Council To Think Over Shrublands Barn Plan

6/4/51

—PROPOSAL REFERRED BACK

YARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL declined on Tuesday to agree in principle to the Education Committee's proposal to convert the barn at Shrublands Community Centre into a hall with a stage at a cost of £3680, until details of the scheme have been considered by General Purposes Committee.

Opposition to the Education Committee's request that the Council should approve the proposal was led by Councillor T. A. Watson, who successfully moved the reference back to General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Watson was critical of the way in which the Council was being asked to find the money required immediately after the rate had been fixed and suggested that no harm would be done by the Council asking for time to consider the proposal. A statement of the year's financial working of the centre would be available very shortly, he said, and the Council would then be able to see whether the expenditure proposed was merited.

"We have to consider, for example, whether in giving more to Shrublands we are being fair to the rest of the town," Councillor Watson commented. Had the Centre considered that it might make use of the Pavilion at Gorleston? he asked.

Councillor F. I. Skoyles seconded the reference back.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY

Opposing, Councillor H. G. Holmes, who is chairman of the Centre's management committee, emphasised that the Centre existed for use by people from all parts of the town. He said the report on its operation showed its soundness financially and socially. They were asking the Council to subsidise it to the extent of one fifteenth of a penny rate and they wished to make it self-supporting.

Councillor J. P. Winter said there would be no harm if there were a month's delay, while Alderman S. H. Da'Volls suggested that the Council would be looking a gift horse in the mouth if it did not encourage the development of the Centre

Councillor C. J. Ellett reminded the Council that the proposal would rank for a 60 per cent. grant, and Alderman E. R. Herman pointed out that the proposal had to go before the Ministry of Education, on whose approval it depended.

Councillor A. W. Ecclestone drew attention to the social and cultural needs of the north end of Yarmouth, where there were very meagre facilities for a considerable population. One individual was doing a wonderful job of work in a wooden hut at the racecourse by holding a Sunday School and developing other organisations for youth. The hut cost £72, and £3000 would help considerably towards providing the same facilities at the north end that Shrublands enjoyed.

WOULD BENEFIT TOWN

Councillor V. W. Back said the amount of good that Shrublands was doing could not be measured in terms of money. Most of the other associations in the town were affiliated to the Centre and the proposal would be of benefit to the town as a whole. He suggested that the conversion of the building would help to make the Centre self-supporting and ensure its continued operation.

Councillor E. W. Applegate said while he was conscious of the needs of the north end he considered the proposal would represent a very good investment for the Council.

Alderman H. S. Matthes, spoke in appreciation of the work being done at Shrublands, but suggested the proposal should be more fully considered in view of the fact that it had been brought forward immediately after the estimates had been approved.

Fifty Years With One Firm

After 50 years' service with the local shipbuilding firm of Fellows & Co. Ltd., the chief clerk, Mr. R. C. Rudd, has retired. On Friday he was presented with a cheque from the staff and foremen.