ANNO TRICESIMO QUARTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XCVII.

An Act for building a new Shire Hall for the County of *Stafford*. [9th *May* 1794.]

WHEREAS the Shire Hall for the County of *Stafford*, situated in the Town of *Stafford*, in which the Aſſizes and General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for the ſaid County have been held, and other Publick Buſineſs of the ſaid County and of the Borough of *Stafford* has been tranſacted, is an ancient Building, in a very ruinous and dangerous State, and inconvenient for the Publick Purpoſes of the ſaid County and Borough, and it is neceſſary that the ſame ſhould be taken down and re-built on a larger Plan: And whereas the moſt proper and convenient Place for erecting the ſaid new Shire Hall will be the Scite of ſeveral Meſſuages or Dwelling Houſes, and the Gardens and Outlets or Ground adjoining and belonging thereto, ſituated behind or on the Eaſtern Side of the preſent Shire Hall, and ſuch Part of the Street as lies behind the preſent Shire Hall, and in Front of the ſaid Meſſuages, and alſo ſuch Part of the Scite of the preſent Shire Hall as may be wanted for the ſaid Building: And whereas the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the Borough of *Stafford* aforeſaid, are Lords of the Manor of the ſaid Borough, and Owners or Proprietors of the Markets and Fairs of the ſaid Town of *Stafford*: And whereas the ſaid Mayor and Burgeſſes have agreed to contribute Preamble.

tribute and pay the Sum of One thouſand Pounds towards the Expences of building the ſaid Shire Hall, and are willing to give up their Right to ſuch Part of the preſent Shire Hall as they now claim, and to ſuch Part of the Ground and Soil of the ſaid Street and the preſent Market Place in the ſaid Town as ſhall be neceſſary for the Purpoſes of this Act, reſerving to themſelves and their Succeſſors, the Right of holding and keeping the Markets and Fairs of and for the ſaid Town of *Stafford* in or near the Place accuſtomed, and having ſome convenient Building or Market Houſe erected for the Accommodation of Perſons reſorting to the Markets in the ſaid Town of *Stafford*, and alſo having ſuch Rooms, Offices, and Accommodations, for tranſacting the Buſineſs of the ſaid Borough, and the Safe-keeping of the Records belonging to the Corporation, and other Purpoſes as herein-after mentioned; And whereas it will be neceſſary to make ſeveral Purchaſes of Houſes, Buildings, and Tenements, with the Gardens and Outlets thereto belonging, ſituated behind or on the Eaſtern Side of the preſent Shire Hall, and to raiſe a conſiderable Sum of Money for effectuating the Purpoſes aforeſaid, which will be of great Benefit and Convenience to the Inhabitants of the ſaid County and Town of *Stafford*, and alſo of Publick Utility; but the ſame cannot be effected without the Aid and Authority of Parliament: May it therefore pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That all Perſons who now are or who ſhall for the Time being be named in the Commiſſion of the Peace for the County of *Stafford*, and alſo the Mayor, Recorder, and Juſtices, for the Time being of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*, and ſuch Aldermen for the Time being of the ſaid Borough as ſhall or may be qualified to act and ſhall act as Commiſſioners of the Land Tax, ſhall be, and they are hereby appointed Commiſſioners for putting this Act into Execution.

Commiſſioners appointed.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall meet at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace under the preſent Shire Hall, in the Town of *Stafford* aforeſaid, on the Eighteenth Day of *July* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, between the Hours of Ten in the Forenoon and Two in the Afternoon, and the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall then and there proceed to put this Act into Execution, and then, and from Time to Time afterwards adjourn themſelves to meet, or otherwiſe meet according to ſuch Notice as is herein-after directed to be given, at ſuch Place or Places within the ſaid County of *Stafford*, as ſuch Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think proper and convenient; and if Five Commiſſioners ſhall not attend at the Time and Place appointed for any ſuch Meeting, then the Commiſſioners or Commiſſioner preſent may make ſuch Adjournment, or if no ſuch Commiſſioner ſhall be preſent, or if at any Meeting an Adjournment be neglected to be made, then the Clerk of the ſaid Commiſſioners, or his Deputy, may revive and continue the Meetings of the ſaid Commiſſioners, by calling One or more Meetings for that Purpoſe, and cauſing ſuch Notice to be given as is herein-after directed; and every ſuch Meeting ſo to be called for the Purpoſe of reviving and continuing the ſaid

Meetings of Commiſſioners.

Adjournments.

Meetings, shall be adjourned in the like Manner; and all such Adjournments, and the Revivals and Continuations of the said Meetings, shall be entered by the Clerk to the said Commissioners, or his Deputy, in a Book to be kept for that Purpose.

No Proceedings of Commissioners valid, unless done at a Meeting, nor unless Five Persons in the Commission of the Peace for *Staffordshire* shall be present. Meetings, except by Adjournment, to be advertised. Chairman to be appointed.

III. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no Proceedings of the said Commissioners, or any of them, in the Execution of this Act, shall be valid, unless done at a Meeting held in pursuance of this Act, nor unless at least Five Persons named in the Commission of the Peace for the said County of *Stafford* shall be present at such Meeting, and shall concur in such Proceedings, and that previous Notice of all the Meetings to be held in pursuance of this Act, (Meetings by Adjournment only excepted), shall be given in One of the *Birmingham* Papers, or some other Publick Newspaper generally circulated in the County of *Stafford* aforesaid, by the Clerk to the said Commissioners or his Deputy, Seven Days at least before such Meeting, which Notice shall specify the Time and Place of such Meeting; and at all such Meetings the said Commissioners shall pay their own Expences; and at every such Meeting, One of the said Commissioners present shall be appointed Chairman; and all Questions and Matters shall be determined by the Votes of the greater Number of the Commissioners present, which shall consist of Five or more such Persons as aforesaid, not immediately interested in the particular Matter in Question, and the Chairman shall not only have a single Vote, but in case of Equality of Votes, shall have the decisive or casting Vote; and all Proceedings at such Meetings shall be entered in a Book, and signed by the Commissioners present, or the major Part of them, or by the Chairman of such Meetings.

Treasurer and Clerk to be appointed.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, at a Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, shall and may, from Time to Time, appoint a Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk or Clerks, and such other Officers and Persons as they may think proper, for assisting in the Execution of this Act, or for executing any Rules, Orders, or Regulations, to be made in pursuance of the same, with such Salaries and Allowances to be paid out of the Monies to be raised by this Act, as shall be thought reasonable by the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them; and also shall and may take Security from such Treasurers, Clerks, and other Officers and Persons for the faithful Execution of their Offices respectively, and for duly accounting for all such Sum and Sums as shall be received by such Officers and Persons, and paying the Balances thereof from Time to Time as the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall appoint; and likewise may from Time to Time remove such Officer or Officers, and other Person or Persons, and appoint others in the Room of such of them as shall be so removed, or that shall die; and may, when they the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall think proper, discontinue any or all of such Officers and Persons so to be appointed as aforesaid.

Commissioners may sue and be sued in the Name of their Clerk.

V. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners may sue and be sued in the Name of their Clerk, and that no Action to be brought or commenced by or against the said Commissioners, or any of them, by virtue of this Act, in the Name of their Clerk, shall abate or be

be diſcontinued by the Death or Removal of ſuch Clerk, or by the Act of the ſaid Clerk, without the Conſent of the ſaid Commiſſioners, or Five or more of them, but that ſuch Clerk ſhall always be deemed the Plaintiff or Defendant in ſuch Action.

Clerk to be reimburſed Coſts and Expences.

VI. Provided always, That every ſuch Clerk ſhall be reimburſed, out of the Monies to be raiſed by virtue of this Act, all ſuch Coſts, Charges, and Expences, as he ſhall be put unto or become chargeable with by Reaſon of his being made a Plaintiff or Defendant as aforeſaid.

Commiſſioners may treat for Purchaſe of Houſes, &c.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, at a Meeting to be held as aforeſaid, ſhall be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered from Time to Time to treat, contract for, and agree with the ſeveral Owners, Occupiers of, and Perſons intereſted in, the ſeveral Dwelling Houſes or Tenements, Buildings, Gardens, Outlets, Ground, and Hereditaments, with the Appurtenances, ſituated behind or on the Eaſtern Side of the ſaid preſent Shire Hall, and now belonging to Sir *William Jerningham* Baronet, *Francis Lee*, *Jane* and *Frances Dickenſon* Spinſters, *Thomas Penton*, *Francis Bratt*, and *Henry Hall*, for the Purchaſe thereof, or of ſuch or ſo many and ſuch Parts thereof as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think fit; and for the Purchaſe of the Ground whereon the ſaid Houſes and Buildings now ſtand, and of the Gardens, Outlets, Premiſes, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, for the Purpoſe of erecting a New Shire Hall and other Buildings as herein mentioned, and for making proper Courts and Outlets, and alſo Avenues to and from the ſame, and for the commodiouſly placing and uſing thereof, and likewiſe for the Loſs or Damage ſuch Owners, Occupiers, and Perſons intereſted, or any of them, ſhall or may ſuſtain by or on Account of the building of the ſaid New Shire Hall and Buildings, or the Execution of any of the Powers of this Act; and out of the Monies to be aſſeſſed and raiſed in Manner herein-after directed, to pay for the Purchaſe of ſuch Houſes, Lands, Tenements, Ground, and Hereditaments, and for ſuch Loſſes or Damages, ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as ſhall be agreed upon between ſuch Owners, Occupiers, and Perſons intereſted as aforeſaid, and the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or as ſhall be aſſeſſed by a Jury in Manner herein-after mentioned, and alſo the Coſts and Charges attending ſuch Purchaſe and Agreement or Aſſeſſment reſpectively.

Incapacitated Perſons may alſo treat for Sale of Lands.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall be lawful for all Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Huſbands, Truſtees, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Guardians, Committees, and all other Truſtees whomſoever, not only for and on Behalf of themſelves, but alſo for and on Behalf of all Infants, Iſſue unborn, Feme Coverts, Lunaticks, Idiots, and Ceſtuique Truſts, and for all and every other Perſon and Perſons whomſoever, who are or ſhall be ſeiſed, poſſeſſed of, or anyways intereſted in any Houſes, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, to treat, contract, and agree with the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, for the Purchaſe of ſuch Houſes, Lands, Tenements, Grounds, and Hereditaments, or any Part thereof, and their Intereſts therein, for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, and to ſell and convey the ſame to the ſaid Commiſſioners,

miſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or ſuch Perſon or Perſons in Truſt for them, and in ſuch Manner, as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall direct, and as Occaſion ſhall require; and all Contracts, Agreements, Sales, and Conveyances, which ſhall be ſo made, ſhall be valid to all Intents and Purpoſes; any Law, Statute, Uſage, or any other Matter or Thing whatſoever, to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

If Parties refuſe to treat, *etc.* the Value to be ſettled by a Jury.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any ſuch Owner, Proprietor, Occupier, Truſtee or Truſtees, Committee or Committees, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, or any ſuch other Perſon or Perſons as aforeſaid, ſhall neglect or refuſe to treat, or ſhall not agree for the Sale of any ſuch Houſes, Lands, Tenements, Ground, Premiſes, or Hereditaments, or any Part or Parts thereof, or for their Intereſt therein, or by Reaſon of Abſence, Incapacity, or otherwiſe, ſhall be prevented from treating, then and in any ſuch Caſe it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or for their Clerk or his Deputy, Twenty-one Days at the leaſt before any General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden in and for the ſaid County of *Stafford*, to give, or cauſe to be given, to ſuch Owners or Perſons intereſted, Truſtees or Committees reſpectively, or to the Principal Officer or Officers of ſuch Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, or to leave, or cauſe to be left, at the Houſe of the Tenant in Poſſeſſion of any ſuch Houſes, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Notice in Writing ſigned by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or by their Clerk or his Deputy, denoting or deſcribing the Houſes, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments ſo intended to be purchaſed, and purporting that the Value thereof will be adjuſted and ſettled by a Jury at the ſaid Seſſions; and the Juſtices at their ſaid Seſſions, upon Proof to them made of ſuch Notice having been ſo given or left, are hereby authorized and required to charge the Jury which ſhall attend at ſuch Seſſions, or ſome other Jury of Twelve honeſt Men to be then and there impannelled and returned by the Sheriff of the ſaid County without Fee or Reward, and cauſe them to be ſworn well and truly on their Oaths, to aſſeſs the Value of the Houſes, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments mentioned in or referred to by the ſaid Notice, and the Damages and Recompence to be given for the ſame, or ſuch Part or Parts thereof as ſhall be intended to be uſed for the Purpoſes of this Act, to the reſpective Owners, Occupiers, and Perſons intereſted, according to their reſpective Intereſts therein; which Oath the ſaid Juſtices are hereby authorized and required to adminiſter to ſuch Jury; and the ſaid Juſtices, if they ſhall think fit, ſhall and may cauſe the ſaid Jury to view the Place and Places, Matter and Matters in Queſtion; and to which ſaid Jury, the ſaid Commiſſioners, and all Parties intereſted, ſhall have their Challenges, but ſhall not challenge the Array; and the ſaid Jury, being ſo charged and ſworn as aforeſaid, and after proper Evidence upon Oath given, concerning the Nature, Quantity, and Value of ſuch Houſes, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, or ſuch Part or Parts thereof as aforeſaid, ſhall by their Verdict aſſeſs the Damage and Recompence to be given for the ſame, to ſuch reſpective Owners, Occupiers, and Perſons, according to their reſpective Intereſts therein; and the ſaid Juſtices, or the major Part of them, ſhall give Judgement for ſuch Purchaſe Money or Recompence ſo

Jury may be challenged.

to

to be aſſeſſed by ſuch Jury; which Verdict of the ſaid Jury, and Judgement of the ſaid Juſtices upon the ſame, ſhall be entered in the Records of the Seſſions, and ſhall finally bind and be concluſive on the ſaid Commiſſioners, and on all Perſons and Parties intereſted in the ſaid Houſes, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments reſpectively, as fully and extenſively, to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if ſuch Perſons and Parties had reſpectively conſented to and joined in the Sale and Conveyance thereof for the Purpoſes of this Act.

Expences of Jury, &c. how to be paid.

X. And be it further enacted, That in caſe any Jury ſhall give and deliver a Verdict or Aſſeſſment for more Money, as a Recompence or Price for the Right, Intereſt, or Property, of any Perſon or Perſons, in any Houſes, Buildings, Ground, or Hereditaments, or for any Loſs or Damage to be by them ſuſtained, than what ſhall have been agreed to and offered by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or their Clerk or his Deputy on their Behalf, before the returning or impannelling of the Jury, as a Recompence, Price, or Satisfaction, for any ſuch Right, Intereſt, or Property, or Loſs or Damage as aforeſaid, that then, and in ſuch Caſe, the Coſts and Expences of the Jury and Witneſſes, and all other Expences reſpecting the taking the ſaid Verdict or Inquiſition, and the Judgement, Order, or Adjudication thereon, ſhall be borne and paid by the ſaid Truſtees, or any Five or more of them, out of the Money to ariſe by virtue of this Act; but if ſuch Jury ſhall give and deliver a Verdict or Aſſeſſment for no more or for leſs Money than ſhall have been agreed to and offered by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, or their Clerk or his Deputy, on their Behalf, before the taking of ſuch Verdict or Inquiſition as aforeſaid, as a Recompence, Price, or Satisfaction, for any ſuch Right, Property, or Intereſt, or Loſs or Damage as aforeſaid, that then the full Coſts and Expences to be occaſioned as aforeſaid, and all other the Expences attending the hearing and determining of ſuch Appeal or Difference, ſhall be borne and paid by the Perſon or Perſons with whom the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall have ſuch Controverſy or Diſpute; which ſaid Coſts and Expences, having been aſcertained and ſettled by the Court of Quarter Seſſions before which ſuch Appeal or Matter ſhall be heard, ſhall and may be deducted out of the Money ſo aſſeſſed and adjudged, as ſo much Money advanced to or for the Uſe of ſuch Perſon or Perſons; and the Payment or Tender of the Remainder of ſuch Monies ſhall be deemed and taken, to all Intents and Purpoſes, to be a Payment and Tender of the whole Sum or Sums ſo aſſeſſed or adjudged, or otherwiſe ſuch Coſts and Expences, in caſe the ſame be not paid on Demand, may be recovered by the Clerk to the ſaid Commiſſioners, by Action of Debt in his Name in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at *Weſtminſter*.

On Payment of Money, Eſtates to be veſted in the Commiſſioners.

XI. And be it further enacted, That upon Payment of the Money ſo agreed to be paid, or which ſhall be aſſeſſed as aforeſaid, (ſubject to ſuch Deduction of Coſts as herein-before mentioned), or upon Tender thereof to ſuch Perſons as aforeſaid, or to their Agents, and in caſe of Want of Opportunity to tender, or Refuſal to accept the ſame, or in caſe ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall not be able to make, or procure to be made, a good Title to the ſaid Premiſes, or ſhall refuſe or neglect ſo to do, being thereto required, then, upon leaving the ſaid Conſideration Monies in the Hands of the Treaſurer or Treaſurers for the Time being for the

County of *Stafford*, for the Uſe of ſuch Perſons, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners, their Surveyors, Workmen, or Agents, at any Time then after, to take Poſſeſſion of the ſaid Houſes, Lands, Tenements, Ground, and Hereditaments, and that the Whole and every Part thereof ſhall be, and the ſame are hereby declared to be, veſted in the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Purpoſes of this Act.

Money paid to any Corporation, &c. to be inveſted in Lands to be ſettled to the ſame Uſes.

XII. And be it further enacted, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money to be paid to any Coporation, Guardian, Committee, Huſband, or Truſtee, for or on Behalf of any Infants, Lunaticks, Ideots, Femes Covert, or Ceſtuique Truſt, or any other incapacitated Perſon or Perſons, or to any Perſon or Perſons not ſeiſed in Fee Simple, for the Purchaſe of any Houſes, Lands, Tenements, Ground, or Hereditaments, for the Purpoſes of this Act, ſhall, in caſe ſuch Sum or Sums of Money ſhall exceed the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be laid out by ſuch Corporations, Guardians, Committees, Huſbands, and Truſtees, and ſuch other Perſon and Perſons as aforeſaid, as ſoon as conveniently may be, in the Purchaſe of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in Fee Simple, to be conveyed to, or to the Uſe of, ſuch Corporations, Guardians, Committees, Huſbands, Truſtees, and to and for ſuch Perſon or Perſons, and for ſuch Eſtate and Eſtates, and to, for, and upon, and ſubject to ſuch Uſes, Limitations, Remainders, and Contingencies, as the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, for and in reſpect whereof ſuch Purchaſe Money ſhall be paid as aforeſaid, ſhall be limited, ſettled, and aſſured at the Time ſuch Purchaſe or Contract ſhall be made in Manner aforeſaid, or ſuch as ſhall be then capable of taking Effect, the Charges of ſuch Conveyances and Settlements to be paid in the ſame Manner as other Expences to be incurred in conſequence of this Act; and in the mean Time, and until ſuch Purchaſe or Purchaſes ſhall be made, ſuch Money, whether the ſame ſhall or ſhall not exceed the Sum of Twenty Pounds, ſhall be laid out by ſuch Corporation, or other Perſons, for the Time being, intereſted therein, in Government, or ſome other good Securities, in the Names of Two Perſons, One to be nominated by the Party or Parties for the Time being intereſted therein, and the other by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them; and the Intereſt ariſing from ſuch Securities ſhall be paid to ſuch Perſon or Perſons reſpectively as would have been entitled to the Rents and Profits of ſuch Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in caſe the ſame had not been ſold, or would, for the Time being, be entitled to the Rents and Profits of ſuch Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, ſo to be purchaſed, in caſe the ſame were purchaſed and ſettled as aforeſaid.

The Old Shire Hall to be taken down, and Materials ſold, and new Shire Hall built.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That when the ſaid Meſſuages or Dwelling Houſes, Buildings, Gardens, Outlets, Ground, and Hereditaments, or ſuch and ſo much of them as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think neceſſary, ſhall be ſo purchaſed, and which it is hereby directed ſhall be done as ſoon as conveniently may be after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, at a Meeting to be held as aforeſaid, and they are hereby required, to direct or cauſe the preſent Shire Hall, and the Buildings thereto belonging, and alſo the ſaid Meſſuages or Dwelling Houſes and Buildings ſo to be purchaſed, to be pulled or taken down, and to ſell the Materials thereof, either when

taken down or ſtanding, or to apply the ſame, or any Part thereof, in the new Buildings herein-after mentioned, as to the ſaid Commiſſioners preſent at ſuch Meeting ſhall ſeem moſt proper, and to apply the Monies ſo to ariſe for the Purpoſes of this Act; and alſo to cauſe to be built, on the Scite or reſpective Scites of the ſaid Meſſuages or Dwelling Houſes and Buildings, and the ſaid Gardens, Outlets, and Ground, ſo to be purchaſed, and in or upon the ſaid Street in Front thereof, or as near thereunto as conveniently may be, and on ſo much of the Scite of the preſent Shire Hall as may be wanted for that Purpoſe, a New Shire Hall, with ſuch Buildings, Courts, and Avenues thereto, and other Accommodations, and to be completed, fitted up, and furniſhed for the conveniently carrying on and tranſacting the publick Buſineſs of the ſaid County and Borough, in ſuch Manner as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, at a Meeting as aforeſaid, ſhall judge requiſite and proper; and alſo to cauſe to be built and conſtructed within, or contiguous or near to ſuch Shire Hall, a convenient Room, with an Antichamber for the Uſe of the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*; and alſo to cauſe to be built and conſtructed on the Premiſes ſo to be purchaſed, or on the Back or on the Side or Sides of ſuch New Shire Hall, or on the preſent Market Place, Street, or Open Ground, lying and being in Front of the ſaid Houſes, and on the Back and on the Sides of the ſaid preſent Shire Hall, or any Part or Parts thereof, a Market Houſe or Market Place and Buildings, for the Accommodation of Perſons reſorting to the Markets in the ſaid Town of *Stafford*; and to contract and agree with any Perſon or Perſons for executing all or any of the aforeſaid Works, in ſuch Manner as to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall ſeem expedient.

No Buildings to be erected in the Open Ground in the Front and on the Sides of the Shire Hall.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall not be lawful for the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*, or their Succeſſors, or for any other Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, at any Time or Times after the paſſing of this Act, to make or erect any Building, Structure, or Edifice whatſoever upon any Part of the Scite of the preſent Shire Hall, which ſhall not be uſed for the Purpoſes of this Act, or of the Market Place, Street, or Open Ground lying and being in the Front, on the Back, and on the Sides of the preſent Shire Hall, which ſhall not be ſo uſed, other than and except moveable Stalls for the Purpoſes of the ſaid Markets and Fairs only, but which ſhall not be placed in the Front of ſuch Shire Hall during the Time that the Aſſizes, or General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, or any Election of a Knight or Knights of the Shire, ſhall be held in the ſaid Shire Hall.

Power to reſell.

XV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, to let or ſell, diſpoſe of and convey, any Building or Buildings, Ground or Hereditaments, to be by them, or any Five of them, purchaſed in purſuance of the Power and Authority hereby for that Purpoſe to them given, or which ſhall be in them veſted, over and above what ſhall or may be neceſſary for the Purpoſes of this Act, as they ſhall judge proper, to any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever; and that the Monies to ariſe from ſuch Letting or Sale as aforeſaid, ſhall be applied for the Purpoſes of this Act.

XVI. And,

Money to be raised by Rates on the County, for building the New Shire Hall.

XVI. And, for the raising of Money for the Purposes of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, from Time to Time, as often as they shall think proper, rate and assess on all the Boroughs, Towns Corporate, Franchises, Liberties, Parishes, Townships, and other Places within the said County, (except the City and County of the City of *Litchfield*), such Sum and Sums of Money as they shall from Time to Time adjudge necessary to be raised for the several Purposes of this Act, and such Sum and Sums shall be raised and assessed, in such and the same Manner, and according to such and the same Proportions, upon every Borough, Town Corporate, Franchise, Liberty, Parish, and Place, within the said County, (except as aforesaid), and be collected, received, levied, paid, and be accounted for, by the Persons making such Collections, in such Manner, and by such Means, and by such Powers of Distress for enforcing the Collection and Payment thereof, and for punishing all Persons whose Duty it shall be to collect and account for the same, and shall make Default therein, as the Land Tax has been usually, now is, or may, by any subsequent Act or Acts of Parliament, be assessed, collected, received, levied, paid, and accounted for, within the said County; and such Rates or Assessments, when received, shall from Time to Time be paid to the Treasurer of the said Commissioners, whose Receipt shall be a full Discharge for the same, and shall be by him from Time to Time paid to the Commissioners appointed by this Act, or any Five or more of them, at some Meeting of the said Commissioners, or to such Person or Persons, and in such Manner, as they the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall order or appoint, by Writing under their Hands, to receive the same; and the Receipt of the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, or of such other Person or Persons who shall be so appointed, shall be a full and sufficient Discharge to such Treasurer or Treasurers for the Payment of such Money.

Assessors of Land Tax to assess and levy the Rate.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several and respective Assessors of the Land Tax for the Time being, of the several Boroughs, Towns Corporate, Franchises, Liberties, Parishes, Townships, and Places, which shall be liable to pay the Rates or Assessments for the Purposes of this Act, shall and may, from Time to Time, after Notice of the Amount of the Rate or Assessment to be made as aforesaid, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of Three or more of the Commissioners of the Land Tax for the Time being, rate and assess such Monies, by a separate and distinct Rate and Assessment, upon every such respective Place as aforesaid, in due Proportion to the Assessment to the Land Tax for the Time being, and the same shall be collected and levied in such Manner, and with such Powers for the Recovery thereof, as any other Land Tax may be assessed, collected, and levied; and that every Tenant of any House, Land, Tithe, Tenement, or Hereditament, not having any Estate or Interest in a Lease thereof for Twenty-one Years, or a less Term from the Commencement of the same, which has been originally granted or usually renewed upon the Payment of a Fine, or not having any Estate or Interest in a Lease for above the Term of Twenty-one Years from the Commencement of the same, or not having any Estate or Interest in a Lease for One or more Life or Lives, or for any Term exceeding Twenty-one Years determinable on One or more Life or Lives, who shall pay any Rate or Assessment to be made in pursuance of this Act,

Certain Tenants may deduct Rate out of their Rents.

Act, shall and may deduct the same out of his, her, or their respective Rents, and shall be acquitted and discharged for so much Money as such Rates or Assessments shall from Time to Time amount unto, as fully and effectually as if such Money had been actually paid to the Person or Persons to whom such Rent is or shall be payable; and such Person and Persons is and are hereby required to allow, from Time to Time, such Deductions upon the Receipt of the Residue of the Rent, notwithstanding any Agreement or Covenant between any Landlord and Tenant to the contrary.

Rate limited.

XVIII. Provided always, That the Sum and Sums of Money to be raised upon the said County for the several Purposes of this Act shall not exceed the Sum of One Shilling and Sixpence in the Pound in the Whole, nor more than Nine-pence in the Pound in any One Year, according as the Land Tax was assessed in the said County in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three; the first Year for the Purposes of this Act to commence on the Twenty-ninth Day of *September* next after the passing of this Act.

No Person to be doubly rated.

XIX. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to charge or subject any Person or Persons to the Payment of Double the Rates or Assessments imposed by this Act; any Thing herein, or in any former Act or Acts, contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Persons aggrieved by the Rate may appeal.

XX. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall think himself, herself, or themselves aggrieved by any Rate or Assessment which shall be made or laid in pursuance of this Act, or by not having the same allowed as hereinbefore directed, such Person and Persons may appeal to the Justices of the Peace, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County of *Stafford* next after the Expiration of Twenty Days from the Time of the Cause of such Complaint, such Appellant first giving, or causing to be given, at the least Fourteen Days Notice in Writing of his or her Intention to bring such Appeal, and of the Matter thereof, to the Person or Persons making such Rate or Assessment, or refusing to allow the same as aforesaid, and also to the Clerk of the said Commissioners, and likewise, within Seven Days after such Notice, entering into a Recognizance, with a sufficient Surety, in the Sum of Twenty Pounds, before a Justice of the Peace for the said County, conditioned to try such Appeal, and abide by the Order of and pay such Costs as shall be awarded by the Justices at such General Quarter Sessions of the Peace; and the Justices assembled at such General Quarter Sessions, or any Adjournment thereof, are hereby authorized and empowered, if they shall think such Person or Persons aggrieved, to give such Relief as to them shall seem reasonable, and to award such Costs to the Parties appealing or appealed against, as they the said Justices shall think proper; and the Determination of the said Justices, or the major Part of them, shall be binding, final, and conclusive.

Application of the Money to be raised.

XXI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Monies to be raised and received by virtue of this Act, shall, in the First

First Place, be applied in discharging and paying all the Expences of obtaining this Act, with lawful Interest from the advancing thereof, and afterwards for the several Purposes of the said Act, as the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall from Time to Time think fit and direct; and that, after all such Charges and Expences, and the Charges of making such Purchases as aforesaid, and of erecting, finishing, and completing, the said Shire Hall and Buildings, and all Debts incurred thereby, and all other Monies to be paid in pursuance of this Act, shall be fully paid and satisfied, the Surplus of the Monies to be raised and levied by virtue of this Act, shall, by Order of the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, be paid into the Publick Stock of the said County, and be deemed and taken, and shall and may be applied and paid, as Part of the Common Stock, to and for such Uses as the County Stock can or may be applied.

Rates may be mortgaged.

XXII. And, for the more speedily raising a Fund for the Purposes of this Act, be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, at their First or any subsequent Meeting or Meetings to be held in pursuance of this Act, to borrow and take up on the Credit of the Rates and Assessments to be laid by virtue of this Act, in Sums of not less than One hundred Pounds, or more than One thousand Pounds each, at legal or lower Interest, such Sum and Sums of Money as they the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall think fit, so as the Money to be borrowed as aforesaid do not exceed the Sum herein-before authorized to be raised as aforesaid; and for securing all and every such Sum and Sums of Money so borrowed, the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, may, and are hereby empowered, from Time to Time, by any Writing or Writings under their Hands, to mortgage, demise, grant, or assign, the said Rates and Assessments, or any Part or Parts thereof, (the Charges of such Mortgages, Demises, Grants, or Assignments, to be paid for thereout), to any Person or Persons, as a Security or Securities for the Money which shall be so borrowed, and the Interest thereof; and Copies of all such Mortgages, Demises, or Assignments, shall be entered in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose by the Clerk to the said Commissioners, or his Deputy, for each of which Copies he shall be paid the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence; but no Money shall be borrowed by virtue of this Act after the said First Meeting of the said Commissioners, unless Fourteen Days Notice of the Meeting for the borrowing of such Money shall be given as herein-before directed.

Mortgagees to be Creditors in equal Degree.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That all Persons to whom such Mortgages, Demises, Grants, or Assignments, shall be made, shall be, in Proportion to the Sum or Sums therein respectively mentioned, Creditors on the said Rates and Assessments so to be mortgaged as aforesaid, in equal Degree one with another, and shall not have any Preference with respect to the Priority of advancing any such Monies, or of the Dates of their respective Mortgages.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That the Form of every Mortgage to be made by virtue of this Act, as a Security for any Sum or Sums of Money to be borrowed on the Credit thereof, shall be in the

Words following, or in any other Words to the like Purport or Effect; (that is to say),

Form of Mortgage.

'BY virtue of an Act, passed in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign 'of His Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled, *An Act for build-* '*ing a New Shire Hall for the County of* Stafford, We, Five of the Commis- 'sioners appointed by the said Act, in Consideration of the Sum of ' advanced and lent by *A. B.* upon the Credit 'and for the Purposes of the said Act, do grant, bargain, sell, and de- 'mise, unto the said *A. B.* his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, 'such Proportion of the Rates and Monies arising by virtue of the said 'Act, as the said Sum of doth or shall bear 'to the whole Sum which may at any Time be borrowed, or become 'due and owing or charged, upon the Credit of the said Act, to be had 'and holden from this Day of in the Year 'of our Lord until the said Sum of with 'Interest for the same, after the Rate of *per Centum per An-* '*num*, shall be repaid and satisfied. Witness our Hands the ' Day of in the Year of our Lord

Mortgages may be assigned.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That all and every Person and Persons to whom any such Mortgage or Mortgages shall be made as aforesaid, or who shall be entitled to the Money thereby secured, may from Time to Time transfer or assign over his, her, or their Right, Title, and Interest, to the Principal and Interest Money thereby secured to any Person or Persons whomsoever, by Indorsement on the Back of such Security or other Writing to be annexed thereto, in the Words following, or to the like Effect:

Form of Transfer.

'I DO transfer this (*or* the annexed) Mortgage, with all my Right or 'Title to the Principal Money hereby (*or* thereby) secured, and all 'the Interest now due and to become due for the same, to *C. D.* his 'Executors, Administrators, and Assigns. Dated the 'Day of

'*A. B.*'

Which said Transfer or Assignment shall be produced to the Clerk to the said Commissioners, or his Deputy, for the Time being, who shall register and enter the same in the said Book or Books to be kept for entering the said Original Mortgages, for which he shall be paid Two Shillings and Sixpence by the Person requesting the same; and after such Entry thereof made, and not till then, every such Transfer shall entitle such Assignee, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, to the Benefit thereof and Payment thereon; and such Assignees may in like Manner transfer and assign again, from Time to Time, such Transfer being entered and paid for as aforesaid; and it shall not be in the Power of such Person or Persons who shall have made such Assignment or Transfer, to make void, release, or discharge the same, or any Money due thereon; and in case any such Original Mortgages, Assignments, or Securities, shall be lost or destroyed, the Copies or Entries thereof, made as aforesaid, shall be deemed sufficient Evidence to entitle the Person or Persons to whom the Monies due thereon shall respectively belong, to the Payment thereof, as fully and effectually as if such Original Mortgages and Assignments,

Aſſignments reſpectively were exiſting; and the Clerk or Perſon in whoſe Cuſtody ſuch Copies or Entries ſhall happen to be, is hereby required to produce the ſame for the Benefit of ſuch Creditors reſpectively.

Time limited for paying off the borrowed Money.

XXVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall, and they are hereby required to make Proviſion by Means of the Rates, which they are hereby authorized to make, and by their Orders and Directions which they are hereby authorized to give, in ſuch Manner that the whole Money to be borrowed under the Authority of this Act ſhall be fully paid and diſcharged within a Time to be limited, not exceeding Five Years from the Time of borrowing the ſame.

At Yearly Meetings to audit the Accounts.

XXVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall, and they are hereby required to meet at the Place or Places aforeſaid, on ſome Day between the Firſt Day of *June* and the Thirty-firſt Day of *December* in every Year, until the Powers of this Act ſhall be fully performed and executed; and at ſuch Meeting the Accounts of all Monies received and paid from Time to Time, by virtue and in execution of this Act, by any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, ſhall from Time to Time be produced, ſtated, examined, and ſettled, and ſhall alſo (if required by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them) be verified on the Oath or Oaths of the Perſon or Perſons accounting for the ſame; which Oath the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to adminiſter.

Perſons doing Damage to be proſecuted.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall wilfully and maliciouſly break, pull down, damage, or deſtroy, the ſaid Shire Hall or Buildings ſo to be erected, or any Part thereof, or any of the Appurtenances thereto, ſuch Perſon or Perſons being lawfully convicted thereof, ſhall be adjudged guilty of Felony; and the Court before whom ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall be tried, ſhall have full Power and Authority either to order ſuch Perſon or Perſons to be tranſported for Seven Years, to ſuch Place and in ſuch Manner as other Felons are directed to be tranſported by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, or to ſuffer ſuch Corporal Puniſhment by Whipping or otherwiſe, or to be puniſhed by Fine, Impriſonment, or otherwiſe, as to the ſaid Court before whom ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall be tried ſhall ſeem meet; and the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County, in Quarter Seſſions aſſembled, are hereby authorized, from Time to Time, to order ſuch Offender or Offenders as aforeſaid to be proſecuted by Indictment or Indictments, and to direct the Expences of ſuch Proſecutions to be paid by the Treaſurer or Treaſurers of the ſaid County of *Stafford*, out of the Publick Money of and belonging to the ſaid County.

The Shire Hall veſted in the Juſtices, &c. for Publick Purpoſes.

XXIX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That when the ſaid Shire Hall ſhall be completely finiſhed, fitted up, and furniſhed, the ſame, and every Matter and Thing appertaining thereto, ſhall from thenceforth be veſted in, and the ſame is hereby from thenceforth veſted in, the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Stafford* for the Time being, and the Mayor, Recorder, and Juſtices for the Time being of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*, upon ſpecial Truſt and Confidence, and to the End, Intent, and Purpoſe, that the ſaid Truſtees ſhall and will, from

from Time to Time, and at all Times thereafter, peaceably, quietly, and freely, permit and ſuffer all the Courts of the Juſtices of Aſſize and *Niſi Prius*, Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery for the ſaid County of *Stafford*, and alſo the Courts of General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, and all other Courts of the Juſtices of the Peace, and all the Courts and Publick Meetings of all other Juſtices and Commiſſioners of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, for the ſaid County, and the County Court for the ſaid County, to be holden in the ſaid Shire Hall, and the Appurtenances thereunto belonging; and alſo peaceably and quietly permit and ſuffer the ſaid Shire Hall to be had, uſed, and enjoyed, for ſuch other Publick Uſes and Purpoſes as the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Stafford* for the Time being, or the major Part of them, at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, ſhall from Time to Time direct, order, and appoint, with free Liberty for all Perſons whom it ſhall concern to act and officiate in, and to reſort to and attend upon, the ſaid Courts and Meetings as they ſhall have Occaſion; and alſo peaceably, quietly, and freely, permit and ſuffer the Sheriff and Freeholders of the ſaid County of *Stafford* for the Time being, when and as often as there ſhall be Occaſion, in the ſaid Shire Hall to make Elections of a Knight or Knights to ſerve in Parliament, and of a Coroner or Coroners for the ſame County, and to hold all other Publick Meetings for the ſaid County; and alſo peaceably, quietly, and freely, permit and ſuffer the Mayor, Aldermen, and Aſſiſtants of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*, to aſſemble, meet, and continue there as often as there ſhall be Occaſion, and alſo the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeſſes of the ſame Borough, to aſſemble, meet, and continue there, to make Elections of Burgeſſes to ſerve in Parliament for the ſaid Borough, as often as there ſhall be Occaſion; and alſo peaceably, quietly, and freely, permit the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, the Court of Record for Pleas, and the Court Leet and Court Baron for the ſaid Borough and the Liberties thereof, and all other Aſſemblies for the good Rule and Government of the ſaid Borough, to be there held in Manner as the ſame have uſually been in the former Shire Hall: And that, when the ſaid Shire Hall ſhall not be uſed or employed for any of the Purpoſes aforeſaid, the ſaid Truſtees may, and are hereby empowered, from Time to Time, and at all Times, to permit and ſuffer the ſaid Shire Hall and Appurtenances to be uſed and employed in and for ſuch Publick Uſes and Purpoſes, and in ſuch Manner, as the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace, at their General Quarter Seſſions, ſhall think proper and direct; but the ſaid Truſtees, or any of them, ſhall not demand or take, or allow to be demanded by any Perſon whatſoever, any Rent, Allowance, or valuable Conſideration whatſoever, for the Uſe of ſuch Shire Hall: And ſuch Truſtees ſhall and may, in the Name of the Clerk of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Stafford* for the Time being, bring Actions, or prefer Bills of Indictment, againſt any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall damage or prejudice the ſaid Shire Hall, or damage, prejudice, purloin, ſteal, or take away, any Matter or Thing appertaining thereto.

Meetings of the Town not to obſtruct the Buſineſs of the County.

XXX. Provided nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That none of the Powers or Authorities hereby given to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Town of *Stafford*, in regard to the Uſe of the ſaid Shire Hall, ſhall extend, or be deemed or conſtrued to extend, ſo as to obſtruct or interfere in any Reſpect with the Meetings,

ings, Courts, or Publick County Buſineſs to be holden or done in the ſaid Shire Hall.

The Hall to be inſured and ſupported at the Expence of the County and Town.

XXXI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That when the ſaid Shire Hall ſhall be completed, finiſhed, fitted up, and furniſhed, ſuch Hall ſhall be for ever thereafter inſured, ſupported, and maintained and provided with proper Accommodations and Furniture, from Time to Time, as Occaſion ſhall require, at the Expence and Charge of the ſaid County of *Stafford* and the ſaid Town of *Stafford*, in the Proportions following; (that is to ſay), One Tenth Part of the Charges and Expences to be occaſioned as aforeſaid, ſhall be, from Time to Time, paid by the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford*, and the Remainder thereof by the Inhabitants of the ſaid County of *Stafford* at large, in ſuch Manner as the Gaol, Houſe of Correction, or other Publick Works or Buildings of the ſaid County, is, are, or may be ſupported or maintained; and that it ſhall and may be lawful for the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County, at any General Quarter Seſſions of the ſaid County, or the major Part of them then aſſembled, from Time to Time to order the ſaid Shire Hall to be inſured, ſupported, and maintained, and provided with proper Accommodations and Furniture, and to be repaired and altered in ſuch Manner as they ſhall think fit; and the ſaid Juſtices, at ſuch Quarter Seſſions, ſhall and may from Time to Time appoint One or more Perſon or Perſons to look after and take Care of the ſaid Shire Hall, and the ſeveral Apartments thereof, except the Rooms and Apartments to be appropriated for the ſeparate and diſtinct Uſe of the ſaid Mayor and Burgeſſes of the Borough of *Stafford* aforeſaid, and ſhall and may order ſuch Salary, or allow ſuch Fees, to ſuch Perſon or Perſons as they the ſaid Juſtices ſhall think proper; and alſo ſhall and may order the Expence and Charge thereof, as likewiſe of the Furniture, Inſurance, and Repairs of the ſaid Shire Hall, from Time to Time to be paid in the Proportions before mentioned; and ſuch Part thereof as is to be borne by the Inhabitants of the ſaid County of *Stafford*, to be defrayed and paid by and out of the Monies to be raiſed by the General Rates and Aſſeſſments made, and to be made, aſſeſſed, and levied, in the ſaid County by virtue of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Years of His late Majeſty King *George* the Second, and in ſuch Manner as is directed in and by an Act of the Ninth Year of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act to enable the Juſtices of the Peace, in the General Quarter Seſſions of their reſpective Counties and Diviſions, to repair the Shire Halls, County Halls, or other Buildings wherein the Aſſizes or Grand Seſſions are uſually held.*

To compel Payment of Money and Proportion of future Expences, by the Mayor and Burgeſſes of *Stafford*.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough of *Stafford* are hereby required to pay the ſaid Sum of One thouſand Pounds by them agreed to be contributed for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, by ſuch Inſtalments, within ſuch Time and Times, and to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, as the Commiſſioners appointed by this Act, or any Five or more of them, ſhall order and direct, ſo that no Part thereof be directed to be paid ſooner than at the Expiration of Six Months from the paſſing of this Act, and not more than One Third Part thereof in any One Year; and in Default of ſuch Payment, or of the Payment of the Proportion of any future Expences herein-before directed to be borne and paid by the Mayor and Burgeſſes for the Time being

being of the Borough of *Stafford* aforeſaid, ſuch Sum and Sums of Money and Proportion of future Expences reſpectively ſhall and may be recovered by an Action or Actions of Debt to be brought by the ſaid Truſtees, or any Five or more of them, in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at *Weſtminſter*, in the Name of their Clerk, or of the Clerk of the Peace for the ſaid County of *Stafford* for the Time being, who ſhall be reimburſed and paid all Coſts and Charges to be thereby occaſioned, out of the Monies to be raiſed by virtue of this Act, or out of the County Rates.

Limitation of Actions.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That no Action at Law ſhall be brought or commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any Thing done or to be done by virtue of this Act, until after Twenty-one Days Notice of an Intention of bringing ſuch Action ſhall have been given to or left at the uſual Place of Abode of the Perſon or Perſons againſt whom ſuch Action is intended to be brought, thereby ſetting forth the particular Cauſe of ſuch Action, or after Tender of ſufficient Amends ſhall have been made to the Party or Parties aggrieved, or after Three Calendar Months next after the Fact or Cauſe of Action ſhall have ariſen; and every ſuch Action ſhall be brought, laid, and tried in the County of *Stafford*, and not elſewhere; and the Defendants in ſuch Action ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give this Act and the ſpecial Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be tried thereupon, and that the Act complained of, or the Subject Matter of ſuch Action, was done by virtue and under the Authority of this Act; and if on the Trial of ſuch Action it ſhall appear to have been ſo done, or that ſuch Action was brought before the Expiration of ſuch Twenty-one Days next after ſuch Notice ſhall have been given or left as aforeſaid, or after ſufficient Tender of Amends ſhall have been made to the Party or Parties aggrieved, or after the End of Three Calendar Months next after the Fact or Cauſe of ſuch Action ſhall have ariſen, or if ſuch Action ſhall be brought or laid in any other County than as aforeſaid, then and in every of the ſaid Caſes the Jury, on the Trial of ſuch Action or Actions, ſhall find a Verdict for the Defendant or Defendants therein; and in all Caſes where a Verdict ſhall be found for any Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs therein ſhall diſcontinue the ſame after the Defendant or Defendants ſhall have appeared thereto, or ſhall be nonſuited, or if upon Demurrer, Judgement ſhall be given againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, then and in every ſuch Caſe the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action ſhall have Double Coſts, and ſhall have the like Remedy for recovering the ſame as Defendants have for recovering his, her, or their Coſts in any other Caſe by Law.

General Iſſue.

Double Coſts.

Publick Act.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall be adjudged, deemed, and taken to be a Publick Act, and ſhall be judicially taken Notice of as ſuch, by all Judges, Juſtices, and other Perſons whomſoever, without ſpecially pleading the ſame.

6 FINIS.