

Worcester Chronicle – Wednesday 25 June 1856

“SUCCESSFUL RESISTANCE TO THE PROPOSED ENCROACHMENT ON HALLOW GREEN

We had hoped that the proposal to erect schools on the picturesque village green which stands in the midst of Hallow had been some time since abandoned in consequence of the timely and energetic opposition of Mr. W. Pullen, and of ourselves having



pointed out the illegal misappropriation which it would involve, as well as the barbaric nature of the project and its wanton uselessness. It seems however that the vicar has still continued to nurse his favourite project, and at last ventured to call a parish meeting with the view of attempting to gain the consent of the parishioners. Handbills freely circulated throughout the village had aroused the attention of the inhabitants and excited a general feeling of disapprobation to the project, but the vestry meeting held yesterday morning was not very numerously attended. Among those present were the Rev. R. Bourne, F. St. John, Esq., Mr. Ald. Price (of Worcester), Messrs. W. Pullen, S. Tearne, T. Tearne, Baker, Barber, Farmer, Fortey (of Worcester), Rimell, Goodall, Marks, Nutt, etc. etc.

Rev. Bourne earnestly required whether the present was a vestry meeting or not – it was very important to settle that before proceeding further. A reply was given that it could not be a vestry meeting, it was a public meeting of the parishioners, convened to discuss a specific subject.



The Vicar, Rev. Pepys (pictured left) stated the reasons upon which he advocated the erection of school-houses on the village green. He said that some months ago, when he was in doubt as to which would be the best site for their erection, that it was suggested to him as being the best, and upon due consideration he came to the same conclusion. He did not think that the parishioners would have any objection, or he would have called a public meeting in the first place. No one had objected to him privately, and only one person publicly. He had taken Counsel's opinion on the subject and was informed that the lord of the manor had power to grant the land necessary for such a purpose, it less than an acre – but his own father being lord of the manor, he did not like to adopt that course, and had therefore called the present meeting in order to obtain the sense of the inhabitants upon the question.

Rev. Bourne then read the notice calling the meeting and went on to say that he was not in combination with either party, either for or against the proposal. He quoted a similar encroachment for a similar purpose to that under consideration in a parish in Kent, which he knew very well, and where peace had given place to discord.”

Andrea Unwin

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