

"RUCTIONS IN THE ROSE AND CROWN"

CHARACTERS:

Councillors - DICK DOITY, I. SMELLARAT, AYNOCK CORNOCK, ALI KALI
Town Clerk - WILFRED WATERCRESS.

D.D. - Bout time we started ay it Watercress.

W.W. - Indeed it is Councillor Doity. We are half an hour late already.

A.C. - Are. We are getting wuss and wuss. We'll be startin later than the Bingo start their "does" soon.

D.D. - Aw be quiet Cornock. We've heard enough of you lately. Doe start moaning before the meeting begins. Anybody got a pencil? Aa thanks Councillor Kali. Get on with the minutes Watercress.

W.W. - Surely Councillor Doity you are not contemplating taking notes while I am reading minutes? They will demand your full attention as Chairman.

D.D. - No I bay gooen ter tak notes. I only want ter do me coupon. Goo on Watercress doe keep us here all night. Read the minutes.

W.W. - Ahem/ These are the minutes of the 431st meeting of the Lower Bernal Town Council held at the Back Room of the "Rose & Crown" an I'm overlooking the beautiful Cradley Cut and perfumed by the fragrant aromas of the council muck-tip. The Cradley Cut is the Cut mentioned by the Poet Price in his Black Country Ballard when he writes - "The Breezes that blow O'er the Cut from Blackheath, Are perfumed by the Gas Works as they blow, and the women in the lowlands down in Old Hill, speak a language that the strangers do not know"

The aforesaid meeting was held on Wednesday the 21st January, present were Councillors Doity, Cornock, Smellarat, Ali Kali, Dick Bloggs and his Dominoe partner Joe and the Town Clerkyour humble servant Wilfred Watercress commonly called "Watercress". In the adjoining Bar were the various Councillors wives who had expressed a desire in no uncertain tones that the meeting be terminated early. The meeting went smoothly, apart from the sudden and discreet exit of Councillor Bloggs through the window upon the arrival of the local Inspector of Police in the adjoining bar. After the minutes had been read and passed Councillor Cornock moved a resolution condemning those people who did not give much for West Bromwich Albion's chances of winning the League & Cup. This resolution was hotly apposed by Councillor Doity who is a native of Wolverhampton. This discourse was terminated at the request of the Landlord who came in to announce that the people in the bar could not hear themselves talk for the noise in the Council Chamber.

Next the Council were pleased to learn from Councillor Kali that another house would be built this year bringing the total since the war up to ten. It was decided to ask the Prime Minister to open the house upon completion to commemorate the Council's achievement in reaching double figures. It was also decided to announce the news to the 2,347 people on the waiting list to cheer them up. In order to celebrate the Coronation it was decided that a dinner on a grand scale be given to members of the Council, a lollipop to all the school children, a headache tablet to all the publicans, a book on the Rules of Football to all the supporters of the Albion and Villa, a quarter pound of tea and two ounces of tobacco to the old folk, and a sixpenny rate to the rate payers. After a brief discussion on the lukewarm nature of modern beer and the chances of Billiard Ball in the 2.30., the meeting was closed.

- D.D. - Gentlemen/ Yo have heard the minutes, shall I sign 'em.
- A.K. Ah/Goo on, we woe stop thee.
- W.W. any apologies?
- D.D. - Doe look like it, Sam Bloggs ay here.
- I.S. Sam's got a Dominoe Match on, he toed me he would try to get here afore we've left.
- D.D. - Well if he doe get here afore we go, he woe get here till after.
- A.C. I bet he doe cum, he owe's me half a crown.

D.D. - Well, any questions?

A.C. Aa, What does Councillor Kali mean by putting a young couple in a house before the roof was finished. Disgraceful I call it.

A.K. They'm O.K. I gid em a couple of umbrellas and they said they could put the babby under the table if it rained. They'll get plenty of fresh air anyway. Do 'em good. To much mollycoddlin these days.

A?C. I doe call putting folks in a house with a roof off mollycoddlin them.

I.S. Which house is this anyway.

D.D. - The one up Bug Street with the Bay winders.

A.C. Bay winders? They bay Bay's bin um?

D.D. - They bin Bay's bay um?

A.C. They'm welly booth alike bay um?

I.S. Anyway I'm glad to see that Councillor Kali has had a new Gas Lamp put in High Street.

A.C. It wor a new Gas Lamp, he took it out of a side street.

A.K. Yo shut up Cornock, They'm hetter than those old candle lights yo had put up.

A.C. Doe cost so much anyway.

I.S. I see owd Ali's jed.

A.K. O are/When did he die.

D.D. - Well if he had lived till tomorrow he would have been jed a fortnight.

A.C. Poor owd Ali. He 'wor one of the wust at his best he wor. Well lets all hope he's gone where we think he ay. Why to think that last week he was helping me to build a handcart in the cellar.

D.D. - What? building a handcart in your cellar? yo'll never get it up the steps when yo've finished.

A.C. Well I can tek it ter pieces fust cor I, yer fool.

- I.S. Oh by the way Councillor Kali, I have had a report that there is a gas leak at Bill Jones' house.
- A.K. Why/I'll see to it at once. Where is the Jones' house?
- I.S. Oh I cor tell yer that but they've left the kay next door to it.
- A.K. Gootan, yo doe know where they live. Well I ay heard anythin so saft since Farlie Chowler perspired to be a Councillor.
- D.D. - Doe yo call old Smellarat saft, he was the life and soul of the party at our Sarah's funeral last wik.
- A.K.1 Saft/he's safter than Amos Winterbottoms tripe. His saftness is the talk of the fish shap.
- W.W. Gentlemen, Gentlemen, Pray cease this slandrous discourse. Tell me Councillor Cornock, how did the annual Charity Dance go last week?
- A.C. Oh it wasn't too bad. We had to have a snake dance though.
- W.W. A snake dance? I've never heard of such a thing. What is a snake dance Cornock?
- A.C. Well the folk day know either when I announced it. I told em that a snake dance was a dance when those who had snaked in without paying, could snake out again.
- I.S. My missus day like the dance. Still she never does know what she wants and she'll have a fit if she doe get it.
- D.D. - Women, Women.. /Pah.. / They never know what they want as yo say. There's always something goin wrong according to them and they ay satisfied till yo've put it right. An when yo've put it right - it's wrong.
- A.C. I say did yo hear as how old Bill's missus had had triplets last week.
- W.W. Indeed/We must congratulate him. Was Bill pleased.
- A.C. I doe think he knew what it meant at ~~fast~~, cause when the Doctor showed them he picked one out and said "Doctor, I think I'll keep this un".
- I.S. By the way Aynock how bin yer gettin on with yoer missus these days.

- A.C. Oh terrible, her was wuss than ever this mornin. She was shoutin and screamin and carrin on somethin awful. Her shied a saucepan at me too.
- D.D. And what did you do?
- A.C. Dew, Dew, I day orf slam the door hard as I come out.
- W.W. Anything to say regarding the Parks gentlemen.
- I.S. O are. Yo know that sate yo had put outside the Gates, Councillor Kali? well I sot on it this mornin and it wor there. I day orf know about it when I cum too.
- A.K. Yo', saft, we took that sate to the Cemetry months ago.
- W.W. Talking about the Cemetary, I am glad to hear that you are going to have it consecrated Councillor Kali.
- I.S. Are - good idea. We've had our back yard done and the water runs off lovely.
- W.W. Councillor Smellarat, I said consecrated and not concrated.
- A.C. I'd liketo have a Gondola on the Park Pool Councillor Kali.
- A.K. Well if I have one I'll have two Cornock.
- A.C. What for?
- A.K. To breed off 'em of course.
- A.C. I say Councillor Doity, my constituents day like the water shortage last week.
- D.D. - Good for the beer trade Aynock.
- A.C. Are but yo cor bile taeters in beer.
- D.D. - I say Watercress I day like the way the Vicar threw nasturtions on us when prayin at our service last wk.
- W.W. I remember the passage you mention Councillor Doity but I don't think he meant to put it like that.
- A.C. Why what did he say.
- W.W. Well he was praying for all people and doing very well I thought until he said "Lord have mercy on all fools and idiots and particularly on the Town Council of Lower Bernal"

- A.C. I say did yo ear owd Bill snoorin during the sermon.
- D.D. I did. It was disgraceful and so loud - it woke me up.
- I.S. I was sorry to hear yo was bad lately Councillor Doity. Have yo recovered from the medicine the Doctor gid yer yet?
- D.D. Almost.
- A.C. What's the matter with thee Dick.
- D.D. Worry, I'm that worried I wished I could wake up jed every mornin of me life. Still, I bin as I bin and if I ay I cor elp it.
- A.C. Old Joe's very bad but there's nothin the matter with him and nobody knows what it is.
- D.D. Are, I wondered why he day turn up at the Doctor's Surgery the other night and somebody tode me he was bad and couldn't come.
- I.S. Hey Cornock/Was it yo that tode our gaffer that I was a liar last wik?
- A.C. Not me. I day tell him yo was a liar - I thought he knew.
- W.W. Well Gentlemen, I think the time is getting on and I've got to catch the 'bus to Dudley.
- A.C. Well if Yo've got to catch it yo've got to be perishin quick - it's just gohe.
- D.D. - Are, get a move on Watercress, come on boys lets blow the expenses.

Meeting Closed.