

## **Water Supplies to Hayfield and Mellor from Newspaper Cuttings.**

*Extracts are either dictated and converted into text using ORC or Voice Recognition software or retyped by John Simpson – December 2022. Revision 3- 08 Jan 2023*

*Preamble: There may be errors in transcription and also inaccuracies in Newspaper reporting. i.e. The famous Water Engineer: G Hodson may have been misspelt Hodgson on numerous occasions. The VR software seems to use American spellings. Newspaper articles are in chronological order.*

### **24 June 1891-G-Sheffield Independent**

#### **Serious Scarcity of Water at Hayfield**

Owing to the disappearance of a stream which formerly supplied Little Hayfield with water, the inhabitants, to the number of about 300, are completely without water unless carried it is carried from a stream a mile distant. Mr F J Sumner the owner of the Park Hall Estates, has signified his willingness to construct a reservoir and convey the water to the village in case satisfactory arrangements can be made.

### **07 June 1895-F-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

#### **Water Supply of Hayfield**

The next question was the water supply of Hayfield, being introduced by Mr. Turner. He said with great respect to the adequate supply of water to Hayfield and especially Little hayfield, he would move the following resolution: "That this Council at once take into consideration the best means for the supply of water to the township of Hayfield ." They did really want a better supply at Little Hayfield, and he did hold that the supply ought to be provided by the public authority and not by private individuals.

Mr Bagnall referred to the Mellor water supply, and moved that at the next meeting a report come before them and that it be thoroughly discussed.

Mr Barber introduced the question of the state of the water at a well at Mellor End, Mellor and the well at Lower Cliffe. A minute was on the books authorising the Sanitary Inspector to attend to it and remedy the defect.

The Chairman said he would see to the pollution at Lower Cliffe, although he did not believe there was any solution. He drank worse water than that every day, and the New Mills people were also drinking worse water at Beard. He was as anxious as anyone to prevent pollution, but that pollution would have to be proved to him first.

This was all the business.

### **16 August 1895-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

#### **The Hayfield Water Scheme**

Mr Wimpenny introduced the Hayfield water scheme. He said there was a very strong desire on the part of the habitants to adopt a water scheme for Hayfield and Little Hayfield. A deputation had waited upon the District Council in reference to the water supply at Park Hall, whence the Hall and the cottages were supplied, also the supply at Carr Meadow. There was no doubt the Carr Meadow supply was the better of the two, it was more desirable to utilise it, but they could scarcely tell how much it would cost, perhaps £600 or £700. The deputation were of one mind that the supply should be from Carr Meadow, and that the matter be placed in the hands of the ratepayers and not with a private company. A charge of 3d. per house could be levied on all who wish to take the water. The more who took it the better it would be. Fixing of tanks and pipes of course must come out of rates. Then it became a question for the District Council. They had taken the matter before the engineer, who had given two tenders, one to supply the water from Carr Meadow to Little Hayfield, and the other to supply Hayfield from the two wells at Whitworth and Nether, which would be forced by motor. Two tanks would thus supply the two the different places. Of course they would be of greater cost, Little Hayfield being so determined they must adopt the same course to Hayfield generally, and it meant a great and expensive scheme. He was told at Little Hayfield about his attitude in the matter, but he considered it a great expense, and they must have an estimate from a reliable man, and they must also put the matter before the ratepayers. If 3d. per house was charged the ratepayers would not suffer from it in the end. **There were about 250 houses already supplied with water, who perhaps only paid 1d.** ; It was possible they would have to be taxed. The water scheme seemed a little thing, but it would have to be a large one, and the ratepayers ought to be consulted on the matter.

Doctor Ashurst said he was on the committee, but Mr Wypenny knew things which he had not heard mentioned, he seemed to have taken great pains to get the information .

Mr Wimpenny said he was on the District Council, who were dealing with the matter, and doctor Ashurst was only on the Parish Council .

The matter was further discussed, after which the members rose.

## **20 December 1895-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **The Hayfield Water Scheme**

A report and plans on the Hayfield and Little Hayfield water Scheme were submitted by Mr Bancroft, engineer.

Various suggestions were given by the engineer as to the gauging of the water supply, and also as to the cutting of channels. A letter was read from Mr Sumner's agent giving permission for the cutting of certain channels.

Discussion ensued during which the plans were considered.

Mr Bancroft reported that he had examined the ground, about Carr Meadow, and found it full of water. He had holes dug, and found an abundance of water. But this might decrease in dry weather it was necessary the trial should be for a longer period, and he also advocated a trench being dug for the purpose. The cost would be about £20. Without such trench the Local Government Board would not agree to the scheme. Then there was the question of obtaining the leave of Mr Sumner. He had

written to Mr Sumner who had no objections to it. There were also three springs at Hollingworth Head. One (a) had a yield of 12,485 gallons in 2 1/2 hours, another (b) 22,244 gallons, and (c) 65,256 gallons per day.

## **17 January 1896-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Hayfield Water Scheme.**

A lengthy conversation took a to the Hayfield water scheme and what affect the supply, if got from Harry Moor, would have upon the Kinder Printing Company .

Mr Wimpenny said he was afraid it would materially cripple the supply to the Printing Company, a privilege they had enjoyed for upwards of 30 years. It was also stated other firms would be interfered with.

The suggestion was thrown out as to whether it would be advisable to call a public meeting on the question.

The Clerk said before they called a meeting it would be better to see Mr Bancroft.

The Chairman said Mr Bancroft had gone into it, and he reported that there was a most desirable supply.

Mr Bagnall suggested a private meeting of the manufacturers and the Council be held first, then the public meeting.

Mr Ricketts said if they crippled the printing company they crippled the breadwinners and the whole industry of the community.

The Chairman asked what could they get from a private meeting, they were not under any legal obligation, it was a matter of policy and looking into the best interests of the village. The thing was that no one would be able to express a more unbiased opinion then the men who were earning their living at the works that might be affected. Any question of compensation could not be entertained.

Mr Wimpenny said there was not the quantity of water there used to be.

Mr Ricketts said that the manufacturers were highly rated, and they were entitled to a high percentage of consideration.

It was decided to hold a private meeting of the Council with the engineer and the manufacturers, and afterwards to hold a public meeting.

The private meeting was fixed for tonight [Friday.]

## **24 January 1896-G-Sheffield Independent**

### **Hayfield Sewage and Water**

The Rural District Council of Hayfield have under their consideration a scheme for the supply of the township of Hayfield with water from a source in Kinder. The sewage and sewage disposal works are

about to be commenced and the plans of Mr Bancroft, CE, having been adopted and a loan of £5900 pounds procured .

## **14 February 1896-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Hayfield Water**

It is with great pleasure that I learn there is a probability of a pure and abundant water supply being provided for hayfield, and can be applied to neighbouring districts if required, as the spring from which it comes is capable of supplying a population of many thousands. If this is carried out it will prove a great boon to the inhabitants of Hayfield, as **their present water supply is not satisfactory, being liable to pollution,** and in the majority of cases inconvenient, owing to distance, to obtain.

### **The Water Scheme**

A long conversation took place on the Hayfield water scheme, as to whether it would be advisable to pay Mr Bancroft a reasonable Commission to prepare an approximate estimate on the scheme. It was at last decided that he have the authority to lay water gauges at the various wells to get the quantity of running water, and that he also prepare sections of a reservoir at Carr Meadow on the same terms as at Kinder. Power was given to him to test the ground whatever necessary. The decision took the form of two resolutions, which were both unanimously carried.

## **20 May 1896-F-Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

### **Hayfield Rural District Council.**

This body held its monthly meeting on Monday, Mr Gee, Chairman. Action was taken in the repair of public domestic well at Band Walk , Hayfield, Mr Wimpenny saying that great roots of trees had forced themselves through the concreted joints , which caused pollution . The Sanitary Inspector having reported the deposit of refuse in the river, instructions were given to him to summon anyone caught before the Council, and also place notices of prohibition. Mr. Turner gave notice that when the Council met meet the engineers for the sewage scheme, they take into consideration question of the water supply to Hayfield.

## **17 June 1896-E-Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

### **Hayfield Water Scheme**

A lengthy discussion took place on the Hayfield water scheme, motions were carried, authorising Mr Bancroft, engineer, Manchester, to prepare two plans of the schemes at Kinder and Carr Meadow, in addition to the construction of reservoirs.

## **19 June 1896-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **The Hayfield water Scheme**

Mr J Barber wrote a letter expressing his opinion on the above subject, and also stating that he should not be able to attend the meeting.

A short discussion ensued on the matter, Mr Wimpenny saying that no one yet knew the cost of the scheme, and they wanted to get that. The Mersey and Irwell Committee pressed them, but they would do no good unless they could get land the same way as they [the Mersey and Irwell Committee] did. The cost would be too much.

Mr. Turner said the work wanted doing.

### **13 February 1897-G-Sheffield Independent**

#### **Water Schemes for Hayfield**

The Rural District Council have, through their engineers Messrs Bancroft and Sons, prepared two schemes for the supply of water to Hayfield, but it is not yet known which of these will be accepted. The most expensive provides for a reservoir in the valley at the foot of Kinder, and the other draws the supply from the moors above Park Hall. The council have not yet made their choice.

### **22 April 1898-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

#### **The Water**

The Clerk said he had instructed Mr Gee to send samples of water from Nether End Well to the County Analyst, and also to post notices at the Little Hayfield well, warning people against using it. He thought some steps should be taken to have the latter Well closed, as it was supposed to be polluted by organic matter from the tip.

Doctor Ashurst thought the notice was sufficient, and the matter then dropped, it being stated that if the water was used after that it would serve them right.

The Clark said he but wished to point out their position in the matter.

### **3 March 1899-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

#### **The Water Scheme**

The Clerk said the Hayfield water scheme had been on the agenda for four times now, and no Hayfield members came to the meetings.

Mr Wimpenny thought it was too bad. There was Mr. Wilson, who had only been about three times in the year.

The Chairman said if they did not turn up better they would have to get the assistance of the Mellor gentleman in the matter. [Laughter.] Still he thought they might give them another chance.

The Clerk suggested a special meeting be called for Friday evening to deal with the matter, and the other Hayfield members be especially asked to attend because of the great importance of the matter.

Mr Jowett moved that, and Mr Wood seconded.

Carried.

The cost of the scheme is £8020.

## **13 September 1899-G-Sheffield Independent**

### **Hayfield Rural**

Mr J T Gee presiding on Monday evening over the fortnightly meeting, held at Hayfield.

Doctor Bennett, Medical Officer of Health, reported that an efficient water supply for Hayfield was urgently needed, and he considered it his duty to recommend that provision be made with as little delay as possible.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, saying they would direct that a public inquiry be held into the application for a loan to construct sewage works at Mellor.

A cheque for £145 was made out to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for interest on a loan.

It was ordered that the plans and estimates of the engineer for the Hayfield Water Scheme be sent to the Local Government Board.

## **10 November 1899-E-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Boring for Water at Hayfield**

The Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board, in which they refused to sanction a loan of £400 required for special boring purposes at Hayfield, in connection with the proposed water scheme. They would sanction a loan on a specific boring, on being furnished with the details, but not to the amount applied for.

Mr Bancroft, engineer, attended, and explained his proposals respecting the borings and what he considered was necessary, and the cost to be incurred.

A letter was read from Mr Joseph Pollitt, Clerk to the New Mills Urban District Council, with regard to the water supply from Carr Meadow, Hayfield, and as it was stated there would be water sufficient to supply over 90,000 people according to the statement of a competent engineer, the Council asked for a conference with the Hayfield and Mellor District Council, with a view to a joint water supply for the two places .

Mr Wimpenny opposed the holding of a conference, of not been of very practical value. He thought that if the Urban Council only bored deep enough in their own district, they had plenty of water. He thought the reason of Hayfield's prosperity was through having a good supply of water. Probably by boring one or 200 feet they might tap some of their springs. He should be disposed to move that Hayfield Council be content to supply their own people, and let the letter lie on the table. Boring was open to everyone, and probably plenty of water would be met with if they only went deep enough.

Mr Gee said that for the past six years he had been advocating obtaining a water supply from Kinder. Of course there would have to be the impounding of the various streams, and provision made for the Printworks, etc., on the line of the supply in the district. He thought that Mr Bancroft would back him out in showing that a good and sufficient supply could be got from Kinder.

After further discussion, Mr Gee moved that the Councils have a conference on the subject, they could hear what their proposals on the subject were, and both would be a wiser for it.

Mr Ricketts expressed himself as favourable to Mr Gee's opinion, but thought there would be hindrances in the way.

Mr Wimpenny moved an amendment that the lie on the table

Mr Woods thought the New Mills people had had enough with the Rowarth scheme, and their journey to London in tall hats for nothing, but loss.

Mr Gee remarked that seeing New Mills had failed in their Parliamentary application, he could see no harm in having a conference with them. He saw nothing to prevent them coming to Kinder for water.

Mr Bancroft considered that a joint scheme would be cheaper than by one authority only.

Mr Wood: Marple buy their water from Stockport. If the Hayfield people got water could they not sell it to New Mills?

Mr Wimpenny argued that New Mills was continually increasing, and that it was therefore advisable they should have a good supply for themselves.

Mr Gee held that that a better understanding between them might be had by a conference.

Mr Wimpenny believed Mr Sumner would not give them any area they required.

Mr Gee: he would sell it probably.

As there was no seconder to either the motion or amendment, both fell.

Mr Gee considered that the council were scarcely acting in a neighbourly spirit. The New Mills people might refuse to take their sewage at Birch Vale.

Mr Wimpenny did not consider there was much to deal with. There were houses in Hayfield which they could not sewer.

The matter then dropped.

## **22 June 1900 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Engineer's Payment**

A letter was put in from Mr H Bancroft applying on behalf of the firm for payment of £61 8s 6d for professional services in connection with the Hayfield water supply. It was stated that as yet none of the three or four schemes – the Carr Meadow, the Harry Moor, or the other named, had been adopted, or submitted to the Local Government Board. – It was decided that the Clerk should have an interview with Mr F H Bancroft with a view to some understanding being arrived at. – It was stated that £100 had practically been expended already. - Mr Wimpenny thought that it was better than spending £2000, like New Mills and getting nothing.

## **The Proposed Boring Operations**

Several tenders were received in reply to an advertisement for the prices etc, of boring a given depth in search of water. The lowest was about £250. As the Council had only got sanction to borrow £150, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Gee, seconded by Mr Wimpenny, that the Clerk should write to the Local Government Board stating their difficulty and asking for sanction to increase the loan to £350.

## **14 August 1900 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Engineers Account**

The Clerk said there was now Mr Bancroft's account of £61 8s 6d for the services rendered in connection with Hayfield water supply. It had been referred from the last meeting for further information. – The Clerk had read the minutes, showing that so long ago as July 1895, on the motion of Mr Ricketts, seconded by Mr John Barber, a resolution was passed for a better water supply for Hayfield, and Mr Bancroft was engaged to report at the charge of £3 12s 6d. The matter was gone into very closely, and it was shown that the late Mr Bancroft had been engaged to prepare schemes from Harrymoor and Carr Vale respectively at 10 guineas each, such to merge in the commission in the case of either of the schemes being carried out. In September, 1897, he received instructions to amend the Carr Meadow scheme at a cost of 10 guineas.

Mr Bradbury humorously suggested that they should get another scheme or two prepared.

Mr Wimpenny said it was far better to £80 in that than £3,000 in law as New Mills had done.

The Chairman said the Carr Vale scheme and also the amended scheme were proved impracticable. Of the other items, £10 7s was actually money paid out of pocket, his father attended four meetings at which there was no quorum.

Mr Wimpenny: Quite right, and I would like to make them pay for it. They ought to attend.

In the course of discussion, Mr Gee said if he must have had his way he should have gone in for the joint scheme with New Mills.

Mr Wimpenny said whichever of the two schemes they had adopted they would have got into trouble, and he was not going to spend two or three thousand pounds in law, as at New Mills.

Mr Ricketts said it is easy to go against judgement, but met against interest. He moved the account to be paid, and Mr Wimpenny seconded, remarking that he thought they had got off very cheaply. – The resolution was agreed to, it being understood that 10 guineas be merged in the commission when the scheme was carried out.

## **24 August 1900 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Council**

#### **Questions of Charges**

The members of the Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Council, after two previous adjournments without a quorum, met on Friday evening in the Congregational Hall, Marple Bridge, and the Clerk



was successful in obtaining the necessary quorum. Mr J T Gee, JP, presided, there were also present: Messrs A B Wimpenney, Wm Jowett, R R Wood, the Rev R B Ricketts, and the Clerk (Mr J R Bowden). – The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the agenda business was proceeded with.

### **Sanitary Matters.**

Mr John Fox Gee read his monthly report of the sanitary state of Hayfield. The water supply was good. ....

### **Heavy Water Charges**

The Council considered the account previously sent to them for payment by Mr Henry Bancroft and son (Mr F H Bancroft) for work done in connection with the proposed water supply of Hayfield. – Mr Bancroft explained that the items which made up the bill of £61 8s 6d, and the Clerk pointed out that there were four things or portions of work, which had been done under the authority of the Council, and for which charges were made.

The Chairman remarked that the Local Government Board refused to sanction the Carr Meadow scheme.

The Clerk said that was so.

Mr Jowett saw no way out but by paying the bills.

The Chairman could hardly see that way altogether.

Mr Wood asked what the Local Government Board would accept.

Mr Wipenny observed that was a difficult thing to say.

The Chairman understood that Mr Bancroft was to provide them with a scheme likely to be acceptable to the local Government Board, but had not done so.

Mr Wimpenney said they had authorised Mr Bancroft about the bore holes.

The chairman considered that as the schemes had proved abortive they should hardly be called on to pay.

Mr Jowett moved that Mr F H Bancroft be asked to meet the Council for explanations of the bill. After some casual remarks from Mr Wood and others, the motion was seconded and carried.

The Chairman expressed himself as anxious to deal fairly in the matter.

### **The Bore Holes.**

An amended tender was received from one of the firms for the boring operations at Hayfield. They recommended a 12 inch instead of a 9" inch pipe inserted, so as to give greater volume of water. – A letter was read from the Local Government Board in reply to one addressed to them asking the loan proposed at £250 to be increased to £350 for water boring purposes. They required particulars of the increases to be supplied before giving their sanction. – The acceptance of the tender for boring

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was held over, and the Engineer was ordered to be applied for particulars of the work requiring an increased loan.

## **1 February 1901 B Manchester Courier**

### **Stockport Water Scheme Opposed.**

At a meeting of the owners and ratepayers of New Mills District to give consent to the opposition to the Stockport Water Bill a resolution was carried empowering the Council to oppose the Stockport Corporation, and giving sanction to the costs incurred by such opposition. It was urged by several of the speakers that if the Stockport Bill were passed, it should be on the condition that the County Borough supplies New Mills and Hayfield districts with water.

## **1 February 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield water and the Stockport bill**

A bill of costs for work done for Mr F J Sumner in connection with the water schemes for Hayfield by Mr C Davis was agreed to be asked for to be held over for some time. The Clerk produced a mass of correspondence respecting the manner in which it was suggested the Council should deal with the Stockport Corporation in regard to their proposed bill before Parliament for taking the Hayfield water. After a long discussion in committee it was resolved that Mr Hodgson engineer should have consultation with the Hayfield members of the council. It was also subsequently agreed that the clerk should have authority for taking up the necessary steps to offer by petition opposition to the Stockport Water Bill.

## **24 May 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Water Question at Hayfield**

The Clerk produced a mass of correspondence which had been received on the water question, and the engagement of Council in the opposition to the Stockport Corporation's Bill. It was considered most extraordinary that Stockport should want to come to Hayfield, take the water there, and then charge 8d per 1,000 gallons for supplying Hayfield, in addition to the latter laying the necessary mains. They were advised that a much cheaper supply could be got by opposing Stockport's great scheme, as it was the terms offered were similar if not worse than those for New Mills. The bill before parliament was not likely to be bought forward now till after Whitsuntide when the new Council would be represented properly in opposition to the Stockport proposals.

## **17 June 1901 B Manchester Evening News**

### **Stockport's Water Supply.**

Today the House of Lords committee presided over by Lord Pirbright, resumed the consideration of the Stockport Corporation Water Bill.

At the outset of the proceedings the chairman remarked that they did not require to hear any more evidence. There was only one point and that was with regard to the supply to Mr Sumner and to Little Hayfield.

Mr Pember, K C, said a clause had been inserted protecting Mr Sumner's rights and providing that his water supply should not be interfered with. The water which went to him would [Counsel presumed] go down to Little Hayfield in the same as it had done hitherto. If there was any doubt about it he was willing to put in any words which would make it clear.

Mr Littler KC, addressing the committee on behalf of the Hayfield District Council, said that the only reason why Stockport came to Parliament was in order to play "dog in the Manger" to Oldham, who wanted water more urgently than Stockport, and were looking to the same district for their supply. Stockport admittedly would not require this water until 1909. Why, then, should Stockport take away from Hayfield water which it had no right for a supply which was not immediately required? Let Hayfield supply itself and let Stockport take all the rest of the water in the district if it wanted it.

Mr Ram KC. announced that the opposition of the Calico Printers Association was practically settled the committee found that the preamble was proved.

## **18 June 1901 B Manchester Courier**

### **Stockport Water Supply**

#### **Preamble of the Bill Proved**

The House of Lords committee [Lord Pirbright presiding] yesterday resumed the consideration of the Stockport Water Bill. At the commencement of the proceedings the Chairman intimated that the Committee did not require to hear evidence except as to the supply to Little Hayfield.

Mr Pember KC, said that the clause had been inserted providing that Mr Sumner's water supply should not be interfered with, and that the water that went to him would go to Little Hayfield in the same way that it had done hitherto. If the words used did not cover that, he was willing to make them do so.

Mr Littler KC in addressing the committee on behalf of the Hayfield District Council, said that the only reason why Stockport came to Parliament was in order to play the dog in the manger to Oldham, which wanted water more urgently than Stockport, and were looking to the same district for their supply. Stockport admittedly would not require water until 1909. Why then should Stockport take away from Hayfield water to which it had no right for a supply which was not immediately required? Let Hayfield supply itself, and let Stockport take all the rest of the water in the district if it wanted it. Mr Pember, KC, replied on behalf of the Stockport Corporation.

The committee found the preamble of the bill proved. With regard to the suggested clause that Heaton Norris should have the option of withdrawing within a certain period, the committee found that this should not be inserted. As to Hayfield, they were of opinion that the clause should be amended so as to retain for Little Hayfield their present supply free, and that Hayfield should receive 100,000 gallons a day at cost price. After the opposition of Grove Mills, the Chairman stated that

there should be no amendment such as was suggested. It was announced that the terms had been arrived at between the promoters and the Calico Printers Association.

## **21 June 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield on the Qui Vive.**

I like a plucky man, but when he is neatly caught in a state of somnolence, is nearly floored, and then rushes after the offender for a decisive reckoning and to recover lost prestige – well, I cannot belaud his smartness or his alertness in the first instance. Thrice he is prepared that hath his weather eye wide open. At Hayfield they are now going in tooth and nail to obtain an adequate water supply under the provisions of the Stockport Water Bill, which during the past few days has been under the consideration of the House of Lords committee. And luckily for the place, Hayfield and its district has not come badly out of the ordeal. Under the circumstances, the authorities have done very well indeed. But why in the name of all that is feasible should the Peak District of Hayfield and New Mills which has really the first right to the excellent water of that locality, have to play second fiddle to a Neighbouring town! The up to date requirement of the neighbourhood ought to have been met long ago. The result is that they have now to be content with as large slice of the cake as they can get.

### **Why**

“Why should Stockport take away from Hayfield water to which it had no right for a supply which was not immediately required!” “Let Hayfield supply itself, and let Stockport take all the rest of the water in the district if it wanted it.” Thus counsel to the House of Lords committee. Good! But most of us know the advantage of scoring first point. The preamble of the Stockport bill has being found proved, giving point No. 1 to the Cheshire borough. I have noticed in the past that in the columns of the “Chronicle” some such result as the stepping in of an outsider has being repeatedly foretold, and knowing that the envious eyes were directed towards the Kinder District supply, Hayfield and New Mills were urgently advised to be prepared for eventualities, and be first with an undertaking. And a scheme might have been evolved from all the endless discussions of the past years. An ounce of action is not infrequently worth a ton of talk.

### **Hayfield’s Terms.**

The Hayfield Rural District Council represented that there is “an urgent want” of a proper supply of water in their District, and that all the available sources of supply are proposed to be taken by the Stockport Bill. They therefore asked for a clause giving them power to take so much water as might be necessary for their purposes, the estimate being 60,000 to 100,000 gallons a day. As I have just suggested, Hayfield under all the circumstances cannot be said to have done badly under the clauses approved. The committee were of opinion that one clause should be amended so as to retain the Little Hayfield their present supply free, and that Hayfield should receive 100,000 gallons a day at cost price. It was further announced that the terms had been arrived at between the promoters and the Calico Printers Association for compensation water. The chief question now is, how long will the district have to wait for the scheme!

## **22 June 1901 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

### **Hayfield Rural**

#### **A Scene**

An important meeting of this Council was held on Thursday evening, in the Board Schools at Hayfield. Mr. W. Jowett, J.P., in the chair. During the consideration of business affecting Mellor, one the representatives of that parish:

Mr. W. Bradbury, told the Rev. R. R. Ricketts, Vicar of Hayfield, not to be impertinent. He added: Mind your own business. I am quite tired of you. Just you sit on him, Mr. Chairman. I am sick of you.

Mr. Ricketts: Go out of the room then.

Mr. Bradbury: You are an impertinent man, and I shall not be played with by you. I have had quite plenty of you.

Mr. Ricketts: I have had plenty of you.

It was reported that there had been several more cases of scarlet fever in Hayfield. The water supply was never so bad as at present. Dr Manley, the Medical Inspector for the Local Government Board, had made an inspection of the in the district, and a very strong report might be expected. – It was decided to enclose and plant the open space at Bridge End, Hayfield. The shocking insanitary condition of the village of Little Hayfield was discussed, and it was decided to carry out a scheme of sewerage.

## **12 July 1901 B Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

A week's work by four men has resulted in a permanent supply of water for Little Hayfield, for which people have been agitating for many years. Pipes have been laid from Park Hall Moor to the village.

## **26 July 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield Notes**

With regard to the Stockport Water Bill, the committee of the House of Lords, presided over by Sir Frederick Godson, have decided that a clause should be inserted providing that the present supply to Little Hayfield should be replaced by The Corporation free of cost if and whenever it was interfered with. The committee also inserted a proviso to the effect that when The Corporation constructed Kinder Works the water supplied to Hayfield should be at a price not exceeding 4 1/2d per 1,000 gallons. In the meantime nothing in the act was to prevent the Council of Hayfield from supplying its District with water from the Coldwell Springs, and such works so constructed as were rendered useless when the Corporation undertook the supply of Hayfield should be purchased at a price not exceeding £1000. Mr Littler asked for costs, but the committee refused them, and passed the preamble of the Bill.

This clause which has been inserted in the Stockport Corporation water bill is a very important one to Hayfield and Little Hayfield. It has practically tied the hands of Stockport and given to Hayfield the full use of both their arms and hands. What I mean by that is that this: if Stockport Corporation interfere with little Hayfield's present supply, they will be compelled to supply them with water free of cost: if the Council of Hayfield wish to supply their own District with water from the Coldwell Springs they can do so; if any existing water works in Hayfield are rendered useless Stockport are compelled to purchase them, and, with all this they are compelled to supply Hayfield with water at a price not exceeding 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per 1000 gallons. These conditions are very satisfactory, but it would have been more satisfactory if the district had had its own waterworks instead of playing second fiddle to another authority.

## **2 August 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield Notes**

People in Hayfield are that the terms for supplying Hayfield with water by Stockport Corporation are considered satisfactory by the Parliamentary Committee of the Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Council.

## **29 November 1901 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Mellor Affairs**

Mr J Mellor presented his Monthly report upon the sanitary matters At Mellor. ....

The water supply of Cheetham Hill, Mellor was being improved, and when that was done the supply would be good from there to Marple Bridge, with the exception of a few houses at New House Mill. The Holy Wood water had not again been analysed, as delay had been desired by Mr Bradbury. In reply to this statement, Mr Bradbury reminded the Council that on a previous occasion the water had been dealt with, and then Lord Howard's agent asked that the council should pipe the water over the polluting area, and pay him a yearly acknowledgement. It was only a waste of time to discuss the matter again. The Chairman suggested a compromise by an offer of half the cost of the work being made to Lord Howard's agent instead of a yearly acknowledgment being paid. On moving this Mr Bradbury seconded it, and the Clerk was directed to write accordingly.

### **Hayfield Water Boring**

A letter was read from Mr Bancroft, engineer, stating that there were some accounts due for boring and searching for water at Little Hayfield. They could let them stand over, in view of future work being required from them. The council thought they should pay up any accounts owing, and it was decided that the Clerk write the engineer for his account to date. Some other water questions were dealt with in committee.

## **28 February 1902 B Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

**Water supply of Hayfield:** I am aware that you have devoted much attention to the matter of water supply during the last few years, and that important negotiations are now proceeding which will enable your engineer very shortly to get to work on the Harry Moor scheme. I trust that you will

be successful in your negotiation, and that this year important steps will be taken to obtain a plentiful and wholesome supply of water for Hayfield. The arrangements made with the Stockport Corporation was a valuable one, and I understand that you can at any time after it is ready obtain a supply at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d per 1000 gallons from the Kinder Watershed.

**Little Hayfield:** I know that this matter has received your considerable attention, and that favourable progress is being made with it. I understand the temporary arrangement made some time ago with Mr Sumner for supply from his Park Hall reservoir is being made permanent, and that you hope at an early date is to lay distributory mains throughout the Little Hayfield District. I trust that this will be completed during the present year.

**Mellor:** the water supply to Mellor continues to be quite satisfactory.

## **24 June 1902 B Manchester Courier**

### **Hayfield's Water Scheme**

Hayfield having been for a considerable time passed urgently in need of a water supply, the District Council having adopted a scheme prepared by their engineer, Mr Hodgson, for fetching the water from Harrymoor, and have asked the Local Government Board to sanction their borrowing of £5000 in order to carry out the work.

## **27 June 1902 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **The Water Scheme**

The Clerk reported that Mr Watts had refused the Council the lease of a plot of land about 20 yards square, where the Council wanted to construct a tank to receive water from Harrytown or Kinder. He also approached the adjoining landowners on the question, and the Calico Printers Association had written to say that they would grant the Council 100 square yards for pipes and roadway for the lease of 21 years at £1 a year. That meant a wayleave of about 30 yards, and there would be the tank about 10 yards square, 10 feet deep and a concrete cover. (approx. 55,000 gals) Continuing, Mr Bowden said he would not advise the Council to accept such a short lease as had been offered them. It ought to be in perpetuity, because it would be part of their permanent scheme. It was decided to accept the terms subject to a lease which would be acceptable to the Local Government Board. Mr Gee moved, Mr Turner seconded, and it was carried that the plans and estimates of the Harry Moor scheme be adopted and sent to the Local Government Board for approval. The Clerk said Mr Hodgson's was £4,642 and immediately after they have taken a gallon of water from Kinder - from the Stockport Corporation - that body would have to pay a maximum of £1000. It was decided, on the motion of Mr Gee, seconded by Mr Wimpenny, to apply to the Local Government Board for borrowing powers for £5,000 to carry out the scheme.

### **In Committee.**

The council then went into committee to consider the cost of opposing the Stockport water scheme in Parliament.

## **28 June 1902 B Manchester Courier**

### **Hayfields Water Scheme**

Hayfield having been for a considerable time past urgently in need of a water supply, the District Council have adopted a scheme prepared by their engineer, Mr Hodgson, for fetching the water from Harry Moor, and have asked the Local Government Board to sanction their borrowing £5000 in order to carry out the work.

## **14 August 1902-F-Manchester Evening News**

### **Water Supply of Hayfield.**

At a recent meeting of the Hayfield Rural District Council the Clerk presented a bill of £1492, the cost of opposing the Stockport Corporation water scheme from Kinder watershed, and it was decided to apply to the Local Government Board for borrowing powers for £6492 to pay the bill, and also to carry the Harry Moor water scheme. It was decided to supply one portion of the village from the Park Hall Moors, and some time ago it was stated that Mr Sumner would give the water, but it now appears that the Council is paying the yearly sum for it, after having passed votes of thanks to Mr Sumner for his generosity. This action was severely criticised at last night's meeting, and it was described as a dramatic movement on the part of Mr Sumner to obtain compensation in case Stockport secured the water.

Mr Doyle said it was a dodge, and the Council had been duped.

Mr Bowden: It has proved a farce.

Mr Doyle: It was a farce from beginning to end.

It was stated that the supply for Little Hayfield was now permanent.

## **19 November 1902 B Nottingham Evening Post**

The Local Government Board, after an inquiry held by one of their inspectors, have sanctioned the Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Councils application to borrow £6492 [ which includes £1492 for opposing the Stockport Corporation Water Bill ] for a scheme to supply Hayfield with water.

## **20 December 1902 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph.**

### **Hayfield Rural**

The monthly meeting of this council was held on Thursday evening. Mr W Jowett JP, in the chair. A resolution of sympathy was passed with the Clerk, Mr. J R Bowden, in his serious illness.

Mr Hughes-Hallatt, Clerk to the Derbyshire County Council, wrote asking, in view of the recent census returns, whether the Council wished for revised representation on the District Council. This provoked a discussion on the remarkable dip the population of Hayfield, Mr Wimpenny remarking that the population had decreased 300, and there are at present 70 empty houses. It was ordered that an agreement be prepared with Messrs. Hodgson, engineers for the Harrymoor water scheme.



## **26 December 1902 B Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Engineers and the Council**

The engineers for the Hayfield Water scheme from Harry Moor, Messrs Hodgson, submitted a revised agreement between them and the Council to do the work for 5 per cent commission on the cost of work, 5 Guineas per day for such work as attending and inquiries, arbitrations, etc, and ordinary travelling expenses. They undertook to provide a Clerk of Works, and be responsible for the work which he did. It was resolved to ask Mr Jordan, the clerk's partner to complete the agreement on behalf of the Council.

## **27 March 1903 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Council**

The monthly meeting of the above Council was held at Marple Bridge on Thursday evening last, Mr Wm. Jowett, JP, Chairman, presiding.

The Clerk reported that the petition from the Council against the North Western Electricity Bill, etc, had been lodged in the House of Commons. There were 48 petitions against the bill. It is likely that the protective clauses for Hayfield would be inserted, as the result of a conference with one of the promoters. It was decided to sell by auction some property owned by the Council at Alley Road, Hayfield. The council agreed to accept the tender of Josiah Dale, to lay the Hayfield water mains, etc, for £3,794 4s 6d. This tender was £400 below the engineers estimate.

## **10 April 1903 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

### **The Hayfield Water Scheme**

The Rural District Council of Hayfield are about to construct waterworks, and have accepted a tender for conveying the water from the well known Coldwell Springs to the village much lower than the estimate of their own engineer. At Wednesday's meeting of the parish council a strong protest was made against the District Council accepting a tender lower by £422 than the estimate of their own Engineer. Mr Doyle said for any public body to encourage sweating would be a disgrace and scandal, and he gave notice to move that it is desirable that all contracts given out by the Rural District Council should contain a fair contracts clause.

## **08 May 1903 B Alderley & Wilmslow Advertiser**

### **Another Development in the Water Question**

#### **Commendable Action by the Company**

We have to report another development in the ancient Knutsford water question. Negotiations are now in progress between the Light and Water Company and the Corporation of Stockport for the latter body to supply the town of Knutsford with water. The company have applied to Stockport with reference to terms, and the estimate of the daily requirement to be from 300,000 to 400,000 gallons. We are informed that the Stockport Water Engineer has been instructed to prepare a report on the subject for the guidance of the water committee of the Town, and it is expected that the

supply will be obtained from the new waterworks at Hayfield. The water company have striven hard against an almost overwhelming number of critics and are glad to notice that they are again showing themselves far from worthy of this unjust criticism. Throughout they have done their utmost and spent money to provide the people of Knutsford with pure water, but they, like many others have not pleased everyone. There have been many though who have admired them for doing their best in the matter, and we find that as soon as they have done all they can in the locality they are now approaching a Corporation who are well able to supply the wants of the town.

*(comment from John Simpson: Hayfield to supply Knutsford it seems too far?)*

## **28 August 1903 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Water Schemes.**

There are now about 150 navvies employed in the construction of the Stockport Corporation's Waterworks at Kinder. Plant, such as small locomotive engines, and wagons, are arriving nearly every day. In connection with the **Hayfield water scheme, some miles of pipes have been laid from Harry Moor to the village. Some sectional pipes (small pipes to the Houses from the main) have also been laid.**

## **4 September 1903 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Water Scheme.**

As it is understood that the Little Hayfield water scheme has been completed, the residents are wondering why the water is not being turned on. Workmen are employed on various parts of the general water scheme, but there will be no work at Harry Moor until October, when the grouse shooting ends.

## **22 June 1906 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

A Council having asked the Cooperative holidays Association to bear a portion of the cost of a **filter at Little Hayfield for the water supply**, the Secretary wrote declining, on the ground that they did not draw water from that source. A similar request had been made to Mr F. J. Sumner, who replied that he was not prepared to pay one third of the cost of the filter, but would render any reasonable assistance in preventing the water from being discoloured in wet weather. Mr Turner said that he was in favour of Harry Moor water being taken to Little Hayfield. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the engineer asking whether the water could be got to Little Hayfield.

## **14 September 1906 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

The question of filtering the water used at Little Hayfield was referred to, but it was stated that the engineer was away, and that nothing had been done in the matter.

### **The Stockport Water Scheme.**

Mr Walter Bowden, who looks after the Council's interest in the laying of the water pipes for the Stockport Corporation, forwarded the following report: since my last report to you on the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, this work has been continuing in your District. The length from Bowden Bridge to Bank End has been completed with very little more exposure or interference with your water mains than already reported to you. The water mains along Alley Road have been exposed at intervals, but were properly supported before filling in. Then now remains very little of this work to be done on the road in your District, beyond a short length in Alley Road, and a similar piece at Bank End, together with the reinstating of the surface of the road throughout the entire length.

### **9 November 1906 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

#### **The Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

Messrs. Hodson, engineers to the Council, wrote stating that they had inquired into the proposal of Council to take Harrymoor water to Little Hayfield, and they were of opinion that if this were done it would not be effective.

Mr Turner said that if they could not have Harrymoor at Little Hayfield, the Park Hall water would have to be filtered.

Mr Gee: Then it would require daily attention.

Captain Wilkes: I don't think so.

The Chairman asked if the Council thought it would be advisable to have a hydraulic pump fixed.

Mr Whitehead: The Park Hall water is not fit for domestic purposes.

Mr Gee: It is bog water.

Mr Whitehead: I am certain it is not fit to drink.

Captain Wilkes: Is there no way of fitting a filter.

Mr Gee: Yes, but you would have to have it cleaned every day.

Captain Wilkes: Not at all; it would not need more than five minutes work a month.

On the motion of Mr Gee, seconded by Captain Wilkes, it was agreed to write to Messrs Mather and Platt asking for the estimate of the cost of a filter.

Mr Turner said he would like to have the levels tested and moved a resolution to this effect, but there was no seconder.

### **26 April 1907 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

#### **The Little Hayfield Water Supply**

Very strong complaints have been made at Little Hayfield as to the unsatisfactory water supply. The matter was mentioned at the District Council meeting on Monday, when Mr Turner said that the water did not come from Harrymoor, which supplied the other portion of the village, but from a

Spring on the moors, and it ran through an open channel for about 1500 yards. There had, Mr Turner continued, been suggestions made to remedy the existing state of things, one being to supply Little Hayfield with Harrymoor water, but there were several objections to this. Another suggestion was that the water be filtered, but they had made enquiries and discovered that not only would there be the cost of the filter, but it would need almost constant supervision. His suggestion was that they pipe the water from the Spring. Mr Whitehead was of opinion that the pressure from Harrymoor would be quite sufficient to supply the houses at Little Hayfield. Mr Turner contended that the pressure was not sufficient. After further discussion it was decided that the Hayfield members should visit the Spring next Friday, and inspect the course of the water from its course downwards, and report to the subsequent meeting of the Council.

## **19 July 1907 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Mellor Water Supply**

The Local Government Board wrote referring to the Medical Officers report and asking what have been done with regard to the Mellor water supply at Cheetham Hill and at Moor End, Mellor, and also the water supply at the Mellor School. These matters were referred to the Mellor members.

### **Little Hayfield Water Still Unsatisfactory**

The Council had before them samples of the Little Hayfield water from the stream, and after it had passed the filters.

Mr Turner: It is alright now when the weather is fine. It is when there has been plenty of rain that it gets dirty.

Mr Whitehead: The only remedy is to get a supply from Hayfield. There is only an improvement in dry weather. The water is of a yellowish colour, and that is the objection the people have to it.

Mr Turner: Some women talk of coming before the council about the matter, and I gave them every encouragement to do so.

Dr Ashurst: We don't want them here.

Mr Reekie: We cannot take Hayfield water up there. It won't go.

Dr Ashurst: It can be made to go. The people at Little Hayfield will never be satisfied until they get our supply from Harrymoor. There will be a grousing and a growling until they get it.

Mr Turner said he like to hear the letter read again which they had from the engineers.

The Clerk: I haven't got it here.

The matter was left over and the Water Inspector was instructed to report again at the next meeting.

## **16 August 1907 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Little Hayfield Water Supply**

The question of the unsatisfactory supply of water at Little Hayfield was discussed at considerable length. Samples of the water were produced.

Mr Turner said he did not want it to be understood that Little Hayfield people were drinking the water of which that was a sample. They refused to drink it.

The Chairman: Then what has been done up to the present as not been of much avail?

Mr Turner: No.

The chairman: You will have to go in for those filters yet.

Mr Gee: Either do that or get the water from another source.

Mr Reekie suggested that the samples of the water be taken at the springs and sent to the county analyst.

Mr Turner said that the water had already been analysed.

Mr Whitehead thought they ought to continue the water pipes from Hayfield to Little Hayfield. The most suitable land for the building purposes was that on the way to Glossop, but until there was a better water supply there would be no building.

The motion of Mr Reekie it was agreed to have the spring water analyzed, and get an estimate of the cost of laying pipes from Hayfield to Little Hayfield, and from the Springs to the present pipes.

## **14 August 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **The Water Act**

The Clerk stated that the Stockport Corporation Water Bill had now received the Royal ascent. It contained the following important clauses obtained by the council: The Council are to be entitled to continue and improve their existing works from Coldwell Springs, Harrymoor, but are not to use the surface water, and the present supply of water to Little Hayfield is not to be interfered with, and if interfered with, the Council are to be entitled to a free supply from The Corporation in respect to Little Hayfield. The council are not to be compelled to take water from the Corporation unless they (the Council) decide to do so. As soon as the Corporation have constructed the Kinder Water Works the Council can, if they choose, purchase water up to 100,000 gallons per day at a price not exceeding 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  d per 100,000 gallons. The corporation shall, if the council require them to do so, take over the works of the Council **from the Coldwell Springs, to the Balancing Tank at Kinder Bank,** at a sum to be agreed upon, not exceeding £2,000, but the council are not to have power to require the Corporation to take over such works in the event of the failure of the supply at Coldwell Springs from any other cause and the works of The Corporation. If and so far as proper and sufficient housing accommodation is not provided by private enterprise the Corporation are to provide the

same for the workman, and others employed by them, in the construction of the Works. For special expenses rate the tram Road through the Parish of Hayfield is to be assessed at its full rateable value, and not one fourth, as is the case with other tram road and railways. Proper and adequate clauses as to the working of the tram road, and of the protection of the public there from as to injuries and damage sustained by reason of such tram road are incorporated in the act for the benefit of the local Hayfield people. The Corporation are to pay the Council during such time as any of the rails remain on any Part of the public roads £5 per annum, And 60 guineas towards the costs of the council in opposing the Bill and obtaining clauses.

Mr Turner remarked that the Hayfield Council had got some good clauses inserted in the act.

The Clerk: Yes, I think they are very good particularly as regards the working of the tram way and the Harry Moor water supply. The agreement between the Corporation and the Council was that the clauses should not be made public until they had received the Royal ascent.

There was no further business.

*14 August 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter. (Another article)*

## **LGB Enquiry at Hayfield**

### **For the Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

#### **Engineers Statement**

So Hayfield and Mellor District Council having applied to the local government board for sanction to borrow £850 with which to improve the Little hayfield water supply, and inquiry into the application was held on Wednesday morning at the Council school, Hayfield, by Mr M K North, M Inst M.E., an inspector of the LGB.

There were also present Dr Ashurst, Messrs J Turner JP, J A Reekie JP, W Whitehead (deputy clerk), Hodgson (Engineer), A Godard (water rents collector), Luke Gartside, E Osbaldeston, Josiah Walton, A Warrington, Joe Howard, R Wood, and Dr Thomson, Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Deputy Clerk stated that the population of Hayfield in 1901 was 2614, and it was now estimated at 2914. The annual accessible value was £13,863 18s 9d, and the outstanding loans amounted to £11,891 14s 9d.

The inspector asked what the rate amounted to. An answer not being forthcoming, he remarked: "you seem to feel them very little" (Laughter)

D Ashhurst: We do feel them.

Eventually it was stated that the 1d produced £50.

The Engineer, Mr Hodgson, explained the scheme in detail. He said the reason for the application was that very serious complaints had been received by the Council in respect to the discoloration of the water supply to Little Hayfield, a portion of the district which was supplied at the present time by separate works. Little Hayfield took its water from works which were made by Mr Sumner at Park Hall. The Council made arrangements with Mr Sumner for a connection to the existing main, and out

of revenue laid a two inch main from Mr Sumner's main to a tank. At a later period a loan was obtained, and a small sand filter, with a surface tank adjacent to it were put down, and three inch mains were laid to supply the water to the inhabitants of Little Hayfield. It was at the time felt there would be no possibility of pollution of the water, but it had been found that in stormy weather the water became very much discoloured, largely by dissolved peat. As an ample supply of water was obtainable from the other scheme at Harrymoor, the council had decided to supply Harrymoor water to Little Hayfield. To give a good supply to Little Hayfield, it was now proposed to put down a small break-pressure tank above the Hayfield Balancing Tank, which would carry forward an ample supply of water from the Harry Moor Main to Little Hayfield. A four inch main would be added from Harrymoor to the new tank.

The Inspector: The old mains will supply the low level district as at present.

The Engineer: Yes. Continuing, Mr Hodgson said that there was a new service main to supply houses within the district which hitherto have not been able to obtain water either from the Harrymoor or Park Hall schemes. Harrymoor water was not subject to peat stain, as it was really obtained from an underground source. It was ample in quantity and of the highest quality. He found from the meter records that the highest supply for the week, was for the week-ending May 23<sup>rd</sup> last - 242,900 gallons. The supply available from Harrymoor was 600,000 gallons per day. Speaking of the scheme of the Stockport Corporation at Kinder, the Engineer said that in 1901 the Corporation came into the district and proposed to take all the available supplies. The Council successfully opposed this. In the first place, the Council was to have as much water as hitherto, and were also permitted to put down such works as they thought necessary for the supply of the district. The Corporation had recently been obtaining further power in the last session of Parliament and the original clauses had been altered. Hayfield was not to be compelled to take water from the Corporation, but if any of the Works executed by the Stockport Corporation affected the works of Hayfield Council, then The Corporation would have to supply Hayfield with water at a price not exceeding 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per thousand gallons and would pay £2,000 for the works of the Hayfield Council.

The Inspector: Are the Stockport works at all likely to affect Harry Moor?

The Engineer: I don't think they are.

The Inspector: supposing through some unforeseen clause, the Harry Moor supply entirely gave out, would Little Hayfield be able to have water from the Stockport scheme?

The Engineer: there is a question whether Stockport water would rise to Little Hayfield, but if it did not, we would then obtain water from the Little Hayfield stream.

Dr Thompson, on behalf of Dr Barwise, the County Medical Officer of Health, supported the application of the council and said that Dr Barwise objected to the discoloration of the water at present supplied to Little Hayfield.

There was no objection to the application and the Inspector and the officials of the Council then went to inspect the Works of the Council.

## **9th October 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **CPA and the Council.**

A letter was read from Calico Printers Association asking when the council intended to complete the agreement for the purchase of land at Kinder Bank. On the motion of Mr Gee it was decided to request the CPA to let them matter stand over for a while.

### **The Waterworks Extensions. - Sanction of Loan.**

The Clerk Submitted a letter from the local government board, sanctioning a loan of £850 for the Hayfield Waterworks extensions.

Mr Bowden said he had written to the Public Works Loan Board, who were prepared to advance the loan, the rate of interest to be 3½ percent per annum, and the repayment to be spread over a period of 30 years. It was resolved to negotiate the loan on these terms.

## **6th November 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Engineers Important Report.**

Mr W Jowett JP, Presided at the monthly meeting of the Hayfield and Mellor water District Council held at the Workhouse, Low Leighton, on Monday. There were also present Messrs. J A Reekie JP, (vice chairman), J Turner JP, J T Gee, J W Sutton, H Wild, J R Bowden (Clerk), A Goddard (Deputy Clerk), and J Marsland (Sanitary Inspector).

### **Mellor Water Supply - Extension of the Hayfield Water Scheme.**

Mr Brady, The Engineer, presented our report with respect to the Mellor water supply, in which he said the yield varied considerably, but in dry periods had not come up with his expectations. The water there, however, would, with suitable Reservoir accommodation, suffice for the Higher portions of the district, what would not be sufficient to augment to any extent the existing supplies to the lower portion of the Parish, and from the information they had now been able to get of the flow to be expected he would not advise the Council to incur the outlay on a reservoir and the works at this point, although from the fact of it being at such an elevation as to command the whole of the district it would undoubtedly be the best place if the water was sufficient. In view of these conclusions he had been directing his inquiries as to the next best course to pursue. He found that there was a very good stream of water entering a pond just below Cobden house, evidently fed from a spring or springs just above this place. He had had this gauged this week, and found the flow to be at the rate of 21,600 gallons per 24 hours, and as the flow at the heading taken on the same day was 3,140 gallons per 24 hours, and taking into consideration the time we had been without rain, this might reasonably be taken as a dry weather flow. He thought practically the whole of the water now flowing into the pond could be traced and intercepted above Cobden House and a reservoir built, say in the field below Cobden house at a sufficient elevation to supply the houses at Moor End, nearly as far as the road leading from Longhurst Lane to Hill Top. This would leave out the property at Cheetham Hill, but he understood this was already supplied privately. There would be ample fall of course for the School and Church Villa. The supply from this source would be much more than would be required for the higher part of the district, which were at present without a supply, and



*Continued: 6th November 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.*

there would be a large surplus at the Council's disposal. This surplus could be utilized to augment the present supplies to the lower portions of the district which, I understood, were barely sufficient for the present requirements, and with the rapid increase in building which is taking place would be quite adequate in the next dry season. He thought it would be advisable for the Council to take into consideration the question of acquiring these supplies if they could be acquired on reasonable terms, and have the whole of the water supply of the parish in the Council's hands. This was a question of policy rather than engineering, and if the Council did not feel inclined to do this he would suggest that the deficiency in the private supplies which was certain to be experienced, might be made up by the water from Cobden. The owners of the present supplies taking water from the Council by meter, at a rate to be agreed upon.

The Clerk said he had another inquiry from the Local Government Board as to what was being done with the water supply at Mellor and Mellor School. He had replied that he had received a report from the engineers on the subject, and would lay it before the Council.

The Chairman: I think we should submit that report to the Local Government Board, and ask Mr Brady to prepare a scheme.

Mr Sutton: Before he prepares anything we should have a rate payers meeting at Mellor. They will have to find the money, and we should see what they have to say about it.

Mr Turner: It is a question for the Mellor people. They will have to have a water scheme.

Mr Sutton: What does Mr Arkwright want for his scheme? If the lower part were supplied we could arrange with the owners to supply the further end.

The Chairman: I think they have done what they could to supply the Lower End. We have the school to think about, too.

Mr Sutton: Can the vicar supply the school?

Mr Wild: No, he cannot.

The Chairman: It's no use trying to blink the matter. We shall have to have a water supply.

Mr Wild: There's the public school. There are two hundred scholars in attendance every morning and afternoon. There's no water in the place. What can we do? We shall have to get water somehow or other.

The Chairman: If it had been a very dry summer we should have had an epidemic.

Mr Sutton: We have had dry summers and have gone through them before.

The Chairman: It's not a question of other days. It is the present we have to think about.

Mr Gee made some remark about the school, to which Mr Sutton replied it would be cheaper to build a new school.

*Continued: 6th November 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.*

The Chairman: Don't talk nonsense, Mr Sutton!

Mr Sutton: It is no nonsense. It will cost a lot of money to carry the water there.

Mr Reekie: The question has been before the Mellor Council for at least 12 months. What scheme do the Mellor people want? They ought to know by now.

The Chairman: They don't want any scheme.

Mr Reekie suggested that the water should be analysed, so that they would be on the safe side.

The Chairman moved that this be done. Also, that the Engineer to be instructed to prepare a scheme, and a copy of his report, be sent to the Local Government Board.

Mr Wild seconded the resolution. The Hayfield members abstained from voting, and Mr Sutton voted against it. The resolution was carried by the votes of the mover and seconder only.

The Chairman said this water was not on his land, and he had been waiting for an opportunity of this sort.

The Engineer said his fees up to the present would be 10 Guinness. If he carried out the work this would be merged with the usual commission.

The Chairman: That is satisfactory.

It was decided to arrange the terms with the Engineer on lines similar to those in other schemes.

#### **Fire Hydrant at Hayfield.**

It's a Hayfield Parish Council asked that the hydrant which had been removed in Church Street, near the George Hotel, should be replaced in case there should be a fire.

Mr Goddard considered the next hydrant was too far away. It would be better to have it replaced. It was decided that the hydrant be replaced.

#### **Little Hayfield Water Supply**

The Public Works Loan Commissioners informed the Council they would lend them **£850 for the purpose of taking Harry Moor water to Little Hayfield** it would be repaid in 30 years, and the rate of interest was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent.

#### **A Cancelled Loan.**

The Local Government Board wrote with respect to the sanction to borrow £150 for water purposes. The Clerk explained that this was in April, 1900, when the Stockport Corporation bought in this Water Bill. The £150 was to try to find water at Harry Moor.

Mr Reekie: And never got the money?

The Clerk: No. It was never got.

The Council agreed to the sanction being cancelled.

*Continued: 6th November 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.*

#### **Tender for Little Hayfield Water.**

The Clerk said there were four tenders for the work of laying water mains to Little Hayfield. These were considered in committee, with Mr Bancroft, the Engineer. Mr Bancroft also discussed the Birch Vale sewerage question with a Council in committee.

#### **4th December 1908 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

##### **The Water Extensions.**

A meeting of the Rural District Council on Monday, the seal was affixed to the contracts of **Mr Herbert Ashley, for the Little Hayfield water extensions, the amount being £695 15s 6d.**

#### **29th January 1909 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

##### **Little Hayfield Water Supply.**

The seal of the Council was affixed to Mr Ashley's contract for the extension of the water supply to Little Hayfield.

##### **Mellor and a Public Water Supply.**

##### **Ratepayers' Meeting to be Called.**

A letter was read from the Mellor Parish Council stating that they had had an interview with a deputation from the District Council on the question of a public water supply for Mellor. They asked that the whole of the correspondence which the District Council had had on the matter should be laid before them. The Clerk said that there was a letter from the Local Government Board asking what steps were being taken by the District Council, and wanting to know the present position of the matter. The Chairman said they ought to do something in the matter. He suggested that the surveyor should have instructions to test the capacity of the Cobden house supply.

Mr Sutton: I think it should stand over until we have had a joint meeting with the Parish Council, to see what they say about it.

The Clerk said that with all respect to the Parish Council, he did not see how they could further the question by forwarding the whole of the correspondence to the Parish Council. The District Council was the authority to deal with the matter.

Mr Sutton: They have had it all. Mr Wild (a District Councillor) gave them a good report at their meeting.

Mr Whitehead: I think it is more a matter of courtesy than anything else that we are allowing them to have a voice in the matter.

The Clerk said he took the trouble to see Mr Wild before he went to the Parish Council meeting, and gave him a history of the Mellor water question from the commencement.

Mr Turner: Well, I think that ought to be quite sufficient.

The Clerk asked what reply must be given to the Local Government Boards letter requiring information of what was being done.

Mr Turner: We are doing nothing.

Mr Gee said he did not like to interfere with the business of another District, but he certainly thought they ought to give instructions for the Cobden house supply to be tested. It was about the only available spring, and the cost would not be very serious.

Mr Sutton remarked that the cost of testing another supply was £60. He thought it was a matter for the Mellor people to decide, and he suggested that the public meeting be called.

Mr Reekie: But they have appointed three representatives to transact their business for them.

Mr Sutton: Yes, but at the election there was no mention of any water. It has been sprung upon them since.

Mr Reekie: We cannot have an election just when something is wrong on the District.

Mr Gee: That Mellor water supply has been before the District for 15 years.

Mr Turner said that Hayfield people were like Mellor people - they did not want a public water supply, but now they were very glad they had one.

Mr Gee said that Mellor people were standing in their own light. The more buildings that were being erected the greater would be the rateable value to meet increased expenditure. If they would not do that which was required for the growth of the village they were cutting their own throats.

The Chairman moved, and Mr Turner seconded that the Engineer test the Cobden House supply.

Mr Sutton: I think Hayfield members ought not to interfere with Mellor business.

This Turner agreed that it was Mellor business, adding that Mellor was doing nothing to further it.

Mr Whitehead (to Mr Sutton): Do you want the Local Government Board to do it for you?

Mr Sutton: I don't think they will. I want the Chairman to call a meeting of Mellor ratepayers.

Mr Reekie: I don't think that is taking action; I call that trying to shelve it further.

Mr Sutton moved, and Mr Whitehead seconded, and it was agreed that the Chairman of the Parish Council be requested to call a public meeting, and that the decision be reported at the next meeting of the District Council.

Mr Turner: I'm quite agreeable to defer the matter for another month, but let that be final. If nothing else has been done by that time, let the Council take it in hand.

## **26 February 1909 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Water Supplies Mellor.**

The Cobden Edge spring, from whence it is proposed to obtain an extra water supply for the higher

parts of Mellor, has been analyzed and found satisfactory, and I am given to understand that this spring never fails, and yields a large quantity of water, which, with a reserve will, it is considered by those competent to judge, prove along with the present supply adequate for the demands of the neighbourhood for some years to come. As I have pointed out to you on previous occasions, an increased water supply to Mellor is absolutely necessary, and therefore I feel it my duty to urge upon you to provide a sufficient and wholesome supply without further delay. In the event of a dry season, owing to the large number of water closets in this District, the consequences would be very serious. I have repeatedly advised you with regard to this matter, and it is for you to see that sufficient water supply is provided throughout the whole of the District. I am pleased to see that a pure and abundant water supply is being provided for Little Hayfield, as the purity of the present supply is very questionable.

### **Little Hayfield Water Supply**

*(26th February 1909 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter continued.)*

Messrs. G and F W Hodson, Engineers to the council, reported, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, that Mr Ashley, the contractor, completed the laying of the 750 yards of 3in. main comprised in the first part of the contract during the past week, in a satisfactory manner. The water was turned into the main on Wednesday evening, and it took 40 minutes to fill up the mains and deliver water at the top hydrant. The result of this portion of work was exactly what they anticipated in their report of the subject. The water in Little Hayfield tank was immediately emptied out into the new main, and that tank was now dry. All the houses at the summit on each side of the row from Mr Turner's to beyond the post office were without water a considerable part of the morning. All the WC systems to these houses were empty, and whilst consumption was going on in Hayfield, Little Hayfield was unable to get a proper supply. For fire purposes the supply would be useless, as it was found that it took a considerable period for the water to rise out of the hydrant on to the row level. The proposals in the second portion of the contract provided for increasing the pressure at all these points by 57 feet more than it was at present, and also for considerably limiting the draft in the lower parts of Hayfield. On this main, this would give an adequate pressure in Little Hayfield, and they would be glad to receive the Council's instructions to issue the order to the contractor to carry out the work comprising the second portion of the contract.

### **Mellor Water Supply**

The Clerk Reported that the Mellor rate payers, had a public meeting, had decided that there was no necessity for a public water supply for Mellor. The Local Government Board wrote reminding the Council with regard to the Mellor water supply that the responsibility for the wholesomeness, sufficiency and accessibility of the water supply of Mellor rested not with the Parish Council but with the Rural District Council, whose Duty was to see that every occupied dwelling house within their District had within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for domestic purposes.

Mr Wild moved that a resolution be sent to the Local Government Board stating that the District Council did not intend to take any further action with regard to Mellor water supply.

Mr Sutton seconded, and asked if the Clerk had not received two resolutions from Mellor.

The Clerk: No, sir; only one.

Mr Sutton: There should have been two. I suppose that resolution will be sent to the Local Government Board?

Mr Reekie: I don't see why it should be.

Mr Turner: Let the Mellor people take their own action, and send on the information to the Local Government board. If the Local Government Board have a scheme, let them carry one out.

Mr Wild said that the rate payers of Mellor had a meeting, and by 48 votes to 3 decided that there was no need for a scheme. The people who voted were the people who would have to pay. He knew that a water scheme would have to come.

The Chairman: The people at the meeting only represented about a tenth part of the whole rate payers.

Mr Wild: Yes, but all the rate payers had been called.

Mr Reekie was certainly under the impression that the Parish meeting was called to consider a certain scheme, and if they could, to suggest another one. If they could not get any suggestion of an alternative scheme from Mellor people, it was the Council's duty to go on with the one they had.

Mr Sutton: Mellor people have got to pay for it, and it should be left with them.

Mr Gee: Supposing an epidemic broke out, what would be the result then?

The Clerk: The cost in connection with infectious cases would have to go to general expenses.

Mr Sutton: The tenants of certain houses don't want water; and when landlords build new houses they will have to find a supply.

Mr Gee: If the Local Government Board come in and do the work, it will probably cost the Mellor rate payers a great deal more.

Mr Wild: I think the rate payers understand the thing perfectly well. I read to them at the meeting Dr Bennett's reports, and gave to them every information I possibly could. I told them that if they did not go on with a water scheme the Local Government Board would force one upon them, and even then, they voted against it by 48 votes to 3. They knew the consequences perfectly well.

Mr Reekie: Mr Wild's resolution is rather to punish the rate payers of Mellor for being so stupid. (Laughter).

Mr Sutton: You will go against the Mellor members, then?

The Chairman: You can't shift responsibility at all from this Council.

Dr Ashurst: If they don't have a good water supply and an epidemic breaks out, we shall have to pay.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the Engineers be instructed to prepare a scheme. For this there voted the Chairman, Messrs. Reekie, Gee and Dr Ashurst. Messrs Sutton and Wild voted against, and Mr Turner refused to vote, saying he would have nothing to do with the matter. It was therefore agreed to instruct the Engineer to prepare a scheme.

## **26 March 1909 B Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Little Hayfield Water Supply**

It was reported at Monday's meeting of the District Council that the second section of the scheme for supplying Little Hayfield with water from Harry Moor had been completed. The test made had proved very satisfactory.

### **Stockport Water Bill**

The Clerk (Mr J R Bowden) reported at the meeting of the Hayfield Rural District Council on Monday, that the Local Government Board had given their sanction to the application of the Council to borrow £135 to defray the cost of opposing the Stockport Water Bill, 1908. He had accordingly written to the Public Loan Commissioners asking them to advance the money, and for the repayments to be spread over a period of 30 years. The Loan Board suggested, that as the amount was so small, the repayments should be completed in 10 years. The Clerk was instructed to press for a period of 30 years in which to repay the money.

## **21st May 1909 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Little Hayfield Water Supply - The Work Nearly Completed**

#### **Meeting of the Council**

Mr W Jowett, JP, presided on Monday at the monthly meeting of the Hayfield and Mellor Rural District Council. There was also present Messrs. J A Reekie, JP, (Vice Chairman) J Turner, JP, J W Sutton, H Wild, ARCO, J R Bowden (Clerk), F Whitehead (Deputy Clerk), A Goddard (water rent collector), J Marsland (Surveyor and Inspector of nuisances), and Mr Hodgson (engineer).

#### **Nearly Complete**

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Hodgson, Engineer, on the Little Hayfield water supply. The new break pressure tank had been completed, and the four inch main laid. The whole of the works was practically complete, and was now being put under test. He included a certificate for £300 due to the contractor.

The Clerk stated that a loan sanctioned by the Local Government Board amounted to £850, and he advised the council to sign a check for £250 for the contractors.

This was done.

Mr Hodgson said that the works were practically complete, with the exception of two valves. The one-and-a-half inch meter they had in stock was not sufficient to cope with the demand which would be made upon it. He did not think it was advisable to put in a meter which would pass less than three thousand gallons per hour. In the case of fire a smaller meter than three inch would be very ineffectual.

It was resolved to purchase a three inch meter, the price of which would be £28 18s.

Mr Hodgson said that the firm from which the new meter was being purchased would allow £6 9s for the old one.

## **21 May 1909 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

### **Private Water Supplies**

The Surveyor submitted plans for two houses proposed to be erected by Mr J Young in Longhurst Lane, Mellor, and plans of the house for Mr Shephard at Noel Road, Mellor. Mr Marsland also reported that the water supply to Longshore Clough was obtained from the Shirdfield and Cannon Hill Springs, and was conveyed into open ditches, and stone drains, and was polluted by cattle and poultry. The Holly Wood supply was obtained from Ludworth, and was conveyed in an open ditch for a distance of 40 yards, and became polluted by cattle and poultry. This supply, as well as Longshaw Clough, had been analyzed and found unsatisfactory. The Brook Bottom supply was obtained from a spring and was conveyed in galvanized pipes. The people obtain their supply from a tap recently fixed so as to avoid waste. The system fixed there for the cattle was regulated by a ball tap. The tap water was free from pollution. He recommended that the cisterns be covered over so as to prevent children having access to it. The plans were passed, and consideration of the private supplies of water was deferred.

### **The Mellor Water Question**

The Chairman had given notice of his intention to move "that we write to the agent of the Cobden Estate, Mellor, and ascertain the price of half an acre of land for a reservoir; also to ascertain the charge for wayleaves."

The Chairman moved that this business be taken in committee.

No direct vote was taken, but it was understood that the matter was in committee.

## **21 February 1913-D-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Water**

Stop taps have been repaired and new washers fitted where required. Friday last there was shortage of water for a little time in the village owing to the **bottom Balancing Tank** being nearly empty. After examination it was found that the **ball tap in the top tank was not in order, and not allowing the full flow into the tank, consequently there was no supply for the bottom one.** This was remedied as quickly as possible. The tanks filled are now in good working order. The average weekly consumption for the last month is 408,000 gallons.

## **21 March 1913-D-Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter**

### **Surveyor's Report**

... On uncovering the **overflow from the Balancing Tank** it was discovered that the joints were leaking badly. The covering of stones would have to be taken off and cemented afresh, without exception the water supply was good.

## **25 July 1913 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**



### **Mr Whitehead Objects to the Fire Brigade**

The New Mills Urban District Council wrote with regard to the question of a Fire Brigade, properly equipped, wanting to know if the subject was under discussion. The scheme was a joint one for New Mills, Hayfield, Disney, and Whaley Bridge, and the matter was being taken up with a view to the purchase of a fire engine. A meeting will be held at the Town Hall, New Mills, at a date which will be fixed later.

Mr Whitehead said he did not see the necessity for a Fire Brigade. If they joined the scheme they would be expected to support it. They had hydrants all over the place.

Mr Osbaldeston said it had been pointed out about the hydrants, but if they had a fire in Hayfield the water supply would not last them five minutes. It would be necessary to have a better water supply.

It was eventually decided to send delegates to the meeting.

### **15th October 1915 Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter.**

Further sanitary requirements: -

1. Public scavenging at Hayfield.
2. Water supply for Mellor from the Stockport Corporation.
3. Conversion of privies and pails to water closets at Hayfield.

### **14 January 1924 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

#### **Water for Mellor**

#### **Strong Opposition to the Present Scheme**

For more than 20 years past the local authorities have been puzzling themselves how to get a public water supply for Mellor. Large sums have been spent in engineering schemes that have failed, and the latest is to fetch the water from Harrymoor in the Kinder regions, a distance of half a dozen miles, in pipes at the estimated cost of £14,300; and New Mills is endeavouring to get from this scheme a supplementary supply for its higher levels by arrangement with the Hayfield Rural District Council.

The Ministry of Health have been asked to hold an inquiry into the scheme, but this weekend there has been an unexpected turn in the affair by the opposition of inhabitants of Mellor themselves, and there was a stormy public meeting of ratepayers on the question, which lasted until a late hour.

Mr G B Chell, County Councillor for the division, and a former member of the District Council, said that very soon Hayfield would require all its water, and would have nothing left for Mellor.

It was decided that for the present Harry Moor water scheme would be left in abeyance, that the Ministry of Health be asked to postpone the inquiry, and that further efforts be made to secure for public use the two present water supplies one of which belongs to the estate of the late Mr F C

Arkwright of Willerslee: and the other to the trustees of the late Mr William Jowett, of the Manor House Mellor.

## **26 April 1924 Derby Daily Telegraph**

### **Derbyshire Village Water Supply**

The Hayfield and Mellor District Council have purchased the waterworks of Mellor and a house and garden from Captain Arkwright of Willersley Castle for £1200.

The council have also a scheme to bring water from Harry Moor, near Kinder Scout, to Mellor at an estimated cost of £14,300 and are now awaiting the sanction of the minister of health.

## **27 June 1924 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

A conference of local authorities in the Kinder Scout district was held yesterday at Stockport with a view to a solution of the problem as to the Urban District Council of New Mills procuring water from the Hayfield Council's supply in Harrymoor, Kinder, to augment their present supply. The conference was presided over by an inspector from the Ministry of Health.

## **18 September B 1924 Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

The Ministry of Health has sanctioned the Hayfield Rural District Council's scheme for conveying water from Harrymoor, Kinder, to supply Mellor, 5 miles distant, at a cost of £14,300.

## **12 April 1926 B Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

A water scheme for the supply of Mellor from a spring at Harrymoor, on the slope of Kinderscout, was opened on Saturday. The scheme which has cost £17,750, and the rateable value of Mellor is about £11,000.

## **30 June 1934-N3-Inquiry into the Proposed Forth Reservoir at Kinder Bank**

*from Sam Garside's Scrap Book - converted into text using OCR*

In the last ten Years about 70 houses had been built in Hayfield with baths and WCs and about 70 conversions made in the water carriage system. The railway company were being supplied with water and Birch Vale Printworks used it for domestic purposes.

Once more the Inspector pressed the point of whether there would be increased revenue from the work carried out.

Mr Jagger said the houses would be supplied but not efficiently whether the scheme was carried out or not.

Mr. Nesbitt made calculations as to the revenue that might be expected if all the houses for which plans were passed were built. Mr. Jagger said it might be possible to get about £32 in revenue which would be about ½ d. in the £.

It was suggested to Mr Swift that the supply of water to Mellor and Ludworth had affected adversely the supply of Hayfield. Mr. Swift did not agree. He said some of the joints in the mains were made with lead, which had caused a deposit and reduced the carrying capacity of the main in Hayfield. That was on the length of main between the Sportsman's Arms and the Wesleyan School.

Mr. Swift explained the technical details of the scheme at some length. He said that the higher and lower level mains could be connected by valves in case of fire, but when a fire occurred there was usually something which prevented the valves from being used. The lower level tank could be used at times of emergency such as drought or leakage.

### **VERY COMPLICATED**

The Inspector said the whole scheme seemed to be very complicated, but he would go into technical details with Mr Swift.

Mr. Stokes gave the technical evidence regarding the reservoir, and stated that whole of the foundations would be upon rock and stepped, because of the steepness of the ground.

Mr Swift said the reservoir would be constructed by contract and the new mains would be laid by direct labour.

The inspector stated he wanted to know what the storage was for. He would require the population to be served from each reservoir.

Mr Goddard said he was not very familiar with the district and he found the water scheme rather complicated. At the same time he did think that the existing storage was not sufficient. Since Chapel made the Shireoaks Reservoir the position there had been a very happy one. Increased storage would be the solution of Hayfield's problem.

Mr. Whitehead was pleased to hear the scheme. At the gasworks at particular times, especially washing days, they had not been able to get the necessary volume of water. They would get it from greater volume at higher pressure on the Birch Vale main, which was the one that supplied the gasworks.

Mr. Jagger asked the Inspector to push forward the sanction as speedily as possibly as possible. The scheme had been hanging fire for some time, and members of the old Hayfield Council would be glad to see it completed as soon as possible.

After some further technical discussion, the Inquiry was closed, and the inspector with officials and technical experts visited the site of the proposed works.

### **Hayfield Water Supply**

It was complained by the Ministry of Health inspector, who held the inquiry on Friday at Hayfield into the Council's application to spend £3,000 on improving the water supply, and by others, that the village water scheme is a complicated affair. A scheme that has been made piecemeal, as this has, is bound to be complicated.

Hayfield had a Council that was not in favour of a water scheme until its hand was forced by the appearance of Stockport Corporation in Kinder. Prior to that, the impounding of any water in Kinder

had been steadily opposed on the ground that it would affect Kinder Printworks, which drew all its water from the River Sett.

When the Council did at last face the problem, it dealt only with the houses clustered within a short radius of Hayfield bridge. Scarcely any houses at that time had baths. The water carriage system had not been adopted because there was no water. Consequently, little water was required. A tank was made on Kinder Bank, so that Hayfield could draw water from Stockport reservoir in case of drought, and also so that if Stockport exercised their powers to buy out Hayfield's scheme within fifteen years, water could be distributed from that tank.

#### **Later Developments.**

Stockport did not exercise those powers. The water scheme had to be extended to the higher parts of the village, and also to Little Hayfield and Birch Vale. The water carriage system was adopted, houses began to have baths and much more water was required.

The tank already in existence did not yield a pressure sufficient to reach the higher levels, and there was a constant deficiency both there and at Little Hayfield, which came on later.

Again the Council took the line of least resistance and the cheapest way at the moment. Another tank was built at a higher altitude to supply the higher parts, and that required a high and low pressure system. The systems were connected by valves to be used in case of fire or other emergency, but when the inter-connection was required something occurred to prevent its use. At the last fire the valve had been tarred in and could not be opened.

Meantime the pressure became very deficient on the Birch Vale district, where there is a long line of 3in. main, where additional houses had been erected, where water was needed for domestic purposes at the Printworks, and for use at the railway station in Hayfield for the property and the engines.

Next came the taking of Harrymoor water to Mellor. The existing tank was not high enough for that, and so another tank was placed on Kinder Bank. All the water from Harrymoor is delivered there, and then divided between Hayfield and Mellor. Recently Harrymoor water has been going still further and helping to relieve the trouble at Ludworth.

#### **Still Another Tank.**

On hearing that a fourth tank is to be placed on Kinder Bank, the inspector might well say that the scheme is complicated. The tank is needed for storage. At present Hayfield has only a storage capacity of 27,400 gallons, not a day's supply, and not sufficient to fight a serious fire.

The new tank or covered reservoir will hold 180,000 gallons. That will give about three days' supply. At the present time, if anything went wrong with, the one and a half miles of main from, Kinder Scout to Kinder Bank, the supply would be cut off. The new tank will allow a reasonable time for repairs.

It is proposed to distribute all Hayfield's water from the new tank, which will give a better pressure everywhere. Volume on the Birch Vale length of main, which includes the gasworks as well as other places mentioned, will be improved by the higher pressure and by laying a 4in. main in certain parts.

The existing tanks are to be used for storage in case of emergency, such as fires and droughts. But the new tank and the new mains, far from complicating the scheme, will simplify it considerably by giving better pressure and doing away with the high and low pressure systems.

### **A Wonderful Scheme**

Whatever may be said by technical experts about the complicated scheme, it is a wonderful one. The amount of water used has increased many times over since the scheme was inaugurated.

Additional springs have been added to it on Kinder Scout, but the principal source is Harrymoor.

For more than thirty years Hayfield has carried on with a storage capacity of only 27,400 gallons or less. The main from Kinder Scout to Kinder Bank has been in use for thirty years, and still brings down all the water that is being used from the Harrymoor source by Hayfield, Mellor and Ludworth.

The most wonderful thing is that in all the droughts 1911, 1921, last year, and this year - Harrymoor has never, failed those who have relied upon it. Only on Saturday night last it was noticed, in spite of all the drawing there was upon it, and maintaining the full capacity of storage at Mellor, which is some hundreds of thousands of gallons, in addition to the small storage at Hayfield, there was still an overflow, and Harrymoor water running into the river because the people on the scheme had no use for it.

A scheme with a record like that is worth a little complication due to lack of foresight in the past, and more than worth what it is now proposed to spend on it in the way of simplification and improvement.

## **27th January 1939 – The Derbyshire Times.**

### **Five Years' Plan to Cost £63,215**

#### **Rural Council's Schemes for Hope Valley**

Without discussion, Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council, on Monday, approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to submit a five years program of Works to the Minister of Health. The total amount involved is £63,215 and the plan is for waterworks in the various parishes. If approved by the ministry, the plan will be put into operation this year and will extend until 1943.

For 1939 and 1940 the following works are planned: Castleton and Hope water, £5,500; Hayfield water, £2,300; Dove Holes filtration, £2,000; Chapel [Town End] main £750; Chapel (Town End) main, £570; Chapel [Burrfields, Market Place and Park Road] mains, £1675.

1940 and 1941: Charlesworth and Chisworth water, £2500; Thornhill water, £9,700.

1941-42: Peak Forrest water, £7,300; Wormhill (Waterswallows) water, £1,500; King Sterndale water £3,600.

1941-43: Hartington Upper Quarter water, £10,000; Hayfield Water (Harrymoor main), £15,000.

## 26 January 1950-E-Manchester Evening News

Life in the Derbyshire village of Rowarth may be made easier for some who rely on their wells for water – except when the wells dry up and an emergency electric pump lifts water from a brook. New Mills UDC has asked Chaple-en-le-Frith RDC to extend the Hayfield water main to supply Rowarth.

## 13 July 1984 -N1c-Newspaper

### HARRYMOOR SUPPLY TREATENED

*Newspaper dated 13 July 1984 -  
converted to text using OCR.*

HAYFIELD councillors are anxious to discover if there is any truth behind rumours that the years-old natural spring water supply Harrymoor is to be scrapped.

Severn Trent Water Authority officials are concerned that the pH levels in the supply do not match current EEC regulations. Parish members are adamant that Harrymoor is one of the finest waters in the area and do not want it abandoned.

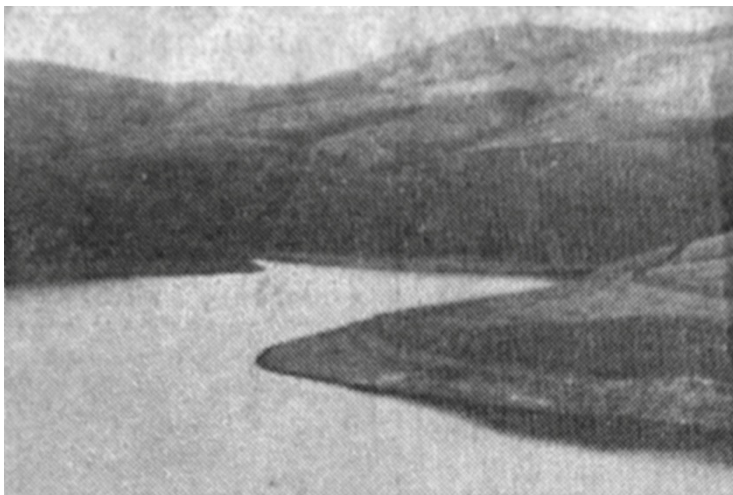
Said Councillor Edmund Houghton at their meeting last week: "The Kinder Reservoir is very low, but the Harrymoor supply has never been known to dry up. It would just be throwing a good supply of water away."

Councillor Jim Harrison pointed out there were no regulations on the water before the war. Harrymoor is one of the purest supplies in the county even serving as far away as Mellor, he declared.

"Everywhere is short of water and they are just going to let the water run away," he said referring to reports of leaks in the pipe line system. "It is disgraceful," he added.

Councillor Mike Crompton, the parish council chairman, cited an example of water supplies in another EEC country, Holland, which comes from the Rhine, he alleges the qualities "must fall far short of Hayfield."

The council is pressing for a meeting with the water authority to assess the situation. "We have got to keep chivvying them or it could be 18 months before they come round," Councillor Crompton added. "I think we should fight as hard as we can to try and retain Harrymoor unless overwhelming difficulties are presented," he concluded.



The water level at Kinder Reservoir is causing concern among parish councillors who are anxious for the other village supply — Harrymoor — whose future could be in doubt. (84.7.147)

### **3 August 1984 –N1a- High Peak Reporter?**

*Reproduced using OCR from a newspaper cutting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1984*

100,000 gallons a day may pour to waste.

#### **HARRYMOOR FAILS EEC'S ACID TEST**

HARRYMOOR, Hayfield's natural water supply, looks set to be abandoned. The only chance of a reprieve is for a treatment works to be introduced but Severn Trent Water Authority, who visited local councillors last week, said that building such small plants is uneconomic and against their policy. Councillors were staggered when the two Severn Trent representatives Area Controller for North West Derbyshire Mr Rob Porter and Mr John Williams suggested that the authority would prefer to see the village switched to the North West Water supply at Kinder or possibly some other reservoir because tests show that Harry moor water is slightly acidic — a condition not acceptable under new EEC regulations. After discussions with North West Water, Severn Trent would take a straight price comparison between the construction of a treatment Plant and transferring supply. Hayfield consumes some 100,000 gallons of water each day and more than 90 per cent of this comes from Harrymoor.

Councillors were shocked that Severn Trent seemed to be prepared to allow this quantity of water to be literally wasted down the hill- side, particularly as the area is in the grip of a drought.

#### **Last resort**

If the plant proved more expensive, he thought that the village, as a last resort in saving Harrymoor, may be prepared to raise the cash difference through an increased rate for a year to ensure that the supply continues. Councillor Crompton explained that people in Hayfield many years ago ensured a perpetual supply in adopting Harrymoor, and he believes it is less a case of the quality of the water than of the continuity of this spring supply. "Even though we could have adequate water from North West Water, there are considerable fears that Kinder Reservoir, in a very short period of time, will have silted up." he said. "Furthermore, surely it doesn't make sense to put an extra demand of 100.000 gallons a day on the supply from other people when we have our own supply guaranteed from an independent source. It would only mean that other users of North West Water and ourselves would be subject to more short ages and more prolonged cuts in any drought. The country is at a stage where water is a precious commodity."

**Hayfield residents will have their own strong opinions about the future of this century-old water supply. Doubtless their feelings will be expressed if the council is faced with the task of raising capital to contribute to a treatment plant scheme to thwart Severn Trent's attempts to switch to an alternative supply because a new works is too costly. Should this be the case, the council will almost certainly hold a referendum in the village to gauge local opinions and test whether raising the rate one year would be acceptable. Write to the Reporter with your views. You can let off steam in a special Harrymoor Postbox column.**

## Appalled

Similarly, Councillor Doug Stanley Claimed that the country would be appalled if the water board were to be seen allowing 100,000 gallons a day go to waste simply for a marginal cost difference between a treatment plant and buying water from another authority. Councillor Ken Rangeley believes Hayfield residents should strive to maintain the water supply, which has never been known to dry up, just as their forefathers did in their wisdom many years ago when the supply was first tapped.

"No matter how much they say that Kinder Reservoir water is as good, you will not convince the people that have been using Harrymoor," he said. "It is disgraceful to let the supply go."

Harrymoor, which serves all the Village \*except Valley Road and New Mills Road as far as The Birches,\* is fed through Pipes and a Chlorine drip and maintained by Severn Trent. But in recent months there have been periodic reports of the supply overflowing and leaking, and some months ago Severn Trent told the Council they would be shutting off the supply to check the pipes for corrosion. Last week Mr Porter told Councillors that the Authority had installed new pumps at the bottom of the Shepherds Hey tank recently in an attempt to improve the supply. But it is the EEC measures which are now the sticking point. [\*as reported but thought to be incorrect\*]

However councillors frowned on the approved pH requirements, particularly when they discovered that Harrymoor registers a value of 6.40 on the scale — the figure 7 is neutral. Many feel it is farcical for the EEC to say they cannot tolerate acid conditions. Councillors pointed out that when people go abroad they are often told that the water is undrinkable — yet these supplies are considered acceptable under the new regulations. Mr Porter admitted that the current drought situation may make water authorities have second thoughts about shutting down small supplies but could not offer any guarantees. A decision will not be made until NWWA have been consulted. The parish council has asked to see the figures on which any decisions are based, but the Severn Trent representatives merely said that the council would be informed of any fresh moves but could not promise that any cost information would be released. Mr Porter later told the Reporter: "We need to make financial calculations to find precisely the sums we are talking about." Severn Trent would not be prepared to speculate on the possibility of a joint funded scheme with the parish council until these calculations have been made. Commenting on the possibility of abandoning Harrymoor, Mr Porter said:

"I feel that in overall resources terms 100,000 gallons is not a lot. It really is a very small resource.

"Large resources are generally more economic than small ones, particularly in the present climate. Severn Trent is eager to give good value for money. We feel that any water supply either Harrymoor or North West Water will be good water.

"It is appreciated that the parish council take such an active interest in the water supply.

With most areas still hit by the drought. Severn Trent appealed to villagers to conserve water. The supply from Harrymoor, they claim, is reducing, but if people are more careful, most of the, village could stay on this water all summer.

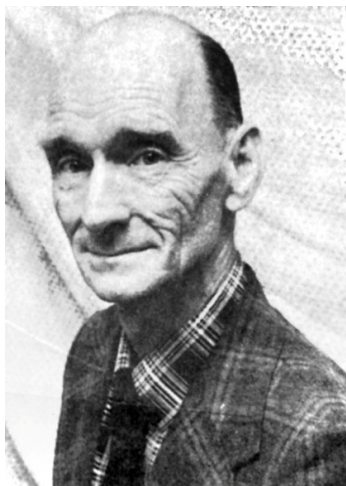


## 17 August 1984 -N2a- High Peak Reporter

*Text converted using OCR from the High Peak Reporter Newspaper cutting dated 17 August 1984*

### HARRYMOOR – FLOODGATES OPEN

#### Acidity? It's nothing new, says George



George Cooper - a casebook of Harrymoor memories

MR GEORGE COOPER, a Hayfield man who worked on the Harrymoor system in 1947, says that coping with the spring's acidity is no new thing.

Heather peat and rainfall on Kinder have all contributed to the pH level, which the new EEC regulations claim is unacceptable and, in 1934 a Chlorinating House was built by Wades of Whaley Bridge to add lime to the water.

But after construction, the Water Authority discovered that the supply was too high up to inject the lime and the operation was never used

"People in those days complained about the water tasting brackish and acid", said 61 year-old Mr Cooper who lives at Fairy Bank Crescent. "But they didn't do anything about it until after the war

when they built the house down in Kinder Bank after putting new tanks in near the spring"

Mr Cooper, who was then in the building industry, installed tanks at Harrymoor and on Kinder Bank and he was asked if he would like to take over the job of looking after Hayfield's waterworks.

But Mr Cooper's knowledge on Harrymoor goes back much further than this — to 1898 when the first piped supply was taken down to the village. Jonathon Marshall, a local engineer, played a prominent part in the scheme.

When introduced, the supply fed the lower parts of Hayfield but there was not enough boost to sent it all round the village.

Later, when more people clamoured for tap water, they introduced a tank higher up and extended the pipe around 1926 to the existing tank to create higher pressure.

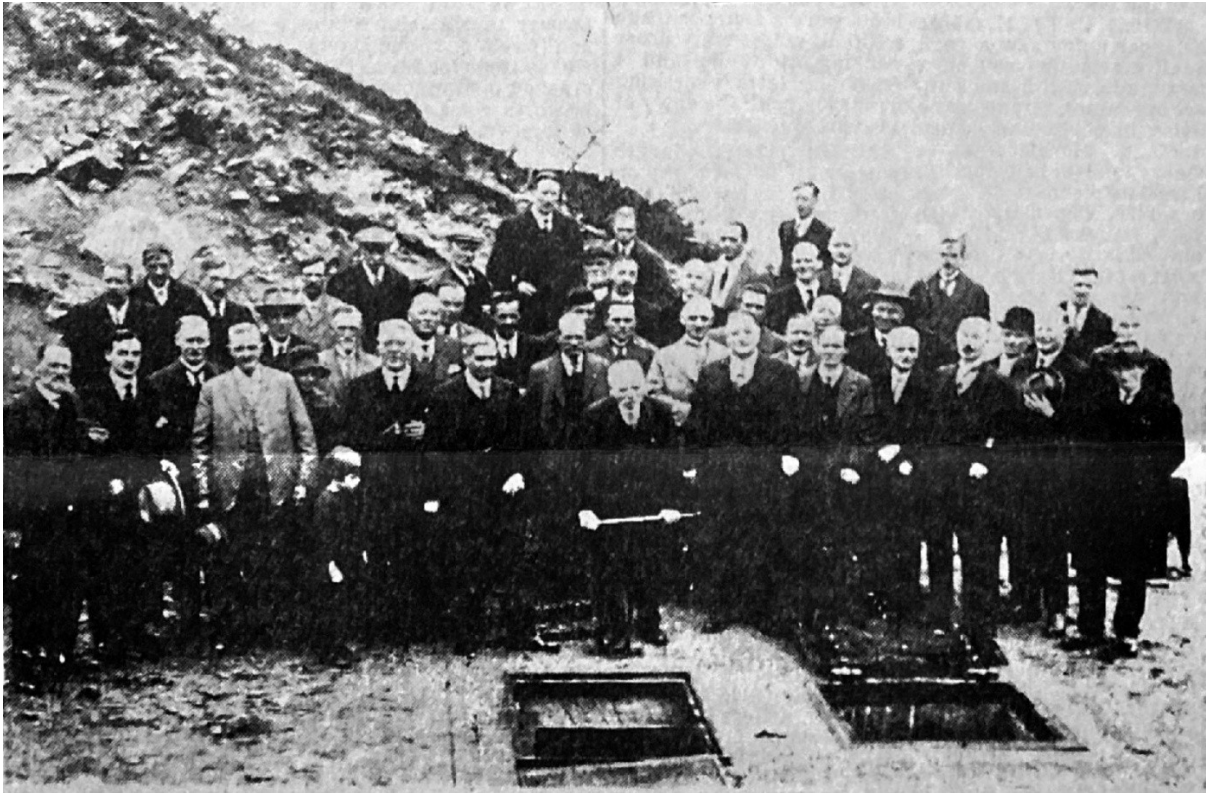
"A third tank of about 500,000 gallons was put in at the top of Kinder Bank and the pipe was again extended said Mr Cooper, who gleaned much of his information from Ted Beever, Hayfield's waterman for 60 years who died five years ago.

"The overflows from each tank ran down and down and so on into the river" he added. "And as far as I know there has ways been an overflow and never been any shortage."

But before the top tank was introduced, an argument was sparked. Jonathon Marshall claimed Harrymoor was then capable of supplying Mellor and Hayfield Water Authority could make itself a bit more money. Marshall tried to persuade parish councillors that putting in the tank would be £800 well spent and so the group assembled at the top of Kinder Bank looking over at Lantern Pike.

He declared that no pumps would be needed. A big enough tank would send the water over the hill and over the next into Mellor.

"They argued all afternoon and finally to pacify Marshall they brought the chaps in with the theodolites". Mr Cooper continued, "Marshall's mathematics were proved right. Harrymoor supplied Mellor with water and they still do today."



Members of Hayfield Council are pictured here in April 1926 gathered for the grand "switching-on" ceremony of water at Kinder Bank. Water is delivered from Harrymoor in to the chamber on the right, while on the left the supply is divided between the village and Mellor

### Recollections

Mr Cooper remembers Ted Beever showing him an Old ledger dated 1904, showing when water was first piped through to Birch Vale via New Mills Road from Station Road, Hay field.

When Hayfield Water Authority felt they had enough money they would extend the main 3in. pipe another length and from this each house could have a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. lead service pipe and brass tap nailed to the slop stone at the sink.

But although the ledger was made out it had to be abandoned. "Hardly anyone was interested in the supply to Birch Vale and the price was 4d a month", Mr Cooper went on.

"Of the row of 16 houses on new Mills Road, which used to be known as Gladstone Terrace, only two people wanted the water", Mr Cooper recalls being told. "The rest preferred well water because they felt the other had been interfered with."

## **COUNCIL GATHERS GUNS FOR WATER WAR**

### **Special reports by Lisa Birtwistle**

HAYFIELD councillors are piecing together every shred of evidence and information they can find to support their fight for retaining their spring water Supply — Harrymoor — before the authorities discuss its future over the negotiating table.

Members are concerned that the 100,000 gallon a day supply is allowed to waste away down the hillside, this could heighten the danger of flooding — something that has not been uncommon in the village over the years.

Furthermore, although the Severn Trent Authority, who are responsible for maintaining Harrymoor, feel that it might be more economic to switch to North West Water rather than build a treatment plant for the spring, the parish council is not so convinced.

Parish Chairman Councillor Mike Crompton said that Harrymoor water, whose slight acidity is no longer acceptable under EEC regulations, would have to be channelled somewhere and the Villager's homes reconnected to a new supply.

"It seems to me the cost of the connection alone is probably even more than the plant," he added.

### **After effects**

This week the council have shown more concern over the physical after effects of abandoning the spring, which has served Hayfield for almost a century.

Councillor Crompton pointed out that while the flow is now 100,000 gallons day, after three or four months without rain this could be increased ten-fold after weeks of downpours in the winter.

The water would be allowed to flow down Coldwell Clough acting as another tributary to the River Sett.

This, the River Kinder and numerous other brooks are notoriously swollen after heavy rain and snow and have been known to cause damage.

The Kinder estate itself already has serious erosion problems the council says, with the enormous amount of tourists denuding the slopes of vegetation.

"As a result rain becomes simply surface water that runs off," Councillor Crompton explained. "Hillsides bare of plants retain little water. There could be serious problems.

"There has been talk that in certain freak conditions the overflow of Kinder Reservoir itself might not be able to cope.

"It has to be borne in mind that this village has suffered innumerable floods and in fact, the church was swept away about 1812. Even the bridge in the centre of Hayfield has been swept away several times, the last being 1851 which was why, the road was raised."

Councillor Crompton said that there have been minor floods in the village every couple of years. "Anyone who has not witnessed a flash flood through Hayfield can have no idea of the size of the flood. It is a frightening sight he said.

"Tinkering with water supplies and increasing flow rates could be a very dangerous thing to do."

### **No progress**

Mr Rob Porter, Severn Trent's area controller for North West Derbyshire, said that no progress has been made with negotiations between his authority and North West Water, and felt talks were unlikely to start for the next four to six weeks or until the drought situation eases.

He admitted he knew very little about Hayfield's flood problems in detail, but claimed that river flows are generally classed in millions of gallons a day and he felt that an additional 100,000 gallons would not have much impact.

"The spring would go back into the River Sett where it came from before." he explained. "Even if the flow from Harrymoor doubled we have still just been taking the 100,000 gallons a day from it."

The Reporter asked Mr Porter if the water authority might consider an alternative use for the water, possibly agricultural.

He thought it might be feasible to pipe to a few troughs in the immediate area, but feels that at this stage, this would be pure speculation.

"When we have had talks with North West Water, we have still to examine the cost of taking water from North West against the cost of treating Harrymoor water," he added.

## Door to Danger



Councillor Ken Hakin (left) points out the danger of the easily lifted trap door to Councillors Doug Stanley, Kathleen Waterhouse and Mike Crompton

A HAYFIELD councillor said he was "disgusted" that the trap door covering an open piped section of Harrymoor up on Kinder was not padlocked, and warned that this could be extremely dangerous.

Referring to the BBC's "Look North West" crew filming at Harrymoor last week Councillor Capstick remarked: "I was quite surprised that they had lifted the trap door and actually filmed the water moving through it.

"The door on the top the trap at Harrymoor can be lifted by anyone using a hooked instrument. At one time it used to be locked"

A spokesman for Severn Trent Water Authority explained: "It will be padlocked. The padlock probably was broken but we will see that it is replaced."

## Bucketing Sundays' for the Monday wash

BEFORE the Harrymoor s spring was tapped to Hayfield homes, villagers of last century were accustomed to drawing their water from wells around the community.

And life-long resident Mr Joe Swindells treasures stories passed on from his mother, whose maiden name was Miss Annie Gibbs when she lived at Stoneshead.

Although many of the wells which served each little area are now redundant, there are one or two in the Village which are still running.

### **Full bore**

The well, known as Watery Heigh, at Valley Road used to serve Spring Vale, Highgate and Stoneshead, and in fact today is almost full bore.

Joe's mother recalled "Bucketing Sunday's" when the water had to be carried down for washing on Mondays.

Another well just about flowing at Swallow House Lane while at the top of Oaks Avenue, stands a round well which used to serve Arden' Row, Chapel Street, the churches and also properties in the former Gashouse Lane.

### **Dried up**

Wells which have long since dried up include one at the Old Gashouse Lane, another near the National Westminster Bank off Kinder Road and also a hole at Cote Lane.

Mr Swindells, who lives at New Mills Road is intrigued to know more about the supply and is keen to learn when the village started using that water.

"We always used to say that Harrymoor water never saw daylight until you turned the tap on." he said, "It would be a tragedy to lose it."

## **WAYLEAVE "ASSURED" WHATEVER THE WATER**

CONCESSIONARY water is a luxury that a handful of householders on Kinder have enjoyed since the Harrymoor spring was handed over to the Old Hayfield Water Authority many years ago.

But anxious residents, who have had this "free supply" legacy handed down to them, have been wondering whether, if Harrymoor is abandoned, they might have to start paying water rates.

Homesteads between the spring and the header tanks at Shepherd's Hey were granted this right, known as "way leave," by Mr John Thomas Gee (1844-1921), who lived at Ashes Farm and signed the land and the spring over on those strict conditions.

In fact Mrs Pam Gee, a possible distant relative who lives at one of the concessionary properties, Hill House, said that Mr Gee's will stated that Harrymoor was for the people of Hayfield for eternity.

"If they do stop Harrymoor we have still to have water" said Mrs Gee, who has lived there for 25 years. "They might as well keep the supply running.

"Surely to pipe up to these farms would be more expensive and would mean digging up the land. Our water is absolutely superb and there is nothing wrong with it.

"The beauty of it coming from Harrymoor is that it comes by gravity alone and doesn't need machinery. It is Hayfield's own legacy and we feel very strongly that our own personal property should be dismissed, especially at the moment in the drought.



"Similarly, Mrs Barbara Wyatt, at Tunstead House, who pays rates only on her more recent chalet building, felt that the "costs could be all out of context" to switch them to an alternative supply.

"I want to keep on it simply because it is such a good clear supply," she ' said. "We don't even have it treated or filtered. "

Mr Harold Hodgson, whose family has farmed for 57 years at Hill House Farm, said it was ridiculous that Severn Trent have even considered abandoning Harrymoor simply because of the new EEC regulations.

"We've had good water all these years and never had to do any maintenance," he remarked. "Hayfield is entitled to Harrymoor water.

"If it is acidic then it has never done anyone round here any harm all these years. A lot of the water on the continent is not fit to drink.

However, Severn Trent this week assured the Reporter that since the concession is stated in the original water rights, this "way leave" would have to be retained on some supply - whether it be Harrymoor or another source.

## **Still a mystery**

SEVERN Trent Water Authority has admitted it is baffled about the source of Harrymoor spring because the records, which date back just before the turn of the century, show no plan of what the original installation layout was.

A spokesman for the water authority explained that the documents simply indicate that there are "springs" and gave no hint of the number or the locations.

Councillor Robin Capstick says that some people believe there are seven springs while others claim there are five.

However, the council do know that one; spring comes from Oaken Clough because this was "leaking" some months ago and has now received attention.

Doubtless, unless someone is prepared to dig their way to the answer the source of Harrymoor will remain a secret locked in the bowels of the earth.

## **HARRYMOOR**

### **They came miles to sample 'virgin water'**

HAYFIELD'S oldest parish councillor Edmund Houghton, aged 82, has his own firm beliefs why Harrymoor should be left to serve the village as faithfully as it always has for almost a century.

"It is virgin water. Why touch it?" he asks. "The doctors in those days said the water had medicinal properties. They felt it was good for rheumatism and people from miles around used to come and try the water.

"We want it leaving as it is," he went on. "In the beginning Harrymoor used to give off 450,000 gallons a day but this has altered over the years because of silting up.

"They are saying it now produces just 100,000 gallons each day. I dispute that. I would say nearer 200,000 and this is because of the lack of attention over the years.

"Why couldn't they link it up to the reservoir and let it run in there instead of letting it pour to waste?" Councillor Houghton asks.

Speaking of the possibilities of Hayfield village contributing towards a treatment plant project to save Harrymoor, he felt Hayfield should be under no obligation to pay for anything.

He claims the village have been paying water rates for years for a supply which, in effect, belongs to them.

"Hopefully we will be getting up a petition and use all the weapons we can to stop it being abandoned," he added.

## **21 December 1984 -N2b- High Peak Reporter?**

*Newspaper cutting dated 21 December 1984 converted into Text using OCR*

### **HARRYMOOR: A TRICKLE OF HOPE**

#### **£6,000 - £10,000 needed for treatment plant**

Severn Trent Water Authority officials brought some Christmas cheer to Hayfield this week when they agreed to make rough costings for a treatment plant for Harrymoor spring and came up with a figure between £6,000 and £10,000.

Mr John Jepson., the authority's divisional scientist, explained that the costs would vary according to buildings which may already be available, but may again be subject to further investigations.

Now local councillors, fighting to stop the spring closure and switch-over to North West Water, are urging Severn Trent to consider this budget estimate against water rates raised annually in the village which they claim amounted to £10,000 this year.

This breakthrough in the Harrymoor battle was achieved at a special meeting last week with three water officials and parish councillors. It was made clear that any traces of acidity — not acceptable under EEC guidelines — in the spring needs "marginally correcting."

#### **Affordable**

Commenting about the costings, parish Chairman Councillor Mike Crompton said: "These are well within anything that could be afforded from what we pay in water rates,

"I don't feel there could be any justification in buying water from the North West Water Authority and I don't think there is any justification in letting Harrymoor water run to waste.



"Councillor Crompton believes that the next move will depend largely on the comparison of these figures with the cost of the switch-over to North West water yet to be determined.

"But I still believe we have some right to say how our water rates should be spent in the village." he stressed.

The costing exercise suggested by Councillor Doug Stanley who felt that Severn Trent may be able to gauge a price by comparing Hayfield with a similar village where water treatment has been carried out.

### **Manpower**

Mr Jepson explained that because Harrymoor is in such an isolated spot, manpower would be an essential ingredient for the treatment process, which naturally increases costs.

The feeling among councillors was quite evident: Harrymoor, the spring their forefathers had fought to keep many years previously, has not demanded much capital outlay over the decades and it is time some of the water rates were spent in the village.

Mr Jepson and his colleagues Mr Rob Porter and Mr John Williams assured the council that no decision has been taken whether to treat Harrymoor or switch to the North West Water Supply and the two possibilities have yet to be evaluated.

Mr Porter explained that no progress has been made with either scheme because Severn Trent has had other duties during the summer and in time someone from the projects department will take up the task.

Councillor Edmund Houghton, pointing out that Harrymoor water has been said to have medicinal qualities, asked about the chances of leaving the spring water as it is.

But Mr Jepson stressed: "The EEC legislation does not require us to abandon the supply; it prescribes parameters which lead us to believe that we have to check these shortcomings"

### **Advisory**

However, Councillor Ken Hakin said that their own investigations into the EEC directives suggests such measures are only advisory, and independent tests, conducted by High Peak's environmental health department, shows they are within the limits.

"The regulations appear to be an irrelevancy, he added.

Furthermore, he claims that Harrymoor which gives 100,000 gallons per day yields enough water for the whole village and is only dependent on a 33,000 gallon supplement each day from North West Water because of the inadequacy of pipes between the spring and the collecting tank at Shepherd's Hey.

Once again he urged the authority to consider spending some of the village water rates on replacing some of the pipeline that the acidity said to be eating away.

But Mr Jepson explained that it is Severn Trent policy to equalise charges, investment has been needed in other areas; and there are other villages in their boundaries with similarly discreet and independent supplies.

Councillor Crompton pointed out that if a fraction of the Hayfield water rate had been spent on maintaining the supply over the years, they would not be in this situation.

Councillor Jim Harrison wondered how Harrymoor had managed to supply Mellor as well as Hayfield. Agreeing, Councillor Ken Rangeley explained that since then there has been little, if no extra, development in the village because much property was knocked down to make way for the by-pass and factories have shut down.

### **Consumption**

But Mr Porter felt that consumption in the village has increased, and pointed out that there is insufficient water to supply the whole of Hayfield at certain times of year even if the pipeline were improved.

He explained that the first stage of Harrymoor supply is flat and then steepens, but it is the same size of pipe the way down. If the bore were increased at the top end, then there would be more water.

In view of this, Councillor D. Stanley claimed it would be common sense to replace the pipe, although Mr Porter felt that in summer months, there would not be the water to channel down to Hayfield.

This was largely disputed by members and Councillor David Mellor remarked: "This summer has really been a test for water. The tanks at Shepherd's Hey were flooding over into the brook a certain amount of the time so a bigger storage tank is needed. "

His comments were backed by Councillor Crompton's claim: "At the end of an exceptionally long drought, we consider that at a conservative estimate there were 30,000 gallons a day flowing down Coldwell Clough (the overflow from Harrymoor).

## **Feb 1986 –N1b- High Peak Reporter**

*Conversion to Text by OCR ref N1b - Newspaper cutting is undated but thought to be about Feb 1986.*

### **Harrymoor Water Supply to Hayfield**

#### **Water rate: Council asks questions**

HAYFIELD councillors are firing searching questions at the Severn Trent Water Authority about how the water rate levied in Hayfield every year is spent; hoping that the answers will show that there is enough cash to build the treatment plant which the authority claims will be necessary to keep Harrymoor.

Members were not impressed with a letter they received recently from Severn-Trent Water Authority chairman Mr J. G. Bellak and are determined to glean more information on finances to justify the building of the plant against the possible switch over to North West Water. In a letter to the council, Mr Bellak said the water authority recognised the strong local feeling about keeping Harrymoor, but claimed that the quantities from the supply were limited and that it has been necessary to augment with North West Water.

Although Mr Bellak admitted that the quality was generally good, he said the water was slightly "aggressive" on piping in the system. Treatment plants have been introduced in other areas but it would be necessary to examine the merits of continuing the service against the alternative costs of using North West water.

Parish council members felt the letter told them what they know already and they are anxious to find out about keeping Harrymoor. Councillor Ken Hakin said: "The extra treatment Plant which they claim will be necessary is viable, expensive or not. They are drawing from the parish something like a year in water rate. "There is evidence that the piping from Harrymoor to the tanks at Shepherds Hey is not adequate to bring it down. Can they not see their way to improving the pipework at least to increase the amount. of Harrymoor water that is available to the village?"

"Never mind a continued supply: we want a bigger supply." He added. "There is evidence that Harrymoor water is going to waste."

Councillor Hakin felt that the parish was entitled to know where the £40,000 is spent and claimed that there is no logical reason why the village rate should be used anywhere else. Taking up another issue, Councillor Robin Capstick explained that at a meeting with Severn Trent some 18 months ago the council was told that the water authority would be doing some exploratory digs because there were claims that about 40 per cent of the pipework were corroding.

"That has never been done and even now in the dry weather there is no difference in the force of that supply when that trap door is lifted," he said.

Similarly, Councillor Edmund Houghton said that at one time the official figures for the Harrymoor supply were 450,000 gallons per day. Now Severn Trent are saying this has been reduced to 100,000. "It is due to the slackness in repairing the pipes," he claimed.

Councillor Jim Harrison was convinced that the authority simply wanted to get Hayfield off Harrymoor because it is a liability. And Councillor Mike Crompton, chairman, said that they might start believing Severn Trent when every country in Europe has the same water as the village.

But Councillor Doug Stanley was adamant. He said: "The economics of the matter don't come into it. When there is no water in Kinder Reservoir there will be no water to sell to Severn Trent in a severe drought."

Members agreed to push for a breakdown on how the Hayfield water rate is spent.

## **POSTBOX**

### **'No lack of action'**

Sir — We would like to express our appreciation to all the village of Hayfield for the support they have given to the campaign to save the Harrymoor water supply. We particularly appreciate the efforts of all those correspondents who have voiced their support in articles and letters in the Reporter. Although perhaps unfair to mention any single correspondents, we feel we must reply to the positive suggestions made by Mr Schofield last week who complained of lack of action. High Peak MP Chris Hawkins and MEP Geoff Hoon are both actively pursuing the issue of Harrymoor water in Westminster, Brussels and Strasbourg at the request of the parish council. We ask that only when every village in the whole of the enlarged EEC has a water supply better than and more reliable than Hayfield then, and only then, should the Severn Trent consider a treatment plant.

A petition containing well over 1,000 signatures will shortly be presented to Severn-Trent in Birmingham when we shall request their presence at a public meeting.

The petition also requests that the water authority, after years of neglect, should "spend on maintenance a just and adequate proportion" of the water rates levied.

With the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils and through them with the national association (the largest local government body in the free world) we are pursuing the question of these "quangos" such as water authorities. They can with no elected representative, levy taxes on a community or make designs without disregard for the feelings of those whom they tax.

It is amazing that "taxation without representation" is still practised after all the lessons of history. Harrymoor is Hayfield's water which we pay Severn Trent to administer for us on our behalf with our money.

In the absence of representative voice we have secured the help of the press, radio and TV in this campaign. Their support has been truly magnificent.

For nearly 1,000 years Hayfield has enjoyed the waters of Kinder. As Mr Schofield rightly says, we now enjoy those waters thanks to our forefathers who fought to preserve that heritage.

Anything, less than the same determination, would be a rank betrayal. We do not know what the outcome of this fight will be. We can only make one promise: The battle will not be lost through any lack of action by the parish council. — Yours etc.

MIKE CROMPTON Chairman of Hayfield Parish Council

## Underground Web of Intrigue

THE secret of Harrymoor's abundant water supply, even in times of extreme drought, lies locked in the depths of Kinder Scout. Hayfield's former water engineer claims.

And some people say his theories are borne out by tales from the 1920s when a local gamekeeper was said to have stumbled upon a vast catacomb of caverns high up on the bleak moorland.

Mr George Cooper, from Fairybank Road, who worked on part of Hayfield's water system about 30 years ago, recalls hand-me-down anecdotes about Mr James Watts' keeper, who went missing for three days and later turned up in a dishevelled state with stories of having been lost down a huge series of caves.

Mr Watts, then the owner of much of Kinder, lived at Upper House but moved to Farlands when the reservoir was built. He took the keeper and his head man to the entrance. The hole was blocked off and Mr Watts swore the two of them to secrecy.

"About this time one of the keepers, Robert Barns, went missing for about eight weeks," explained George. "His body was later found during a grouse shoot and I believe he was the man who discovered the cave."

Today a handful of villagers, including Councillor Robin Capstick, claim they know where the entrance is. Maybe Councillor Capstick has good reason, because his father, Stanley, was also a gamekeeper on the Watts estate.

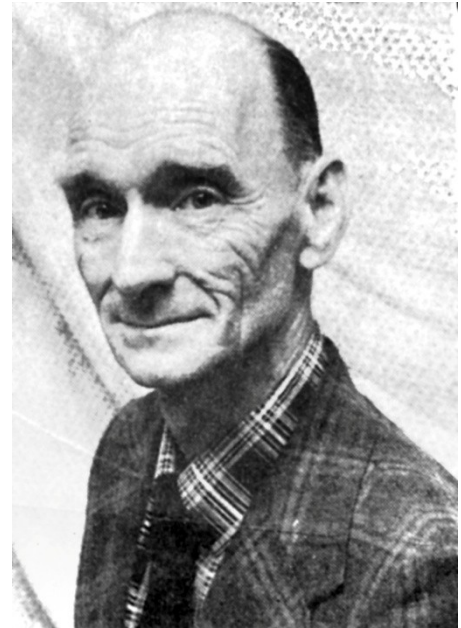
In the 1890s engineer Jonathan Marshall, who masterminded the piped Harrymoor supply, had definite ideas about a cavern network under Kinder.

Said George: "He once said about mountains: that there was a well under every mountain as deep as the mountain was high and the same applied at Kinder."

His belief was that the gathering grounds for Harrymoor are in three places — Joseph Rocks and two other moorland areas and that rainfall from these points kept the supply full.

"It still comes at the same bore in times of extreme drought." he went on "and Jonathan Marshall claimed it drains from a very wide area of underground streams."

"A lot of people claim to have seen them when thousands of Manchester people used to come up every weekend. Hikers claimed they had been in caverns, but no-one really came forward with any concrete evidence."



[George Cooper ... More tales from Harrymoor's past](#)

There are beliefs that the cave chain is similar to the Castleton layout where there are several dry caverns but various flooded areas where water surfaces at different points.

George added: "It is quite some time since we've had any substantial rain and that water is still running as strong as ever. It can't just be rain water; there must be caverns."

## **WATER TESTS UNDERWAY**

HAYFIELD Parish Council is getting to grips with Harrymoor's alleged acid problems and carrying out its own tests on the supply as well as commissioning High Peak's environmental health department to conduct a similar survey. Members are even more convinced now that the "acid scare" is not as severe as the Severn-Trent Water Authority has indicated.

Councillors recall that at the initial meeting, regional officer Rob Porter said the reading was 6.95 — just .05 too acidic — but the water authority has since stated that the figure is 6.4.

Councillors Robin Capstick and Jim Harrison are making tests and it is hoped that the borough council will agree to take samples from both Harrymoor and Kinder and make assessments.

By comparing all three results the chairman, Councillor Mike Crompton, felt that this might prove what enormous variations there are.

Councillor Ken Rangeley was convinced that the results would be favourable because several tropical fish owners in the village, including himself make frequent tests on the water and recently it has proved to be alkaline to neutral rather than acidic.

**Derbyshire's Euro-MP Mr Geoff Hoon, who was asked to look into the EEC water regulations and determine how many countries adhere to the "non. acid" rule, is holding back his comments until he has sought technical advice.**

## **1994 – Extract from Hayfield-RDC Centenary-Booklet**

**Written 1994 by Joan Powell, Clerk to Hayfield Parish Council.**

*OCR text conversion by John Simpson Nov 2022*

In December 1900 Council representatives attended a talk on the Stockport Corporation Water Scheme, and the next month filled in and returned a questionnaire. The Stockport Water Bill was to permit the building of Kinder Reservoir to supply Stockport and also Hayfield, as it would allow Stockport to own all the water shed which would be needed to fill the reservoir. There is no further mention of the Bill in the Minutes until March 1903, when a special meeting was held to consider the Plans and specification for a Water scheme for Harrymoor submitted by Hayfield R. D.C. for confirmation by the Parish Council by the following Tuesday. However in a book compiled by Mr. Edmund Houghton, there is an article recording a piece of oral history. "All the streams and springs of the Kinder area were to be considered the property of Stockport Waterworks and

Hayfield would have to be supplied from the proposed reservoir. Residents felt something had to be done. It was heard that the Water Bill was to come before the House of Lords and someone noticed Harrymoor had been omitted. The Clerk to the Rural District Council, J. R. Bowden (a solicitor) went with a deputation to London for consultation at the House of Lords. The result was a swift return to Hayfield, and a midnight visit to Thomas Bennett of Tunstead to ask him to sell half an acre of land containing the spring for £100. He agreed— a provisional agreement was drawn up, a deposit was paid and the bargain sealed. The deputation returned to London and put in their claim. Stockport asked for proof of Hayfield's ownership and the deed was produced. Hayfield retained its own water supply". A scribbled date which looks like 1906 appears in the margin. However, in the Reporter of 10. 1.1901 it is recorded there was a Parish Council meeting to consider a report from the R. D.C. opposing the Stockport Waterworks Scheme to take water from Park Hall Moor, and in May it was reported that the R. D.C. had engaged Council to oppose the Stockport Corporation Water Bill. In July the paper stated "A Committee of the House of Lords was to consider the Bill ... the only opposition was Hayfield Rural District Council,..... Hayfield wants a portion of the watershed and to have its own water. Mr. Littler K. C. (for Hayfield) said -- We have acquired 0.5 acre near Coldwell Springs and can supply ourselves. We cannot do this if you give Stockport power over all the watershed. Hayfield's petition was allowed". This appears to bear out the article by Mr. Houghton, but the date in the margin must be 1901 not 1906.