

# SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council for the Civil Parish of Southfleet came into being 120 years ago. We thought our parishioners would like to read about the beginnings - some familiar names occur.

The passing of the Local Government Act 1894 led directly to the beginning of the Civil Parish Council. The Act states:

*The Parish Council for a rural parish shall be elected from among the parochial electors of that parish or persons who have during the whole of the 12 months preceding the election resided in the parish, or within 3 miles thereof and shall consist of a Chairman and Councillors, and the number of Councillors shall be, as may be fixed from time to time by the County Council, not being less than 5, nor more than 15. No persons shall be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected or being a Member of the Parish Council.*

Therefore, in the Civil Parish of Southfleet the first meeting was held at the school room at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894, there were about 150 electors present among them being:

Mr T Andrus, Mr W Chambers, Mr J Bartholomew, Mr C Snelling, Mr R French, Mr A Treadwell, Mr H Mitchell, Mr F Miles, Mr W Wade, Mr C Lucas, The Rev J Hazel, Mr W Harris, Mr A Hall and Mr G Wood.

The Rev J Hazel was unanimously elected to take the Chair, the Chairman asked the electors to hand in nomination papers. There were 14 papers submitted.

The candidates were: Mssrs T Andrus, J Bartholomew, W Chambers, R Crowhurst, W Everest, R French, C Lane, M Mitchell, G Russell, J Saxby, E Smith, A Treadwell, H Wade, W Wade.

Results were taken by hand, resulting in: T Andrus – 64 votes, J Bartholomew – 85 votes, W Chambers – 45 votes, R Crowhurst – 48 votes, W Everest – 52 votes, R French – 60 votes, C Lane – 73 votes, M Mitchell – 48 votes, G Russell – 18 votes, J Saxby – 34 votes, E Smith – 56 votes, A Treadwell – 82 votes, H Wade – 30 votes, W Wade- 70 votes.

A meeting of the 14 candidates was held in the school room on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm, the Rev Hazel in the Chair explained the meeting was to avoid a poll if possible. Notices of withdrawal were handed in by 7 candidates, therefore no poll would be necessary.

At the first meeting of the Parish Council for Southfleet on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1894 there were present; Mssrs J Bartholomew, W Everest, R French, C Lane, E Smith, A Treadwell and W Wade. Mr Bartholomew was elected Chairman pro term and Mr Treadwell then moved that Captain T Andrus be elected Chairman of the Council up to the date of the Annual meeting in April next. This was carried unanimously. Capt Andrus then took the Chair.

At the annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1895 Capt Andrus was elected Chairman of the ensuing year.

It was decided the Parish Council would meet quarterly on the first Thursday of each quarter Day

The first Minute book of the Council finishes at 17<sup>th</sup> March 1913: and Captain Thomas Andrus was still there as Chairman. By then other members were Mssrs R French: C Lane: J Woodward: J Chambers: A Miller: W French, J Saxby and E Stokes.

