

'Benjamin Falkerd to pay 4s.0d. a year for a Hovele¹⁴ built on waste in North Bar Street.

'Mrs Jarvis to pay 3s.0d. a year for a sign belonging to George Inn on waste.

'Mr Hawtyn, brazier, to pay 1s.0d. a year for a post erected before his door on waste' [171b, 172].

In 1756 William Calcot[t] had actually built the front of his house one foot on to waste land, as had Thomas Grant with his house in Parsons Lane; for this encroachment each had to pay 1s. a year [236]. At the same time, the Council set an annual rent for John Pain, who was allowed to have an area of waste ground before his house in North Bar Street [235b].

The Council derived further income from piccage and stallage, which on 23 July 1729 was let to the Sergeants-at-Mace for ten guineas, payable to the Mayor each year – a figure reduced to eight guineas in 1738 [63, 131b]; also from the lease of the Sheep Ground and 'Tolls for the sheep'; it was agreed on 21 March 1742 to grant these to Robert Wild for a period of 21 years and a payment of ten guineas each year, five guineas at Michaelmas and five guineas at Lady Day [159b].

The Council also played an important part in the administration of the charities of Joshua Sprigge, Mr Metcalfe and Captain Smith. The Journal records that the capital sums involved were, at times, invested in South Sea Company annuities (this was after the notorious 'South Sea Bubble' catastrophe of 1720), or lent, for varying periods of time, to members of the Council and, in 1744, 1746 and 1750, to the Rt. Hon. Lord North and Guilford [167, 181, 181b, 205]; the resulting income was used for maintenance repairs to the workhouse and for the employment of twenty to forty poor people 'which are out of the workhouse in spinning jersey and so forth' [94, 143, 143b]. At a Hall held on 5 January 1738 it was 'agreed the Bread Money be distributed on the first Sunday in every month according to the will of donor, Captain Smith, to 20 poor people, a 4d. loaf to each to commence on Sunday next' [134].

On 27 January 1753 the Council 'agreed on a petition to the House of Commons for an Act of Parliament for making good the road from Banbury to meet the Stratford Turnpike at the foot of Edge Hill by a Turnpike to be erected for that purpose.' A surveyor was to be appointed

¹⁴ A shed.