

Copy of a Paper about Belchamp Walter School given to Walter Deal by the late Mr Philip Raymond when parishioners held a celebration Centenary Supper in the building on 29th July 1972.

"Notes from documents in connection with the Building of Belchamp Walter School.

The old school was opened in the Eighteen Thirtys, and was small and not capable of enlargement, and poorly positioned. It is not clear where this was.

The idea for a new school was first mooted in 1870, and during 1871 active plans were made and permission obtained and Tenders considered.

Of three Tenders submitted - Two were for approximately £595, and another - that from Messrs Clement Theobald of Melford for £550 was accepted.

The Architect was Woolmer Robert Firmin.

The Conveyance Deed, which we have, is dated 25th September 1871 and "Enrolled in Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery the 5th day of October in the year of Our Lord 1871."

Thus the Site was Conveyed by The Rev. John Mayne St. Clere Raymond to "The Minister and Church Wardens, for the time being, and their Successors".

"Signed Sealed and Delivered by The Rev. J.M. St. Clere Raymond, Oliver Raymond, Robert Firmin and Charles Adams, in the presence of George M. Andrews - Solicitor, Sudbury.

The Builder's Agreement was signed on 24th October 1871, and work started.

An appeal for voluntary subscriptions was launched and totalled £196-12-0

Later a further list of subs " £ 59- 3-0

making £255-15-0

Other contributions were made by various Public Bodies, and the balance sheet at date of completion was as follows-

<u>Assets</u>	£	s	d	<u>Liabilities:</u>	£	s	d
Voluntary Subscriptions	255	15	0	Site (as certified)	552	10	0
Sale of Old School	30	0	0	School Building,			
Grant from National Society	50	0	0	Boundary Walls and			
" " Diocese	60	0	0	Outbuildings	593	10	6
" " S.P.C.K.	13	0	0	Desks, benches			
" " Government	145	10	0	and Fittings	24	0	0
Value of Site (given by JMSt. CR)	52	10	0	Architect Commission	32	10	6
Balance Paid " " "	128	12	3	Legal Expenses	21	0	0
				Sundry Expenses	8	6	3
				Bell	3	10	0
	<u>£ 735</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>£ 735</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>

Belchamp Walter School (Cont'd)

The Trust Deed of the old School is dated 26th February 1838, and was presumably surrendered when the building of the new School was sanctioned.

According to the records, the old School Building was only 28' long x 15' broad x 12' high, or 5040 cub. feet. In the old wording - this gave "Breathing Space for 63 Scholars @ 80 cub. ft. each, and Standing space for 52½ @ 8 ft. each".

The measurements proposed for the new School were: 55' x 70 x 18<sup>8</sup> high, with a Class Room - 18' x 15 x 18' high, but curiously the actual dimensions dont seem to be mentioned in the Architect's Specification, which only deals with the materials to be used etc.

The Trust Deed of the new School is dated 25th September 1871, and Enrolled in Chancery 5th October 1871.

The Foundation Stone was laid by Mrs St. Clere Raymond, and the mallet & trowel presented to her on that occasion have been preserved.

The School was opened on 22nd August 1872, under a Head Mistress and 166 children, The population of the village being at that time, 708 Persons, of whom 170 Families were Members of The Church of England.

After threats of closure extending over 10 years, and reprieved on petition many times - the School finally closed in 1963, and became the Village Hall a few years later.

P.S. The School Management Committee at the time of opening were as follows:

The Vicar - The Rev. Oliver Raymond and alternatively - his Curate

Vicar's Warden - Mr Robert Firmin

People's Warden - Mr Charles Adams

Mr William Wright, Mr Henry Mann, Mr George Washington Brownlow, and The Rev. John Mayne St. Clere Raymond (Correspondent).

The name of Mr George Coote, also appears on some documents, as representing the Managers.

S. P. St. C. R.

June 1972.      "" ""