

FARINGDON.

POLICE.—There was no business at the Petty Sessions on Tuesday last.

VESTRY.—The annual Lady-day Vestry was held at the Old Saving's Bank room on Wednesday afternoon.—Mr. T. L. Goodlake presided. Messrs. George Ernest Liddiard and E. N. Haworth were nominated Overseers; Messrs. George F. Crowdy, R. Tucker, R. Pocock, and W. Atkins were re-elected Guardians; Mr. George Liddiard was re-elected Waywarden, and Mr. George Adams as Waywarden in the room of Mr. George Tarrant, deceased. The Fire Engine Accounts were presented and approved, and the appointment of Captain E. E. Haines as Superintendent of the Brigade was confirmed. Messrs. G. D. Morton and W. O. Sell presented the account of the fund for watering the streets, showing a balance in hand of 7l. 8s. 3d., and the thanks of the Vestry were accorded them for their management during the past year.

From Wikipedia

In 1835 more than 15,600 ecclesiastical parish vestries looked after their own:

churches and burial grounds, parish cottages and workhouses, their common lands and endowed charities, their market crosses, pumps, pounds, whipping posts, stocks, cages, watch houses, weights and scales, clocks and fire engines.

Or to put it another way: the maintenance of the church and its services, the keeping of the peace, the repression of vagrancy, the relief of destitution, the mending of roads, the suppression of nuisances, the destruction of vermin, the furnishing of soldiers and sailors, even to some extent the enforcement of religious and moral discipline. These were among the multitudinous duties imposed on the parish and its officers, that is to say the vestry and its organisation, by the law of the land.

The vestries spent not far short of one-fifth of the budget of the national government itself.