

Correspondence and plan concerning proposal to alter the Second World War memorial to include the names of E Stubberfield, R Martin and J Burton Nov 1956 - Jul 1968

PAR382-04-02-03

Letter 01

High House,
Hooe,
Battle

2-11-56

Dear Mr Carey,

Here are the particulars of Phyllis's late husband

L/Cpl JACK BURTON
No. 6407202 2nd Battalion
THE HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT
DIED OF WOUNDS 6th February 1944
IN ITALY

I expect this is all you need, isn't it?

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Sargent

Letter 02

1st May, 1968

Dear Mr Smith,

I have been approached recently by Mrs Wainwright who was the wife of Lance Corporal Jack Burton, who died of wounds in Italy in 1944, with a request that his name be added to be War Memorial in Hooe Church. You are already fully aware of this matter as it has been under discussion for a number of years and you're one of those who have been involved.

According to information given to me by Mr Harris it would seem that the name of Ernest Stubberfield also be included in any addition made to the War Memorial as being one from the parish who gave his life in 1939/45 War. But I have a letter which states that he was no longer residing at Hooe when he was called to the Forces so that the addition of his name seems dependent on reliably ascertaining the facts.

The problem appears to be whether Mr Stubberfield name is added or not, the money will have to be raised to carry out the addition. I am told that Mrs Sargent of High House has a small sum in hand for this purpose and that the local branch of the British Legion would give a donation. I think, too, there might be a donation from the Parochial Church Council but it is certain that the amount for coming from these sources would fall far short of the total sum required.

At this stage, it impossible to say what the actual cost of the addition might be. It must be borne in mind that as the Memorial is in Hooe Church, the Vicar and Churchwardens would have thought 10 a Faculty from the Chancellor of the Dioceses, author in the alteration pose and that this could involve three of five or six guineas as well as stipulating precise form the alteration must take. I think a sum of at least £40 might well be needed for the addition in its simplest form.

I write, therefore, to ask you to bring this matter, in its entirety, the notice of your Parish council at its next meeting. I wish to know as quickly as possible whether the Council, as being the most appropriate body in Hooe, is prepared to make an appeal to the parish for the funds required all to raise the money in some other way. I am sure you will agree with me that it is high time this matter was finally settled if your Council can give me an affirmative answer, I will be pleased to go carefully into the matter of cost, and give you a more reliable figure than my estimate above. But this will be time-consuming and wasted effort if to no purpose.

Yours sincerely,

The Clerk,
Hooe Parish Council,

Letter 03

1st May, 1968

Dear Mrs Wainwright,

I have spent some time inquiring into the position regarding getting Mr Burton's name added to the War Memorial in Hooe Church.

I have got to the point where it is clear that the matter must be dealt with by the Hooe Parish Council and I have written a long letter to the clerk of the Council after seeing him setting out the position and requesting him to bring it before the Council for consideration at its next meeting. This I understand will be later this month.

I will not going to all the details now but the crux of the problem will be raising the necessary money to get the job done. I do not think less than £40 will be needed for an addition even in simple form, particularly as it must meet the requirements of the Chancellor of the Dioceses. I will write you again when there is something definite to tell you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Wainwright,

Rugby

Letter 04

Rugby,
Warwickshire.

6 May 1968

To the Rev F. C. T. Turner

Dear Rev Turner,

I wish to thank you for your letter, also for giving some of your very valuable time on my behalf to making more inquiries regarding getting my late husband's name added to the War Memorial in Hooe Church.

I will await a further letter from you after the meeting of the Parish Council.

I hope something can be done as my sister (Mrs Sargent) has done so much on my behalf for many years now. I understand his name is always mentioned in the Remembrance Day Service in the Church.

Thanking you once again.

I remain,
Yours Sincerely,
(Mrs) P. M. Wainwright

Letter 05

19th June, 1968

Dear Mrs Wainwright,

Since I wrote to you on 1st of May, the Hooe Parish Council has met and I have made some advance in sorting out the factors involved in making an addition to the War Memorial in Hooe Church.

It appears that the Parish Council discussed the matter on the lines of the letter I wrote to Mr Smith, the Clerk of the Council, but made no definite decision to take any action. Mr Smith gave me a verbal account of the Council's discussion afterwards and it seems to me it has very little inclination towards raising the money necessary to pay for the work. I felt this might be the case and one of the reasons is that, owing to the lapse of time since the 1939/45 war ended, it is thought that the response to an appeal, in whatever way that might be made, would be inadequate for the object in view. I am told that the number of people now in Hooe who would remember Mr Burton is comparatively small and their contributions might well be likewise. Of course, the Parish Council is not permitted to use its own funds for this purpose.

However, as a result of my probings, I can say that the estimates of the cots of an addition, which I gave you in my last letter, was too high and that a figure of £25 is more realistic. This is partly due to the fact that I am now certain that only the name of Mr Burton should be recorded (thus bringing down the cost of lettering which is high) and partly to the form which the addition must take.

I have had a stonemason at the Church to examine the existing Memorial and for various reasons he is of the opinion that this should not be interfered with in any way. This means that in getting the approval of the Chancellor of this Diocese to making an addition we can state that we wish it to be a suitable small plaque of marble placed underneath because no other course is open to us.

I shall be writing a further letter to Mr Smith before the Hooe Parish Council meets again in July with a view to bringing the whole matter to a definite conclusion. But I find it hard to be really hopeful that the Council would undertake to see the job through. I certainly think it should make an attempt to do so but my object will be to obtain the decision one way or the other, and, if this is still not forthcoming, then to put it on record that the Council have declined to act. In the meantime it would be helpful if you could let me know how much money you and Mrs Sargent have in hand towards the addition so that I have a reasonably reliable idea of the amount that still has to be raised.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P. M. Wainwright,

Letter 06

12th July 1968

Dear Mr Smith,

With reference to my letter to you, to the War Memorial in Hooe Church, and our conversation after the last meeting of the Hooe Parish Council on this matter, I should be obliged if you would once again raise the issue at the next meeting of the Council.

As a result of further investigation, two facts emerge. Firstly, I am now satisfied that only the name of Mr Burton has to be inscribed on the addition relating to the 1939/45 War. Mr Martin is not eligible and Mr Stubberfield's name has been included in the Bexhill War Memorial. Secondly, as a result of discussing the matter with a stone mason at the Church, it is likely that the existing Memorial could not be disturbed without much risk of damaging it and thus there is no other course open to us but to make the addition a suitable small plaque of marble underneath.

In the light of these facts, it would appear the cost of the work would be in the region of £25 and not £40 as I mentioned in my last letter to you. That being the case, I am inclined to think that your council would be responsible for only about £15, which I would have thought could be procured in the parish without very much effort.

I trust your Council will now receive this matter sympathetically. I must ask you to make it clear that there is no more than I can do and that the issue rests with the Council. I, therefore, hope you will obtain a definite decision, one way or the other, so that conclusion to the whole affair is no longer delayed.

Yours sincerely,

The Clerk,
Hooe Parish Council,
Hooe, Sussex

Letter 07

12th July, 1968

Dear Mrs Wainwright,

I have been waiting for a reply from you to my letter of the 19th June but as I have not had one I hope that letter duly reached you.

I have written again to Mr Smith pressing for a decision. It is, however, unfortunate that I could not be definite in stating the amount the Parish Council would need to raise to effect the addition to the existing memorial over and above what is in hand. I do not know how much this is and I feel that the Council should not have been able to evade the issue for want of a definite figure on which to reach a decision.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P. M. Wainwright,

Rugby

Letter 08

Hooe Parish Council

Clerk:
K. B. Smith

SUNKYST,
HOOE COMMON,
BATTLE, SUSSEX

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

16th July 1968

The Vicar,

With reference to your letter of 12th July, which was put before the Parish Council at a meeting yesterday evening, while the Council very much appreciate the time that you have spent on this matter, they very much regret that they cannot see their way clear to raise the money which is needed. As there are so few people in Hooe now who knew Mr Burton, it would be pointless to make a house-to-house collection.

Again regretting that the Council have no funds at their disposal with which to carry out the work and cost of a memorial

Yours Sincerely

K. B. Smith
Clerk

Letter 09

Rugby,
Warwickshire

16-7-68

Dear Rev Turner,

I thank you for your letter of the 12th July also for a previous letter. I am sorry I did not reply at once, I have now put the matter before the Welfare Officer of the local branch of the British Legion and they have today taken the matter to London Headquarters, so you will be hearing from them in due course.

I am not sure of the amount of cash my sister holds; I think somewhere around £10, at the most.

I do sincerely thank you for all the trouble you are going to to get this matter settled satisfactorily and hope when next I get to Bexhill I may be able to thank you personally for what you have done.

Yours sincerely,

P. M. Wainwright

Letter 10

18th July, 1968

Dear Mrs Wainwright,

Thank you for your letter. I have also heard from Mr K. Smith in reply to my last letter he tells me that the Hooe parish council very much regret that the members cannot "see their way clear to raise the money which is needed, as there are so few people in Hooe now who knew Mr Burton".

This is the clear decision, one way or the other, for which I asked and it means that it is the end of the road as far as the Council is concerned. I am afraid also there is no more that I can do. The crux of the situation is in raising the necessary money, which no doubt would have been easy if the matter had been dealt with, as it should have been, soon after the end of the last War. If the British Legion are prepared to help in this respect, it could yet be possible to make the addition.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P. M. Wainwright,

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Rugby
