

THE WOODHURST AFFAIR.

The Clerk referred to a crisis that had arisen at Woodhurst. The Parish Council passed a resolution agreeing to accept a field in the occupation of Mr. Gurry, the Chairman of the Council. The Parish Council thanked Mr. Gurry for giving up the field, and thought everything was plain sailing. The Allotment Association had, however, ignored the Parish Council and took possession of the field. Mr. Gurry refused to recognise the Allotment Association, stating he was dealing with the Parish Council, and asked the Association to leave the field. The Parish Council came to him for advice, and he wrote to the Secretary of the Allotment Association, but the Association still remained in possession. Mr. Gurry was very much annoyed. Unless possession was given up by the Allotment Association, a plaint would be entered and damages claimed. However good the intention of the Allotment Association was, it was preposterous for them to take forcible possession of the land. He asked Mr. Rogers to intervene to prevent the case going into Court.

Mr. Rogers said according to the information given him the Allotment Association were actually in possession of a lease. This was made between the owner of the land and the Allotment Association. If that were so it put an entirely different complexion on the matter. His information was that the owner refused to let the land to the Parish Council, but was prepared to let it to the Allotment Association. The land was stumped out by the Association, and not by the Parish Council.

The Clerk said he could disabuse Mr. Rogers' mind; there was no such lease in existence, and he did not think the Association had a leg to stand upon against the evidence he had. He hoped Mr. Rogers would do his best to stop these proceedings, and let the matter go through the ordinary channels of the Parish Council. By doing this, those who were anxious to secure allotments would achieve their object.

Mr. Rogers said he would investigate the matter further.