

# Extracts from the Emsworth Conservative Association papers gifted to the Museum by Lord Willetts

## Minute Book March 1947 – February 1992

*This is a proper old fashioned minute book with manuscript entries up to 1964 and then typescript. It contains minutes of committee meetings and AGMs to 1961 and then only minutes of AGMs which include a short summary of speeches by the local MP – Sir Dymoke White, Mr Geoffrey Stevens, and then Sir Ian Lloyd. The final sets of minutes record the arrival of the new parliamentary candidate David Willetts. Here are some extracts from the reported comments of the successive MPs.*

**March 1947** Sir Dymoke White MP “gave a most interesting account of the Bills which were then before Parliament, their advantages and disadvantages: the situation in Palestine, Egypt and India.”

**March 1949** AGM Sir Dymoke “touched briefly on the Empire and mentioned India, Ceylon, Burma and Malaya and how the present Government had mismanaged the affairs of these countries.”

**April 1951** Committee Meeting “Capt. Parrick suggested old newspapers be prominently displayed at the Fete showing prices of commodities as they were in the good old days.”

**March 1952** AGM “Mr Geoffrey Stevens MP gave a very good description of the atmosphere now prevailing in Parliament and illustrated how the experienced and sophisticated members of the Government were more than a match for the socialists who sought to discredit Conservative efforts to rescue the country from mass bankruptcy.”

**March 1953** AGM “He (Mr Stevens) first mentioned the disappointment of so many regarding the Government’s decision concerning the ‘fringe areas’ and television for the Coronation and although the matter had been taken to the Cabinet level no success had been achieved. Mr Geoffrey Stevens also expressed uncertainty at the effect of the death of Stalin and said we should be well-armed. It was most necessary for the Government to provide adequate defence for the country.”

**April 1957** AGM The speaker, Geoffrey Stevens MP, was asked how does the Government propose to tackle the problem of a vast array of goods unleashed into Britain from countries such as Italy with a low scale of wages and production costs. The Speaker replied that this problem would take time to settle itself – the Government is right in being prepared to enter the European Common Market. All said we are still the Bankers of Sterling – trade will follow the Bank and we shall be the bankers of the European Common Market.”

**March 1959** AGM “Mr Stevens then gave an analysis of their attributes of the Government Front Bench viz Mr Selwyn Lloyd, Mr Macleod, Mr Maudling, Mr Heathcote-Amery, Mr Duncan Sandys and Mr Marples. In reply to a question from Mr Wilson as to why he had omitted to mention Mr R A Butler the Speaker regretted the omission and praised Mr Butler’s attributes.”

**April 1959** Committee Meeting Argument about whether to run as Independent Candidates at Council Election “Politics did not come into Council matters – they would work as Independents.”

**March 1960** AGM Geoffrey Stevens MP “His remarks were mostly centred round the forthcoming Budget and why there might be no remission of Income Tax, due perhaps to Doctors and Railway pay increases and also if tax reductions were made people might want to spend more and this might ultimately trend towards inflation.”



*EMHT President, Lord Willetts of Havant (left) and Trevor Davies, Trust chairman, display the Minute book*

**March 1961** Geoffrey Stevens MP emphasized the point that in view of the African situation “we were still a Great Power and a great Empire and that he deplored anyone who said their country’s days as a Great Power were ended. Our Queen was still head of the Empire.” (NB “Empire” crossed out and “Commonwealth” substituted!)

**March 1962** “Mr Geoffrey Stevens spoke on the Common Market and said that he was optimistic about the future of the European market if Britain joined in. He thought that the main object of entering the market would be a reduction of tariff barriers.”

**March 1965** Mr Lloyd referred to ... the Emsworth short by-pass and the South Coast trunk road. He said he was seeing the Minister concerning the latter with several other MPs. Col Jones asked if Mr Lloyd would raise with the Minister the possibility of extending the by-pass to the Eastern Road. This Mr Lloyd promised to do.”

**February 1992** “Since his adoption two years ago Mr Willetts felt he had served his apprenticeship and was raring to go into the election.”