

## Highway Rate

The Highways Act of 1555 made parishes responsible for maintaining the main roads in their parishes. Formerly, the responsibility lay with the manors. In order to carry out the necessary road repairs the larger landowners were required to provide a horse or cart for 4 days a year, whilst able bodied parishioners had to give 4 days "statute labour" a year (increased to 6 days in an Act of 1563). The Highways Act of 1691, amongst other things, authorised the levying of a Highways Rate. This was almost certainly based on the same assessable values used for Poor and Church Rates and levied on owners of land. Permission to levy a rate had to be sought at the Quarter Sessions, which could take time. For the next 140 years the cost of road repairs was probably covered by a combination of statute labour and a highway rate.

Amongst the parish records noted but no longer surviving are:

A Rate for raising Sixpence in the Pound for the use of the Highways for the year 1741 and likewise for a similar amount for 1747.

The Highway Act of 1835 abolished statute labour and permitted Vestries to levy a highway rate. No rate assessments have survived for High Littleton but Vestry Minutes sporadically record the levying of rates. Whether this reflects the infrequency of repairs or whether many levies went unminuted is unclear.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1846 "Resolved that a Rate for the repair of the roads be forthwith made and collected at five pence in the pound."

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 1847 "Resolved that a rate at Five Pence in the Pound be Made and Collected for the Repairs of the Highways of the Tithing of High Littleton."

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1848 "Resolved that a Highway Rate of two pence halfpenny in the pound be made and collected forthwith."

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1848 "Resolved that a Highway Rate be made and forthwith collected of five Pence in the Pound."

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 1848 "Resolved that a Highway Rate be made and forthwith collected of ten Pence in the Pound."

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 1849 "The Surveyors of the High Littleton Roads and of the Hallatrow Roads stated that it would be necessary for each Tithing that rates of 5d. in the pound should be made, which rates they were respectively authorized to collect.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 1849 "Resolved that a Highway Rate be Made and forthwith Collected of three Pence in the Pound."

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1849 "Resolved that a rate of five pence in the pound be made for the repairs of the Highways of the Tithing of High Littleton."

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 1851 "Mr William JAMES, the Waywarden, stated that he required a Rate at five pence in the Pound for the necessary repairs of the Highways. Resolved that a Rate to the amount of five pence in the Pound be made forthwith."

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1852 "Mr William JAMES, the Surveyor of Highways, stated that he required a Rate for the Repairs of the Highways. Resolved that a Rate to the amount of 2½d. in the Pound be forthwith made for Repairs of the Highways in the Tithing of High Littleton."

8<sup>th</sup> July 1852 "Resolved that a Highway Rate at 5 pence in the Pound be forthwith made for the necessary repairs of the Highways of the Tithing of High Littleton."

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 1853 "Resolved that the surveyor of Highways for High Littleton be allowed to make a Rate of 5d. in the pound for the necessary repairs of the Highway."

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1855 "Moved by Mr COWEN, seconded by Mr HALL, that a Rate of five pence in the pound be made for the repairs of the Highways of the Tithing of High Littleton. Carried unanimously."

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 1856 “Resolved that a rate at 2½d. in the pound for the necessary repairs of the Highways be made and collected forthwith for the Tithing of High Littleton.”

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1857 “Mr William JAMES, the waywarden, stated that he required a Rate of 2½d. in the Pound for the necessary repairs of the Highways. Resolved that a Rate at 2½d. in the pound be made.”

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1857 Mr William JAMES, the Waywarden, informed the Vestry that a Rate at five pence in the Pound was required for the necessary repair of the Highways. Resolved that such Rate be deferred for the consideration of a future Vestry.”

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1858 “The Waywarden, stated that he required a Rate at 5 pence in the Pound for the necessary repairs of the Highways. It was resolved that a Highway Rate at five pence in the pound be forthwith made.”

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 1860 “Resolved unanimously that a rate for the repairs of the Highways at five pence in the pound be made.

The Highways Act of 1862 empowered justices to unite parishes compulsorily into highway authorities. Thereafter High Littleton parish did not have individual responsible for road maintenance and instead paid a rate to Clutton Union. Thus on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1864 “Resolved that a Rate at 15d. in the Pound be made for the Union Call for 160 Pounds, and a Highway Call for £36.10. 0.