

‘to take a view of the said road and make a report of its state and condition with an estimate of necessary expense of alteration thereof within ten days. Mr Wells, surveyor of Adderbury to be approached’ [219b]. No further progress is recorded in the Journal, but the necessary Act was passed in 1753 and this section of the road was turnpiked.¹⁵

Two challenges to the Council’s authority are recorded in the Journal. On 22 September 1755 the Council decided it was time to take action against ‘the inhabitants of Banbury who refused to pay the several ameracements imposed on them by the Jury at the last Court Leet for sundry offences’; the Mayor, ‘having an inclination to distrain for the said ameracements is threatened to have actions brought in case such distresses are made’; the Council agreed, therefore, ‘that the expenses of defending such actions should be defrayed out of Corporation money in the Chamberlain’s hands’ [232b]. Neither the Journal nor the Chamberlain’s Account, 1747-1816, makes any further mention of this matter, so we cannot say that the Council’s policy was successful and that the fines were paid.

The second challenge came on 17 November 1758 when the town’s bakers refused to submit to the Assize of Bread set by the magistrates, ‘preferring to sell their bread at a higher price than was allowed by the Assize’ [251b, 252]; here again, there is no record, in either the Journal or the Chamberlain’s Accounts, as to how, or when, this matter was resolved.

The last entry in the Journal is dated 17 June 1761, and records the agreement reached by William Howse and Henry Clarson [jun.], Bridgemasters, with John Webster for ‘a piece of ground, commonly called the Island, situate between the Bridge and Goslays [Goose Leys], at the yearly rent of 7s.6d., to pay for this present year due at AllSaints no more than 5s.0d. being the old rent he has for many years rented it as we agreed with him for 21 years to come from the above date’ [260b].

This is followed on the final few pages by a recital of the oaths required to be taken by the Deputy Mayor, the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses, the Assistants, the Town Clerk, the Deputy Recorder and the Sergeants-at-Mace [261-263b].

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Oxon* 10, 12; Turnpike Act 26 Geo. II, c.78.