence Councillor Doity.
- D.D. Oh are, well I'll read this letter I've got from Missus Spittle regarding Pensions. Dear Sirs, if you doe get this letter tomorrow morning it must have got lost, so write and let me know. I am pleased to report that my husband who was reported missing is now deceased, but they ay gid me me pension at the Post Office. If I doe get satisfaction soon I'll be put out since I'm in errors with my landlord. Sarah Spittle.
- A.C. Sarah Spittle eh, she's always getting into trouble about something. She was up in court for assault last wik.
- I.S. Oh are, what did she dew.
- A.C. She had a fight with her neighbour and bit a piece out of her ear. The judge bound her over to keep the peace for six months, but she said she had given it to the cat.
- D.D. Well anyway, she seems to be badly off.
- A.K. She's alright, got pots of money. Why look at her spectacles every bit of them gold.
- I.S. But Ali, the glass part what she looks through cor be made of gold.
- A.K. Oh no, but the iron part is.
- D.D. Are and doe she live in the posh house with the big winders .
- A.C. Are, they'm bay winders.
- D.D. If they bay winders what bin em.
- I.S. It doe matter what they bin, she's mean and she's got plenty of money. Look what she did when her husband was pegging out.
- A.K. What happened.
- I.S. Well he'd bin on a diet for some time and it day dew him any good, when the Doctor said that he was dying he tode er ter give im anything he asked for. So later on she shouted up to him " Joe, is there anything yo fancies to ate" He shouted back "Are I could do with a bit of that ham yo've got hanging up in the kitchen" "Yo cor have that" she cried. "I'm keeping that for the funeral".
- D.D. Are well, I'll goo and see um at the Post Office about it. Next on the agenda is an application I've got for an extension for the Pig & Whisle on ChristmasEve.
- A.K. What's an extension.
- I.S. I doe rightly know but I think it means that they can keep open after they'm shut.
- D.D. I'm granting it anyway, by the way, Aynock, yo knows that line prop yo made me, well it ay got a nick in it to hold the line firm.
- A.C. Well, I'll come up with me saw and put a nick in it. Yo've got a pair of steps for me to get to the top of it aint yer.
- D.D. We woe need steps yer fule. We'll prop it against the house and get at it from the upstairs winder.

- A.K. By the way Cornock, I doe think much of them National Health spectacles yo recommended. They ay much good.
- A.C. Are well anyway thee cosn't see as well as thee could'st cost.
- D.D. Anyway they'm cheap, cheaper than the meals they serve at that posh new Restaurant down the High Street.
- A.C. Goot tan yo'm right there Dick. I was in there last wik and when the bloke brought me the bill dun yo know what he said "Remember the Waiter". I said "doe worry lad lshall never forget thee".
- D.D. Are, these new buildings, customs and people they bay arf so good as the old set. Look what the new vicar did to Sarah Jones.
- A.C. Why ? What did he do Dick.
- D.D. Well she asked him to say prayers for her husbands flouting kidneys but he said it would sound saft, and yet only the wik afore he was saying prayers for loose livers.
- I.S. Mind yer all these things bay bad Dick, look at the new gas fires for instance yo doe have half the trouble with lighting them as with coal and they burn longer. Why we lit our gas fire three weeks ago and it ay gone out yet.
- D.D. I say did yo hear about Dudley Council , they've bought their Mayor a new chain to wear round his neck.
- A.C. We aye got a chain for ours. We let the beggar run around loose.
- A.K. I say the weathers still bad ay it. Raining all the time.
- D.D. Doe talk saft, Kali, at this time of the year an hours rain does more good in five minutes than a months would in a wik at any other time of the year.
- I.S. I'm sorry to hear that yo're Sally got sacked last wik Aynock.
- D.D. What Sally sacked. What happened Aynock ?
- A.C. She day do anything. We cor understand it, it just happened one morning that her mistress said " Cook , I think that we must part this day month" Sally was flabbergasted and she said an theres never anything that we has in the kitchen that is tasty but what I sends a bit up to the dining room.
- D.D. And they still sacked her.
- A.C. Are, mind yer her ay altogether sorry, the mistress day always buy the best for the kitchen. In fact Sally says that er husband what works at the Wagon Builders grases his wheels with betterstuff than what she had to use for butter.
- D.D. Are well, Wuss things happen Aynock, I see ode Sam chated the grave again.
- A.K. Oh are, the Doctor gid im up a fortnight agoo day he. He did.
- D.D. He did that, he told Sam's missus that he couldn't live for more than a few days.
- A.C. But didn't the Doctor pay him a visit last wik.
- D.D. Oh yes, they fetched the doctor out at midnight on Wednesday. It was a foul night too. Before long the doctor was foul as well, he'd had a bad day and he had to travel three miles on his horse carriage to Sam's. When he got there he shouted "Fancy bringing me all this way on a rotten night to a dead man" "But" said Sam I ay dead yet" "Yo shut up Sam" cried his missus "If the doctor says yo'm jed , yo'm jed. He knows better than yo do.
- A.C. Poor owd Sam. I say Dick<sup>yo</sup> have'nt tode me if yo'm coming on the Council outing. Yo keep on fighting shy of telling us, bist thee coming or bist thee baint ?

- D.D. Bist thee gooin ter Clent again, cause if thee bist I baint.
- A.C. No we bay gooin ter Clent we'm off to Blackpool.
- I.S. I hope we ay stopping at that place again for tea.
- A.C. Which place.
- I.S. That where they serve four kinds of cake.
- A.C. Four kinds of cake, three wore it.
- I.S. No four, plum cake, seed cake, curra nt cake, and stomach ache.
- D.D. Stomach ache, eh, yo're Fred had that the other day Aynock. How is he now.
- A.C. Not too good. He's been lying down ever since he got up.
- I.S. Goooin ter Blackpool eh. I doe like the place, our Jack's missus died just after she come back from there.
- A.C. I remember, she looked lovely when they laid her out.
- D.D. So er ought , just had a wick at Blackpool hadn't er.
- A.K. By the way Aynock yo'm a liar. Yo said iron could float.
- A.C. So it can.
- A.K. No it cort, I chucked our iron bedstead in the cut and it sunk to the bottom. It day float at all.
- A.C. Oh yo bin saft, it only floats in salt water yer fule.
- D.D. By the way Aynock, yo'm in charge of the museum ay yer.
- A.C. Are, what of it.
- D.D. Well who let that dog in as pinched that skeleton and took him up the High Street.
- A.C. Well nobody let him in Dick, he waited outside the Museum until the Curator slipped out for a packet of fags and then he slipped inside. Very clever little dog, Some dogs are more intelligent than their owner's yer know.
- I.S. Are, Ive got one of that breed.
- D.D. And I can believe it Isaac. By the way Aynock how did yo get on with that rich American yo showed round the museum with his small son.
- A.C. Oh not very well, he liked the Museum alright though. He said " Say this is sure a swell dive you've got here, both interesting and educational. I'd like to buy this Museum for my kid" Well I told him he couldn't buy the place but I offered to buy his kid for the Museum.
- D.D. I bet he day like that. By the way Councillor Kali, where wun yer that day yo day goo out last wik.
- A.K. I went to Tipton to buy a dog a bloke gid me.
- D.D. Oh are, is it a good un.
- A.K. It ay auf - well I'll tell thee, when I come wum with him I took him down the backyard and chained him up with a piece of rope.
- D.D. Did yer. I'll come and see him.
- A.K. Are, yo come, we'll ter get on with me tale - when I went to see him in the morning he was there all right - gone.
- W.W. And that's where we shall be if we sit here much longer - gone.
- D.D. Drinking times getting short boys - Meeting adjourned.
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