

EAST RUSTON POOR'S ALLOTMENT, NORFOLK

Introduction

East Ruston is a village in north-east Norfolk, situated between North Walsham and Stalham. At the time of the East Ruston Enclosure¹ Act and Award in the first decade of the nineteenth century, the parish had 2,494 acres of land, mostly arable, and a population of about 500 people.²

The East Ruston Enclosure Act of 1806 and Enclosure Award of 1810 enclosed 771 acres of East Ruston commons and waste grounds. A familiar story. But the striking thing about the East Ruston case is that 300 of the 771 acres of these commons and waste grounds were awarded to the Trustees of the Poor in the form of a Poor's Allotment. This paper examines this allotment of land to the Trustees of the Poor, and the use made of it.

Enclosure and the Poor

It is well-known that the poor invariably lost out by the enclosure of common land, but some fared better than others. Those who possessed legal or manorial common rights, eg by virtue of occupying a cottage with common rights attached, might be allocated small individual allotments in enclosure awards as compensation for their loss of use of common land, although it is questionable whether this constituted adequate compensation.³ But those who possessed only use-rights of common land, with no legal or manorial foundation, might receive nothing at all.⁴

However, in Norfolk enclosure acts, consideration was often given to the poor, so that "whether by unwritten convention or through expedience, of the 420 enclosure acts in Norfolk between 1720 and 1834, 234 (56 per cent) made special provision for the poor inhabitants, reflecting the degree of use-rights exercised by them on those manors that enclosed".⁵ Where the interests and use-rights of 'the poor' were so recognized, they were compensated not by means of individual allotments, but collectively, by allotments "vested in the parochial authorities for their benefit in a fashion that reflected the community value of their original use-rights".⁶

East Ruston is one such case.

¹ The spelling 'enclosure' rather than 'inclosure' is used in this paper, except when directly quoting from a document which uses the spelling 'inclosure'.

² 516 in 1808

³ See, for example, Rogers, Graham, 'Custom and Common Right: Waste Land Enclosure and Social Change in West Lancashire', *Ag Hist Review*, 41, 2, pp.137-154

⁴ Birtles, Sara, 'Common Land, Poor Relief and Enclosure: The Use of Manorial Resources in Fulfilling Parish Obligations 1601-1834', *Past and Present*, No. 165 (Nov 1999) pp 74-106

⁵ *Ibid*, p.100

⁶ *Ibid*, p.100

East Ruston Enclosure Act and Award

In 1806, ‘An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Parish of East Ruston in the County of Norfolk’ authorised the division, allotment and enclosure of “certain Commons and Waste Grounds”. Commissioners were appointed to execute the Act, resulting in the East Ruston Enclosure Award and Map of 1810.⁷ These show in detail how the land was allocated, a summary of which is given in Appendix 1.

A total of 771 acres were allotted, with about 300 acres being awarded to the Trustees of the Poor. Apart from the Trustees of the Poor, the largest allocations went to John Rudd (75 acres), Thomas Cubitt Esq. (36 acres + 17 acres for right of soil), Rev. Gunton Postle (45 acres), Thomas Atkinson (36 acres), Augustine Postle (33 acres), and Samuel Postle (29 acres).

The location of the land awarded to the Trustees of the Poor is described in the 1806 Enclosure Act, para XVII, (see Appendix 2) as consisting of:

160 acres of North Fen Common;
40 acres of the Commons called South Fen;
30 acres of the Common called Holmes Fen;
30 acres of the Common called The Fox and Hill Common; and
40 acres of the Common which lies next to the parishes of Happisburgh and Brunstead

This is reiterated in the 1810 Enclosure Award, and the location is further specified and identified in terms of numbers on the Enclosure Map.⁸

The land was enclosed and drained, and was later described as consisting of about 1¼ acres of arable land, and 296½ acres of pasture, bog, and furze ground, excluding ditches, fences and roads.⁹ Writing a century after enclosure, Rev. M.C.H. Bird, naturalist, Rector of Brunstead, and member of the Board of Guardians for Smallburgh Union, asserted that “the Ruston Common Inclosure Act left the peasant with a well-drained and well-fenced common in perpetuity, an inclosure which is, even at the present day, the envy of all neighbouring parishes whose commons are not thus protected.”¹⁰

Use of the Poor’s Allotment as Specified by the 1806 Act, and Trustees’ Rules, 1811

The Enclosure Act of 1806 sets out the use to which the land allocated to the Trustees of the Poor should be put, and who should benefit. It specifies that part of the land, as decided by the Trustees, should be used for the cutting of fuel, to be distributed among the poor inhabitants of East Ruston. The rest of the land should be used by the poor

⁷ *East Ruston Inclosure Award and Map*, 1810. Norfolk Record Office, catalogue ref PT 20

⁸ *East Ruston Inclosure Map*, 1810, can be viewed on-line via the Norfolk Record Office website: www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk

⁹ Bird, Rev. M.C.H., ‘The Rural Economy, Sport, and Natural History of East Ruston Common’, *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society*, 8, 5 (1909), p.631

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p.634

inhabitants of East Ruston as a common of pasture for their geese, stock, and cattle. It also states that both these activities should take place according to rules laid down by the Trustees. The poor are defined as those who do not occupy tenements of more than the yearly value of five pounds, or more than ten acres of land. (See Appendix 2, para XVII)

Rules issued by the Trustees further specified exactly what could be done where, when and by whom. The Rules of 1811 stated that certain areas could not be used for cutting fuel. These were “no part of South Fen...nor any part of the said allotments, being smee ground, nor that part of North fen, commonly called Burnt Fen, except what was formerly Flaxman’s Marsh”.

The 1811 Rules divided the Poor into 3 categories – those occupying a cottage with not more than 1 acre of land; those occupying but not owning a tenement with a yearly value of less than £5, or land of 1 to 10 acres; and those who both owned and occupied such tenements or land. For each category, the Rules specified exactly how many upground flags and fen flags could be cut and when, and exactly how many stock and geese could be turned onto the land. (See Appendix 3)

The Trustees’ Rules and Regulations concerning the use of the common were amended from time to time in later years.¹¹

Actual Use

Historically the commons were used in a variety of ways. Rev. M.C.H. Bird describes some of the ways they were used in East Ruston: “The natural products of the common were at one time more absolutely necessary than they are now even useful, to its inhabitants. Not only did the rushes which grew there once form the wicks for the only candles then made, but they afforded also the primitive carpets of the clay-floored cottages, before they were paved with brick and strewn with sand. The Furze bushes provided kindling for the peat fires, as well as material for effectually walling the cattle sheds; and the upland turf supplied the place of the present day slates and tiles for roofing purposes – not only for outhouses (as some are used today), but they also were used in place of, or in addition to, the thatch covering of cottages.”¹²

By 1909, use of the common had changed, which is again well-described by Bird: “As to the present management of the common, although the same Bye-laws of the Trustees are supposed to be in force, as were submitted to the Charity Commissioners in 1893, the slump in peat as fuel, and of furze for kindling, since the old specially constructed iron, large brick ovens and open chimneys have entirely disappeared, has resulted in their being less rigidly enforced. Fodder cutting, however, still commences at 8 a.m. on July 20th; and this annual grass mowing is well observed, since even if only fit for litter, rushes and mixed stuff are always saleable in this bullock grazing district. The date of hover cutting is May 1st, commencing at twelve noon, but little notice is taken of it; peat burning having become practically obsolete. Upground flags may be cut from June 1st to

¹¹ See Bird, op cit, 1909

¹² Ibid, p.637

August 1st. Few only now are used for roofing or covering beehives. Furze may be cut during the month of September; but in point of fact, more is cut during the winter months...

“There are no longer any restrictions as to the quantity of hovers, turf, or furze allowed to each commoner, nor as to the number of stock or Geese, nor apparently to the amount for which their owners are assessed. The poor are too poor to buy a Cow, and the grazing would be wasted if those who ought not did not make use of it. It is a question, and a very interesting and important one, whether the rules of the Charity Commissioners are wide enough to allow the Trustees to assist or advance money for the purchasing of such stock...

“A rough census of the stock in the hands of those who are legally, and on sufferance, graziers of the common, taken last week, works out as follows: About 230 brood Geese, 46 Donkeys, 57 Horses and Ponies, 30 Cows, 18 young cattle, and three or four Goats. This suggests what the common might support if cleared greatly of furze, and how beneficial it might be to the poor if only they had Cows; but practically all the stock that now graze the herbage, with the exception of the Geese, Donkeys and Goats, belong to the parishioners who are assessed at above £10, and, therefore, have no legal common rights.”¹³

Income from and Expenditure on the Poor’s Allotment

The Trustees of the Poor’s Allotment were also responsible for ensuring the upkeep of the common, and managing the income from and expenditure upon it. Appendix 4 gives an extract from some of the earliest entries from the Trustees’ Minutes and Accounts Book of 1875-1904.¹⁴

It can be seen that income was derived mainly from rent of Poor’s land, principally for “rent of shooting over the Allotments”. The main expenditure was on work on fences and drains etc. Not surprisingly, most of those renting the shooting rights were large farmers, while most of those working on the fences and drains were agricultural labourers.¹⁵

Another payment that appears regularly in the accounts, often at Christmas, is for “gifts to persons receiving parish relief”. The 1881 census for East Ruston shows that those recorded as receiving parish relief were all aged 63 or over and either widowed or unmarried, with no-one else living in the same household.

The Trustees’ Minutes and Accounts Book of 1875-1904 also records that some land from the Poor’s Allotment was sold in the 1870s for the Eastern and Midlands Railway. Apart from this, the only other land to be sold was in the 1930s for a Village Hall.¹⁶

¹³ Ibid, p.644-5

¹⁴ *Trustees of East Ruston Poor’s Allotments, Minutes & Accounts, 1875-1904.* (Book number 2)

¹⁵ Names in Trustees’ Minutes and Account book cross-referenced with occupations given in 1881 Census.

¹⁶ Correspondence, April 2012, from Heath Brooks, Trustee

Current Situation

Today, more than 200 years after the East Ruston Enclosure Act, there is probably not much demand from the poor to cut fuel on the common. But some continuity can be seen in the objectives of the charity which manages the Poor's Allotment. The Report of East Ruston Poores Allotment Trustees, April 2010 to April 2011, states that "The charity's principal object is to provide a fuel allowance to pensioners, widows and poor persons resident in the parish of East Ruston. If the charity's income is surplus for this purpose it is available for special help for children in the village and also for relieving, either generally or individually, persons resident in the parish of East Ruston who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress."¹⁷

With regard to actual practice, Heath Brooks, a Trustee, says: "We still use our surplus income to help the needy of the village but we do that by giving a cheque at Christmas to all those over the pension age and any widows. Obviously it is not possible to means test so we give it to all those eligible although some do not bank it. We used to pay for trips for the children at East Ruston School and for a trip for the pensioners in the Summer but due to falling incomes, mainly from the grazing, we had to stop these trips."¹⁸

The charity's main income is from "the rent of land for grazing, agriculture and sporting rights, together with land related grants from the Rural Payments Agency".¹⁹ The sports include shooting, and use of a fishing lake, which is let to a consortium.²⁰ The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011, show that the largest source of income by far was the Rural Payments Agency (£21,786), followed by rents (£2,094). With regard to outgoings, the largest payment was for fencing, clearing, ditching etc.(£11,894), followed by land agent (£2,565), followed by coal payments (£1,845). (See Appendix 5 for details)

East Ruston Common is a valuable recreational resource, and has also been designated a site of special scientific interest because of its wildlife. As Rev. Bird noted more than a century ago, land awarded to the poor in the early years of the nineteenth century was not generally the best from an agricultural point of view, but for that very reason, often became havens for wildlife.²¹ The Trustees of the Poor's Allotment have worked with the Broads Authority, the Environment Agency and English Nature²² to deal with environmental problems and protect native plants and animals.²³ Currently, Natural England is contributing to "a 10 year scheme to rejuvenate parts of the common which have become overgrown with gorse and birch trees".²⁴

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¹⁷ Trustees of East Ruston Poores Allotment, *East Ruston Poores Allotment Report and Accounts, Year ended 31st March 2011*

¹⁸ Correspondence, April 2012, from Heath Brooks, Trustee

¹⁹ *East Ruston Poores Allotment Report and Accounts, Year ended 31st March 2011*

²⁰ Correspondence, April 2012, from Heath Brooks, Trustee

²¹ Bird, *op cit*, p.632

²² 'English Nature' has now been superseded by 'Natural England'.

²³ Environment Agency, *Restoring East Ruston Common. Creating a better place for wildlife and people*

²⁴ Correspondence, April 2012, from Heath Brooks, Trustee.

APPENDIX 1: NAMES OF PROPRIETORS AND LAND ALLOTTED, EAST RUSTON ENCLOSURE MAP (1810)

Proprietors Names	Total allotted to each Proprietor [complete acres]	Numbers on Enclosure Map
Trustees of the Poor	300	127, 128, 151, 152, 163, 126, 69, 169, 189, 1, 2
Surveyors of the Highways	1	153, 190, 127a
Cubitt Thos. Esq. for right of soil	17	65, 111
Atkinson Thos.	36	27, 199, 201, 200, 58, 59, 16, 26, 179, 206, 60, 117
Aufrere Revd. Geo Jn.	2	21
Bacon John	< 1	80
Barber Jonathan	< 1	166
Barber James	< 1	166a
Bean John	11	13, 12, 11, 31, 38, 36
Bullimore Joseph	8	170, 171
Cubitt Thos. Esq	36	44, 43, 46, 35, 51, 66
Cole John (of Catfield)	< 1	129
Cole Jn. (of Happisburgh)	< 1	22
Durrell Joseph	6	63, 64, 133
Durrell Charles	5	173, 172, 178, 174, 175
Field William	3	140, 132
Flaxman Saml.	10	79, 78, 77, 67, 68, 47, 74
Gaze John	< 1	61, 61a
Gaze Robert	10	143, 144, 73, 72, 72a, 56
Hawes Siday	1	176
Harris George	6	136, 137, 138, 150a
Helsdon Samuel	1	75
Harvey Willm. & Elizth. his wife	6	37, 4, 5, 6, 7
Humphrey Richd.	2	70, 81
Kerrison Thomas Allday Assignees of	21	102, 103, 104, 195, 196, 197, 198, 198a, 202, 203, 204, 205
Loads James	3	186, 187, 192
Lucas Revd. Gibson	5	23, 24, 25, 57
Plummer John	4	92, 101
Postle Revd. Gunton	45	110, 109, 108, 107, 106, 15, 32, 8, 162, 165, 167, 168
Plummer Chas	1 in fee + 3 for life	188, 45. 88. 91
Plummer Wm	2 for life + < 1 in fee	93, 146, 147, 148, 149
Postle Samuel	29	181, 182, 183, 184, 125, 118
Postle Augustine	33	123, 124, 89, 94, 95, 98, 141, 180, 3, 99, 90, 85, 87, 86, 97,

		100
Postle Mrs. Elizth.	12	157, 158, 159, 164, 33, 34, 105
Preston Revd. Geo	5	135, 134, 139
Ramsdale Thomas	1	150
Rudd John	75	116, 115, 114, 113, 154, 155, 156, 160, 161, 142, 55, 39, 40, 41, 42, 48, 53, 52, 49, 50, 54, 112
Shingles John	4	9, 10, 10a, 30, 28
Stewart Anne	16	119, 120, 121, 122, 62
Salmon Richard	1	177
Stimpson Thomas	2	83, 84
Trustees for the Poors House	< 1	130, 131
Weeds Ann	1	76, 71
Weeds Richard Junr. of Briston	7	29, 14, 193, 194, 185
Weeds Richard of Ludham	8	18, 17, 19
Wodehouse Charlotte Laura	2	207, 208, 209
Windsor Dean & Cannons	< 1	20
Warner Thos.	1	191
Cubitt Thomas Esq.	<1	82
Hewitt Stephen	< 1	210
Sims Robert	1	145
Total	771	

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACTS FROM 'AN ACT FOR INCLOSING LANDS IN THE PARISH OF EAST RUSTON IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK' (1806)

[Re: Extinguishing or Suspending Existing Rights:]

XIV. And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons, from and after the passing of this Act, to cut, dig, pare, grave, flay, take, or carry away, any Reed, Rushes, Turf, Flags, Whins, or Furze, in, upon, or from, the said Commons and Waste Grounds, or any Part thereof, without the Licence of the said Commissioners in Writing first had and obtained for that Purpose (which Licence the said Commissioners are hereby empowered to grant, under such Rules, Orders, Regulations, and Restrictions, as they shall think proper to insert therein); and if any Person shall, after the passing of this Act, cut, dig, pare, grave, flay, or carry away, any Reed, Rushes, Turf, Flags, Whins, or Furze, in, upon, or from the said Commons and Waste Grounds, or any Part thereof, without or contrary to such Licence as aforesaid, the said Commissioners, upon due Proof thereof made before them upon Oath, shall and they are hereby required, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, directed to any Person or Persons whomsoever, to cause any Sum of Money not exceeding Five Pounds to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons offending in the Premises, rendering the Overplus (if any) upon Demand, to the Person or Persons whose Goods and Chattels shall have been so distrained and sold, after deducting the Costs and Charges attending such Distress and Sale; and the Money so to be levied as last aforesaid shall be applied towards the Costs and Charges of obtaining and executing this Act.

XV. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby authorized, at any Time or Times before the Execution of their Award, by Notice in Writing under their Hands, to be affixed upon the principal Door of the Parish Church of *East Ruston* aforesaid, to order and direct all or any Rights of Common or other Commonable Rights whatsoever, in, over, or upon the Lands and Grounds hereby directed to be divided and allotted, or any Part thereof, to be distinguished, or the Exercise thereof to be suspended, for and during such Time or Times as shall be expressed in such Notice; and that all such Rights as the said Commissioners shall by such Notice order and direct to be extinguished, or the Exercise thereof to be suspended as aforesaid, shall from the Time of affixing such Notice on the said Church Door, cease, determine, and be extinguished, or the Exercise thereof shall be suspended accordingly; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Re: Allotment to Trustees of the Poor:]

XVII. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall assign, set out, and allot, unto the Lords of the said Manors, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of *East Ruston* for the Time being, One hundred and sixty Acres, Part of the said Common called *North Fen Common*; Forty Acres, Part of the said Commons called *South Fen*; Thirty Acres of the Common called *Holmes Fen*; Thirty Acres, Part of the Common called *The Fox and Hill Common*; and Forty Acres of that Part of the Common which lies next to the Parishes of *Happisburgh* and *Brunstead*; and the said Allotments shall be and are hereby vested in the Lords of the said Manors, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being for ever, as Trustees for the Poor of the same Parish; and such Part or Parts of the said Allotments as they shall think proper shall be held, used, and appropriated by the said Trustees for the Purpose of cutting Fuel, which Fuel shall be distributed amongst the poor Inhabitants of the said Parish of *East Ruston*, who shall not occupy Tenements of more than the yearly Value of Five Pounds or more than Ten Acres of Land, in such Shares and Proportions, at such Times in every Year, and according to such Rules and Directions, as shall from Time to Time be made and prescribed by the said Trustees for the Time being, or the major Part of them, for that Purpose, and not otherwise; and the Residue of the said Allotments shall be used and enjoyed solely and exclusively by such poor Inhabitants of the said Parish as aforesaid, as a Common of Pasture for all Geese, Stock, and Cattle which shall really and *bonâ fide* be the Property of such poor Inhabitants, in such Manner, at such Time or Times, and according to such Rules and Directions, as the said Trustees for the Time being, or the major Part of them, shall appoint and prescribe for that Purpose, and not otherwise: Provided always, that it shall and may be lawful to and for

APPENDIX 3: RULES FOR EAST RUSTON POOR ALLOTMENT, 1811

“Whereas by the Act of Parliament made and passed in the 46th year of his present Majesty’s reign, entitled ‘An Act for inclosing lands in the parish of East Ruston, in the County of Norfolk,’ certain allotments therein specified, of parts of the late commons of the said parish, were vested in the lords of the manors therein mentioned, and the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the same parish, for the time being, for ever, as trustees for the poor of the same parish. And it was thereby enacted, that such part or parts of the said allotments, as the said trustees should think proper, should be held, used, and appropriated by the said trustees, for the purpose of cutting fuel – which fuel should be distributed amongst the poor inhabitants of the said parish who should not occupy tenements of more than the yearly value of £5, or more than ten acres of land, in such shares and proportions, at such times in every year, and according to such rules and directions as should from time to time be made and prescribed by the said trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, for that purpose, and not otherwise. And the residue of the said allotments should be used and enjoyed solely and exclusively by such poor inhabitants of the said parish aforesaid, as a common of pasture for all geese, stock, and cattle, which should really and bona fide be the property of such poor inhabitants, in such manner, at such time or times, and according to such rules and directions as the said trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, should appoint and prescribe for that purpose, and not otherwise.

Now we, the said trustees, do appoint and direct that no part of South Fen shall be cut for fuel, nor any part of the said allotments, being smee ground, nor that part of North fen, commonly called Burnt Fen, except what was formerly Flaxman’s Marsh; and that the residue of the said allotments shall be used for fuel.

And we do direct and prescribe, that the said allotments shall be used and enjoyed by such persons, and in such shares and proportions, at such times and according to such rules and regulations as are hereunder appointed:-

1st. Every poor inhabitant of the said parish, being the occupier of a cottage there, with not more than one acre of land belonging to it, may turn yearly three head of stock and two brood geese and goslings, reared by them, unto the said allotments, except that they shall not be turned into Burnt fen till after the fodder shall be mowed and carried therefrom; and may also cut yearly, on or after the 12th day of May, any number of upground flags, not exceeding two thousand, and any number of fen flags, not exceeding three thousand; and may, yearly, mow Burnt fen, after eight o’clock in the morning of the 20th day of July, unless that be Sunday, and then after the same hour on the following day.

2d. Every poor inhabitant of the said parish, occupying a tenement, the yearly value of which shall not exceed £5, or occupying from one to ten acres of land there, and not being the owner of such tenement or land, may turn yearly, unto the said allotments, two head of stock, and two brood geese and goslings, reared by them; and may also cut

yearly, on or after the 12th day of May, any number of upground flags, not exceeding two thousand, and any number of fen flags, not exceeding three thousand.

3d. Every poor inhabitant of the said parish, being both the owner and occupier of a tenement, the yearly value of which shall not exceed £5, or being both the owner and occupier of from one to ten acres of land there, may turn yearly, unto the said allotments, one head of stock and one brood goose and the goslings reared by it; and may also cut yearly, on or after the 12th day of May, any quantity of upground flags, not exceeding one thousand, and any quantity of fen flags, not exceeding two thousand.

4th. If any person shall sell the fuel cut off the said allotments, to any person not a poor inhabitant of the said parish, the person so selling it shall be excluded from the right of cutting fuel off of the said allotments for five years ensuing; and if he or she shall again sell any of the said fuel to any person not a poor inhabitant of the said parish, then the person so offending shall be wholly excluded from cutting any more fuel off of the said allotments, and shall moreover be prosecuted or sued for such transgression.

5th. That while no pinder shall be appointed by any of the lords of the said manors, the person whom the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall from time to time appoint, shall see that the rules and regulations above prescribed be observed and complied with, and report to the said trustees all breaches thereof, by whomsoever committed, and shall impound whatever stock or geese shall be found on the said allotments, beyond the proportions above specified, and shall have such salary and allowance for his trouble as the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall from time to time direct; and shall make a rate yearly upon the persons entitled to use the said allotments, according to the yearly value of their respective occupations, for defraying the expenses of keeping the gates, ditches, and fences of the said allotments in good repair, and the costs and charges of prosecuting or suing any person or persons for any breach of the said rules and regulations, or any of them, and for paying the salary of the said superintendant; and if any person shall refuse to pay his or her proportion of the said rate, he or she shall be excluded from all use and enjoyment of the said allotments for the ensuing year.”

Dated this 27th day of May, 1811

Henry Norwich
Thos. Cubitt
Geo. J. Aufrere
John Rudd
Saml. Postle
Augustine Postle ²⁵

²⁵ *Printed Rules for East Ruston Poor Allotment*, 1811. Norfolk Record Office, catalogue ref KIM 5/13/9

APPENDIX 4:

EXTRACT FROM TRUSTEES OF EAST RUSTON POOR'S ALLOTMENTS MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS, 1875-1904

	Receipts	£	s	d		Payments	£	s	d
1876 Mar 16 th	Balance from Old Book	34	15	7	1875 Dec 16 th	Walter James Scott's bill Deposit at Gurneys N. Walsham	15 44	10 5	6 1
1875 Nov 4 th	James Johnson for rent of shooting over the Allotments to Sept 1 st 1876	25			1877 Jan 12 th Jan 26 th	J. Simms & Moyes doing up common fences John Mason cutting thorns off common fences John Mason cutting thorns off common fences	3 1		16 6
1876 Aug 3 rd	John Palmer for rent of shooting over the Allotments to Sept 1 st 1877	34			Feb 9 th Feb 28 th Mar 9 th	Moyes doing up common fences 4 wks Gifts to persons receiving parish relief Moyes doing up common fences 3 wks	3 3 2		
1877 June 5 th	T.W. Durrell 1 yrs rent of Poor's land to Oct 11 th 1876	1			Mar 27 th Mar 27 th	James Simms doing up common fences 1 wk James Simms for 2 gate posts			15 15
Sept 1 st	W.J. Scott for rent of shooting over the Allotments to Sept 1 st 1878	10			Mar 27 th April 6 th May 22 nd	Boy carting thorns 6 days Moyes doing up common fences 8 days Barnes doing up common fences 13 days			6 6
1878 Feb 19 th	T.W. Durrell 1 yrs rent of Poor's land to Oct 11 th 1877	1			July 27 th Oct 17 th	Chas. Plummer for posts, gates etc. Jas Simms drawing old River & other drains	3 2	6 5	3 6
Aug 29 th	G.R. Johnson, Waxham, for rent of shooting over the Allotments to Sept 1 st 1879	11	11		Dec 26 th	Jas Simms cutting and making drains & bridges on the mowing fen	6		10
1879 Feb 20 th	T.W. Durrell 1 yrs rent of Poor's land to Oct 11 th 1878	1			1878 June 1 st	Barnes for gates on Dyballs & Fox Commons	2		4
Oct 11 th	G.R. Johnson, Waxham, for rent of shooting over the Allotments to Sept 1 st 1880	12			Nov 29 th Dec 20 th	John Mason 5½ days 11.11. R Riches ½ day 1.1. Barber ½ day 1.1. letting water off from School etc Gifts to persons receiving parish relief			14 1
					1879 Jan 10 th	Barber & R. Riches doing out drain by Charles Riches 2 days John Mason cutting fences etc. 8 days	4		4 4

					Feb 21 st	Chas. Mason, fencing by Platten's gate 1 dy		2	
					May 6 th	James Sims on a/c for cutting drains etc.	3		
					June 13 th	James Sims balance " " " new stile	4	10	
						Cash in Bank	12		
						Cash in Hand	12		
		130	6	7			130	6	7

From: *Trustees of East Ruston Poor's Allotments, Minutes & Accounts, 1875-1904.* (Book number 2).²⁶

²⁶ Thanks to Heath Brooks, Trustee, for providing me with this, and other, extracts.

APPENDIX 5:

EAST RUSTON POORS ALLOTMENT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>2011</u> <u>Total</u> £	<u>2010</u> <u>Total</u> £
RECEIPTS				
Dividends	243	0	243	236
Wayleaves (net)	536	0	536	512
Rents	2,094	0	2,094	3,243
Bank account interest	0	0	0	18
Shooting	350	0	350	700
Rural payment agency	21,786	0	21,786	18,389
Coppicing	60	0	60	0
Grass cutting	100	0	100	100
Telephone mast compensation	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	25,169	0	25,169	23,198
PAYMENTS				
Coal payments	1,845	0	1,845	1,890
Fencing, clearing, ditching etc.	11,894	0	11,894	11,732
Coaches, outings etc.	0	0	0	0
Accountancy	364	0	364	333
Public liability insurance	894	0	894	889
Village hall hire	0	0	0	20
Land agent	2,565	0	2,565	862
Secretarial costs	150	0	150	143
Postage and stationery	0	0	0	20
Inclosure Award and Plan fees	0	0	0	65
TOTAL PAYMENTS	17,713	0	17,713	15,954
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	7,456	0	7,456	7,244
Cash funds at 31st March 2010	51,507	0	51,507	44,263
Cash funds at 31st March 2011	58,963	0	58,963	51,507