

THE FIRE BRIGADE

Keble's Gazette August 28th 1926

A deputation from the Birchington Fire Brigade was received, relative to the suggestion of the Fire brigade that the Parish Council should take over the Brigade as a going concern, so that the cost of the upkeep would be evenly distributed instead of being borne by a few subscribers. An alternative suggestion was brought forward to the effect that instead of taking over the Brigade, the Parish Council should make an annual contribution towards the upkeep.

The deputation consisted of Messrs R. Thurgood, B.J. Kemp, W. Curtis, W.J. Nicholls, Second-Officer J. Smith and Superintendent G.W. Crouch. Mr Thurgood said it had been felt for some time that under the present circumstances, with Birchington growing in size and the Fire Brigade being in good state of efficiency, having appliances and tackle in thorough working order, it would be better and more satisfactory for the Council to take it over. The annual amount found necessary for the normal upkeep of the brigade was about £80 to £100 a year, the chief item being the insurance of the men and motor etc., which was £32 per annum.

The Chairman remarked that the amount of upkeep was quite economical. The Chairman of the Council remarked that that did not include the depreciation of the motor vehicle. (see the photocopy for the rest of the lengthy report.) The Council did not continue to discuss the matter after the deputation from the Fire Brigade left.