

TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHAVEN.

The annual general vestry of the rated inhabitants of this township was held at the Workhouse yesterday forenoon. The attendance was unusually scanty, there scarcely being twenty persons present. (On the motion of Mr. Wilson, druggist, seconded by Mr. Brunskill, Mr. Richard Barker, jun., the visitor for the past year, was called to the chair.)

Mr. BARKER said they were met in conformity with the act of parliament under which the affairs of the poor were managed, to hear the report of the select vestry for the past year, and to choose officers for the ensuing twelve months. Mr. B. then read the report, a copy of which we annex:—

*Report of the Select Vestry for the Township of Whitehaven, for the Year ending March 25, 1838.*

In presenting the accounts of the Guardian and Overseers for the past year, the Select Vestry have great pleasure in stating that the expenditure has been considerably less than during any year since the affairs of the poor were placed under their present mode of management. The decrease has not been occasioned by any diminution in the amount of relief granted to applicants entitled to and deserving parochial aid, but by a steady adherence on the part of the Vestry to the system adopted by their predecessors. It will be perceived, on comparing the Guardian's account for the present year, with that of the year ending 25th March, 1837, that there is a decrease of 105*l.* in the payments to the out-poor resident in Whitehaven. The casual relief afforded to the sick and other poor, not likely to be permanent paupers, does not materially differ from the disbursements of former years.

There is a considerable decrease in the law expenses, which are this year unusually light.

The total expenditure is 230*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* being 290*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* less than that of the preceding year.

The Vestry approve of the Guardian's economical management of the business intrusted to his care, and unanimously recommend his re-appointment.

By the death of Mr. Sturwin, late Governor of the Workhouse, the Township has been deprived of the services of an old and very efficient officer, who for upwards of thirty years discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the rate payers. Mr. James was appointed to succeed him, and the Vestry recommend his continuance in office.

The weekly average number of paupers in the workhouse, during the year was 110, of whom 4 were pauper lodgers; and the average weekly maintenance, exclusive of clothing, 1*s.* 10*½d.* per head. The number of out-door paupers at the commencement of the year was 171, and is now 174.

Mr. B. then read the Guardian's accounts for the past year, a copy of which we also subjoin:—

March 24.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance	1	4	5	
Cash from Overseers	1851	0	0	
Discent Parishes	354	1	4	
Pauper Lodgers	84	12	0	
Fathers of illegitimate children	10	8	0	
Earnings	119	11	5	
	£2370	17	2	

  

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Out Poor resident in Whitehaven	469	0	6
Casual Sick and other poor	249	6	0
Poor belonging Whitehaven resident in other places	239	15	8
Masters of illegitimate children	10	8	3
Provisions for workhouse	540	12	8
Charking for paupers	164	4	10
Law expenses—Mr. Atkinson, 7 <i>l.</i> 16 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> Mr. Heywood, 13 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> Public Office 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	84	10	11
Coffins and Burial Charges	39	9	6
Printing and Stationery	10	1	6
Passages	2	17	6
Renovals and travelling expenses	15	5	11
Salaries	136	10	0
Paupers belonging distant parishes	336	12	8
Balances	5	10	7
	£2370	17	2

Mr. ASKEW remarked that the expenditure for clothing appeared rather bigger than usual, and was told by Mr. BARNES, one of the overseers, that they had given freely in cases where want of clothing was very apparent, and that the winter having been a severe one would no doubt have had its share in augmenting that item of expenditure.

Mr. ASKEW next inquired what amount of the current rate was uncollected, and was told by Mr. Wilson, another of the overseers, that he believed from 250*l.* to 300*l.*

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that the rates had been better collected within the last eighteen months than for some time previously.—He had read the report of the Vestry and the Guardian's account, and should be glad to hear whatever observations or remarks any person might have to offer.

His remarks being offered, the Report was unanimously adopted and ordered to be published, as usual.

On the motion of Mr. WILLIAM WILSON, seconded by Mr. CORNICK, Mr. Brown was unanimously re-appointed to the office of Guardian.

Mr. CORNICK moved, seconded by Mr. BRUNSKILL, that Mr. James James be continued in the situation of Governor of the Poor House for the ensuing year, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Captain HUTCHINSON, seconded by Mr. R. GIBSON, Messrs. W. Wilson, J. Brunskill, and T. Cornick, were nominated as fit and proper persons to be recommended to the Magistrates for their selection of one to fill the situation of Visitor for the present year.

Mr. ASKEW then proposed that the following gentlemen be submitted to the magistrates for their selection of overseers, viz Messrs. Lumley Kennedy, W. Kitchin, grocer, J. J. Peile, W. Shervien, juner, John Asker, Joseph Clementson, Jonathan Drewry, Peter Fisher, Francis Lambert, Job Lepper, and Geo. Rise. The motion was seconded by Mr. R. GIBSON, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. WILSON proposed the following gentlemen for the Select Vestry for next year:—Messrs. James Costwaite, John Hales, Michael Hutchinson, James Reid, James Spittal, Joseph Stockdale, Thomas M'Adam, Ebenezer Cox, George Graham, Henry Kendall, John Longstaff, William Murdoch, Thomas Nuttford, James Twan and John Walker. The proposition was seconded by Mr. BRUNSKILL and carried unanimously.

Mr. BRUNSKILL proposed that Mr. David Mann be continued in his office of Assistant overseer, with a salary of 60*l.* a year. The motion was seconded by Mr. CORNICK and agreed to.

Mr. WILSON said that as they had got through all the appointments he would beg to call the attention of the meeting to the salary of the Alatron, who he considered was not sufficiently remunerated for the very arduous duties she had to perform. She had but 10*l.* a year, which was little more than the ordinary wages of female servants. The subject had been discussed by the select vestry, who had agreed in recommending an advance of her salary to 12 guineas a year.

Mr. R. GIBSON observed that the proposed advance was something that no one, he imagined, would offer any objections to it. The CHAIRMAN said the duties of Alatron were no doubt extremely onerous, and if it met the views of the meeting he thought an advance to 15*l.* a year was no more than she deserved.

Mr. WILSON remarked that the officers for next year had the fixing of the salary for the Alatron...

Mr. R. GIBSON said in that case it would perhaps be desirable for the General Vestry to recommend the Select Vestry to agree to the proposed augmentation.

The CHAIRMAN concurred, and thought from what had passed they might inform the new officers that the proposed increase of salary was unanimously approved of by the General Vestry.

Thanks were then voted to the Overseers for their unwearied attention to the concerns of the poor during the past year, and to the Chairman for his services on the occasion, after which the meeting broke up.

< P 13 FEB 1838

To-morrow is the day the annual distribution of soup to the poor in this town usually ceases, but owing to the severity of the weather, and the want in many families, arising from the detention of vessels in Dublin and other causes, many benevolent individuals are exerting themselves to raise the means in order to enable them to keep the soup-kitchen open for one month longer. The sum necessary for the accomplishment of this good work, we understand, is about 5*l.* per week, and though there may be other pressing demands upon the purses of the benevolent at this moment, we entertain no fear but the needful will be forthcoming.—Mr. Peile, draper, who has taken an active part in the matter, will be thankful for any contributions that may be left at his shop.

