

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS OF THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS OF BERWICK-UPON-TWEED UNION:

GBR46/203-204. 7 July 1862.

The following report was laid before the Board. (Copy)

Report of the Police Inspector of Nuisances to the Board of Guardians for the District of Norham and Islandshire.

Gentlemen

I have to report to the Board the following cases of nuisances at Norham, which I observed on the 5th day of July 1862.

First – A nuisance is caused by James Young, mason, keeping a pig in an old building adjoining the dwelling house of James Sanderson. This pig is kept in a very filthy state, the smell arising from it is horrible, and at times Sanderson and his family can scarcely remain in their house for it – this ought to be removed immediately.

Second – A nuisance is caused by Alexander Smith allowing a drain belonging to him to remain choked up. This drain leads through some old buildings adjoining the dwelling house of James Reid, and during wet weather the water sipes [sic] through into Reid's house in consequence of not getting away in the drain everything in Reid's house appears to be rotten with damp all caused by this drain being stopped up.

Third – A nuisance is caused in a lane at the high end of Norham from filth and rubbish having from time to time being deposited there. This lane leads from the street to the Church, and is about 120 yards long, the ditch is choked up and during wet weather, the people living in that part of the village complain of the bad smell arising from the dirty water, and other filth being deposited there – this nuisance could be removed by a proper drain being put down with grates to receive the dirty water.

I am

Wm Grey Marshall

Superint. Of Police

The Board of Guardians

Lowick.

Ordered that the Inspector be requested to give a notice to the parties complained of, in the first and second cases, requiring immediate removal of the nuisance and that in the matter of the lane, the Clerk to write the Surveyor of Highways for the Township of Norham and request that he will immediately remedy the nuisance complained of.

GBR46/223-226. 18 Aug. 1862.

The following report from Mr Marshall, Inspector of Nuisances, was laid before the Board. Report of the Police Inspector of Nuisances to the Board of Guardians for Norham and Islandshire District.

Gentlemen,

I have to report to the Board that I inspected the village of Norham on the 4th instant, accompanied by Dr Paxton and Mr Scott, Relieving Officer. We commenced at the high end of the village and inspected the south side first – the dwelling houses on that side are nearly all damp, but there are some not fit for human beings to live in, namely:

The house occupied by Hannah Wale, this house is very damp, and I consider unfit for any person to live in; the walls and roof are rotten.

The house occupied by William Redpath is also very damp – the walls and roof of this house are rotten with damp – the houses occupied by James Bruce, labourer, and Thomas Sanderson, fisherman, are completely rotten with the damp – the walls and roofs are kept up with props – there is a bad smell in these houses caused by the rotten timber and damp walls.

The house occupied by James Davidson, farmer, is also very damp – the back part of the house is not fit to live in, there is a fusty bad smell in the house caused from the rotten state of the walls.

Nicholas Swan, shoemaker, keeps a pig too near the dwelling house, and it is kept in a very filthy state.

James Davidson, farmer, keeps pigs in a yard at back of the house, and within 12 feet of the dwelling house of Elizabeth Bolton, these pigs are kept in a very filthy state – the whole of the pigs I here report are a nuisance and ought not to be kept where they are, when so much fever is in the village.

I also observed a nuisance in the street, caused by a stagnant pool of water, this filthy water comes through the drains, leading from the premises of David Corre, baker, and Robert Sanderson, publican, the drains run the water out on to the wasteland by the side of the road, and there it remains – there is no drain up through the village to carry off the filthy water.

I wish to call the attention of the Board to the necessity of having a leading drain or common sewer up through the village to receive all filth coming in the drains from the dwelling houses, it would also be a means of getting the village better drained than it is at present – the drains coming out to the day get filled up with dust – several of them are at present choked up from that cause.

I also observed a nuisance in the yard of the public house, kept by Leonard Dodds, caused by a drain being choked up, and an accumulation of filth at the high end of the yard – there are 2 of the family in Mr Dodds' house lying bad of fever at present.

I also observed a nuisance on some premises a little further up the village than Dodds, but I could not find the owner of the property – this nuisance is caused by an accumulation of ashes and filth in a stagnant pool of water, the water is of a green colour, and a very bad smell arising from it – this is the worst nuisance I have seen in the village, and ought to be removed immediately.

I have also to report to the Board the condition in which I found some Hinds' houses at Norham Mains – the fever is very bad at this place. There are 8 different families live at this place in 8 houses of one room each. Some of the families are 9 or 10 in number and they have all to sleep in one small room – common decency cannot be observed. The houses are all below the level of the surface, and in wet weather the wet comes in at the door, the roofs are also in a bad state of repair. The fever is in nearly all the houses I have heard one woman say to Doctor Paxton that she had never been a day well since she came to live at this place.

Police Officer, Lowick

W G Marshall

16th Aug. 1862.

Inspector of Nuisances.

PS Doctor Paxton and self will be in attendance on the Board at Berwick on Monday to give any explanation that may be required.

Resolved, on the motion of the Rev George Hans Hamilton, seconded by Mr James R Nicholson, that the following Guardians, namely Mr Alexander Smith, Norham, Mr William Cleghorn, Norham Mains, Mr James R Nicholson, Thornton, Mr James Mitchell, Twizel, Mr George Smith, Ancroft, Joseph Fleming, Esquire, Mr James Sanderson and the Rev G H Hamilton, Berwick, be and they are hereby pursuant to the 5th Section of the 23rd & 24th Victoria Chapter 77, appointed a committee to act and have the full power of executing in all respects the "Nuisances Removal Act for England 1855" for such part of the Union comprising the townships of Norham and Norham Mains, and that the foregoing report be referred to this committee accordingly – also that they be authorized to request to co-operation in this matter of the Vicar of Norham and his Curates, the other ministers in Norham, and the Churchwardens, Overseers and Assistant Overseers of Norham.