THIRD SCHEDULE

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF A PARISH COUNCIL OR BY A PARISH COUNCILLOR

I, A.B., having been elected to the office of * , hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgment and ability.

* Insert description of office.

Dated this day of , 19 .

Signature.....

This declaration was made and subscribed before me

A member of the Parish Council .....

DECLARATION AS TO EXPENSES

Election for the [Ward of the] Parish of

Date of publication of notice of election .....

Full name of candidate .....

I solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. The amount paid by me or on my behalf for my election expenses at the above election was £ .

2. To the best of my knowledge and belief no other election expenses have been paid or incurred by me or by any other person or organization in connection with my candidature.

3. To the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying return of election expenses is complete and correct as required by law.

4. I understand that the law does not allow any election expenses not mentioned in the return to be defrayed except in pursuance of a court order.

Signature of candidate .....

Signed and declared by the above-named on the day of before me.

(Signed) .....

Justice of the Peace for .....

(ii) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Rural District Council Election Rules, 1949

1949 No. 285

Made - - - -	*22nd February*, 1949
Laid before Parliament	*23rd February*, 1949
Coming into Operation	*4th April*, 1949

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by the Local Government Act, 1933(a), and subsection (3) of section thirty-nine of the Representation of the People Act, 1948(b), I hereby make the following Rules for the

(a) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 51. (b) 11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 65.

conduct of an election of rural district councillors and of the chairman of a rural district council, and the following Regulations prescribing the form of declaration of acceptance of office by the chairman of a rural district council and by a rural district councillor:—

1.—(1) For an election of rural district councillors the clerk of the rural district council shall be the returning officer, and if at such election the office of clerk of the rural district council is vacant or the clerk is for any reason unable to act, the chairman of the rural district council shall forthwith appoint another person to be the returning officer for that election:

Provided that, in the case of a first election of rural district councillors for a newly constituted rural district, a person appointed in accordance with the order constituting the new rural district, or, if the order contains no provision relating to the appointment of a returning officer, a person appointed by the county council, shall be the returning officer.

(2) The returning officer may by writing under his hand appoint a fit person to be his deputy for all or any of the purposes of an election, and any functions which a returning officer is authorised or required to discharge in relation to the election may be discharged by a deputy so appointed.

(3) A deputy acting as returning officer under the provisions of this Rule shall, as respects the election for which he is so acting, follow the instructions of the returning officer.

2.—(1) Where an election of rural district councillors and an election of parish councillors are held on the same date and for the same area, the polls shall, so far as practicable, be taken together.

(2) Where polls are so taken together, one ballot box may, if the returning officer thinks fit, be used for the two elections; but, if separate ballot boxes are used, no vote for any rural district councillor shall be rendered invalid by the ballot paper being placed in the box intended for the reception of ballot papers for parish councillors.

(3) Where polls are so taken together one half of any expenses which may be payable in respect of the two polls jointly, including the remuneration of any officers or clerks employed in the conduct thereof, shall be deemed to have been incurred in relation to the poll for the election of rural district councillors, and shall be defrayed accordingly.

3. In the application of Part IV of the Municipal Corporations, Act, 1882(**a**), and the Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Acts, 1884 and 1911(**b**), to an election of the chairman of a rural district council and of rural district councillors the following adaptations and alterations shall have effect:—

(*a*) the expressions in the second column of the First Schedule hereto shall respectively be substituted for the expressions opposite thereto in the first column of the said Schedule;

(a) 45 & 46 Vict. c. 50. (b) 47 & 48 Vict. c. 70 and 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 7.

(*b*) subsection (2) of section eighty-nine of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, shall be adapted and altered so as to read as follows:—

"(2) The security shall be to the amount of fifty pounds unless in any case the High Court or a judge thereof, on summons, order that the same shall be to a less amount, or to a larger amount not exceeding three hundred pounds, and shall be given in the prescribed manner either by a deposit of money or by recognizance entered into by not more than four sureties, or partly in one way and partly in the other."

4. In the application of the Second Schedule to the Local Government Act, 1933(**a**), as amended by the Representation of the People Act, 1948, to an election of rural district councillors, adaptations, alterations and exceptions shall be made therein so that the said Schedule shall read as set out in the Second Schedule hereto.

5. The declaration of acceptance of office by the chairman of a rural district council or by a rural district councillor shall be in the form in the Third Schedule hereto, or a form to the like effect.

6. Any reference in these Rules to any enactment shall be taken as referring to that enactment as amended by any other enactment.

7.—(1) The Rural District Councillors Election Rules, 1934(**b**), and the Rural District Councillors Election Rules, 1945(**c**), are hereby revoked.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(**d**), shall apply to the Rules revoked by these Rules as though they were an Act of Parliament repealed by an Act of Parliament.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this Rule, the Rules therein mentioned shall apply to any election to fill a casual vacancy polling for which takes place before the ordinary day of election in the year 1949 for rural district councillors of the district in which the vacancy occurs.

8.—(1) These Rules and Regulations may be cited as the Rural District Council Election Rules, 1949, and shall come into operation on the fourth day of April, 1949.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to the interpretation of these Rules and Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

J. Chuter Ede,
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Home Office,
Whitehall.
22nd February, 1949.

(**a**) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 51.
(**b**) S.R. & O. 1934 (No. 546) I, p. 489.
(**c**) S.R. & O. 1945 (No. 1104) I, p. 768.
(**d**) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

FIRST SCHEDULE

ADAPTATIONS TO BE MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF PART IV OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT, 1882, AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES) ACTS, 1884 AND 1911.

Expression used in the above-mentioned Acts	Adaptation
borough	rural district.
borough fund or borough rate ..	general rate fund of the rural district.
corporate office	office of rural district councillor, or chairman of a rural district council.
municipal borough	rural district.
municipal election	election of rural district councillors, or the chairman of a rural district council.
municipal election court	court constituted to try an election petition in respect of an election of rural district councillors, or the chairman of a rural district council.
municipal election list	list of election petitions.
municipal election petition	election petition in respect of an election of rural district councillors, or the chairman of a rural district council.
town clerk	clerk of the rural district council.

SECOND SCHEDULE

ELECTION RULES

Arrangement of rules

PART I

PROVISIONS AS TO TIME

Rule
1. Timetable.
2. Computation of time.
3. Hours of poll.

PART II

STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

4. Notice of election.
5. Nomination of candidates.
6. Subscription of nomination paper.
7. Consent to nomination.
8. Place for delivery of nomination papers.
9. Decisions as to validity of nomination papers.
10. Withdrawal of candidates.
11. Publication of nominations.
12. Nomination in more than one electoral area.
13. Method of election.

PART III

CONTESTED ELECTIONS

General provisions

14. Poll to be taken by ballot.
15. The ballot papers.
16. The official mark.
17. Prohibition of disclosure of vote.
18. Use of schools and public rooms.

Action to be taken before poll

19. Notice of poll.
20. Death of candidate.
21. Provision of polling stations.
22. Appointment of presiding officers and clerks.
23. List of proxies.
24. Equipment of polling stations.
25. Appointment of polling and counting agents.
26. Declaration of secrecy.

The poll

27. Admission to polling station.
28. Keeping of order in station.
29. Sealing of ballot boxes.
30. Questions to be put to voters.
31. Challenge of voter.
32. Voting procedure.
33. Votes marked by presiding officer.
34. Voting by blind persons.
35. Tendered ballot papers.
36. Spoilt ballot papers.
37. Adjournment of poll in case of riot.
38. Procedure on close of poll.

Counting of votes

39. Attendance at counting of votes.
40. The count.
41. Re-count.
42. Rejected ballot papers.
43. Decisions on ballot papers.
44. Equality of votes.

PART IV

FINAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

45. Declaration of result.
46. The return.

PART V

DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

47. Verification of ballot paper account.
48. Delivery of documents to clerk of the council.
49. Orders for production of documents.
50. Retention and public inspection of documents.
51. Supplemental provisions as to documents.

PART VI

SUPPLEMENTAL

52. General duty of returning officer.
53. Notices.
54. Interpretation.

APPENDIX

FORMS

Notice of election.
Nomination paper.
Statement as to persons nominated.
Ballot paper.
Directions for the guidance of the voters in voting.
Certificate of employment.
Declaration to be made by the companion of a blind voter.

PART I

PROVISIONS AS TO TIME

Timetable

1. The proceedings at the election shall be conducted in accordance with the following Table.

TIMETABLE

Proceeding	*Time*
Publication of notice of election ..	Not later than the twenty-second day before the day of election.
Delivery of nomination papers ..	Not later than noon on the sixteenth day before the day of election.
Despatch of notices of decisions on nominations and publication of statement as to persons nominated	Not later than noon on the thirteenth day before the day of election.
Delivery of notices of withdrawals of candidature	Not later than noon on the twelfth day before the day of election.
Notice of poll	Not later than the fifth day before the day of election.
Notice of appointment of polling or counting agents	Not later than the third day before the day of election.
Polling	On the day of election.

Computation of Time

2. In computing any period of time for the purposes of the Timetable, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, bank holiday or day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning and the Saturday before and the Tuesday after Easter Day or Whit Sunday shall be disregarded and any such day shall not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll nor shall the returning officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of the votes thereon.

Hours of poll

3.—(1) The poll shall commence at the hour fixed for the rural district by the county council by any general or special order or, if no such order has been made, at noon and be kept open till eight o'clock in the evening of the same day and no longer:

Provided that the poll shall be kept open till nine o'clock in the evening if candidates remaining validly nominated to a number not less than the number of vacancies have, by written notices signed by them and delivered at the place and within the time for delivery of notices of withdrawals of candidature, so requested.

(2) A notice under this rule shall not have effect as respects any candidate if revoked by a further written notice signed by him and delivered as aforesaid.

PART II

STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

Notice of election

4.—(1) Notice of the election in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, shall be prepared, signed and published by the returning officer.

(2) The notice shall be published by causing it to be affixed to the offices of the rural district council and to be exhibited at such places in each electoral area as the returning officer may determine.

Nomination of candidates

5.—(1) Each candidate shall be nominated by a separate nomination paper in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, delivered at the place fixed for the purpose.

(2) The nomination paper shall state the full names, place of residence and description of the candidate and the surname shall be placed first in the list of his names.

(3) The description shall not refer to the candidate's political activities, and need not refer to his rank, profession or calling so long as, with the other particulars of the candidate, it is sufficient to identify him.

(4) If the description is unduly long, the returning officer after consultation (if possible) with the candidate or his election agent, proposer or seconder, may shorten it or substitute another.

Subscription of nomination paper

6.—(1) The nomination paper shall be subscribed by two electors for the electoral area as proposer and seconder.

(2) Where a nomination paper bears the signatures of more than the required number of persons as proposing or seconding the nomination of a candidate, the signature appearing first on the paper in each category shall be taken into account to the exclusion of any others in that category.

(3) The returning officer shall provide nomination papers and shall supply any elector for the electoral area with as many nomination papers as may be required and shall, at the request of any such elector, prepare for signature a nomination paper.

(4) No person shall—

(*a*) subscribe more nomination papers than there are vacancies to be filled in the electoral area; or

(*b*) subscribe a nomination paper for more than one electoral area; or

(*c*) subscribe more than one nomination paper in respect of the same candidate:

Provided that a person shall not be prevented from subscribing a nomination paper by reason only of his having subscribed that of a candidate who has died or withdrawn before delivery of the first-mentioned paper.

(5) If any person subscribes nomination papers in contravention of the last foregoing paragraph, his signature shall be inoperative in all but those papers (up to the permitted number) which are first delivered.

(6) In this rule, the expression " elector for the electoral area " means a person who is registered as a local government elector for the electoral area in the register to be used at the election or who, pending the publication of that register, appears from the electors lists therefor as corrected by the registration officer to be entitled to be so registered.

Consent to nomination

7.—(1) A person shall not be validly nominated unless his consent to nomination, given in writing on or within one month before the day fixed as the last day for the delivery of nomination papers, and attested by one witness, is delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers:

Provided that in the case of an election to fill a casual vacancy, if the returning officer is satisfied that owing to the absence of a person from the United Kingdom it has not been reasonably practicable for his consent in writing to be given as aforesaid, a telegram consenting to his nomination and purporting to have been sent by him shall be deemed, for the purpose of this rule, to be consent in writing given by him on the day on which it purports to have been sent, and attestation of his consent shall not be required.

(2) A candidate's consent given in writing under this rule shall contain a statement that he is qualified as required by law to be elected to and hold the office in question, and the statement shall give particulars of his qualification.

Place for delivery of nomination papers

8. Every nomination paper shall be delivered at the place fixed by the returning officer.

Decisions as to validity of nomination papers

9.—(1) Where a nomination paper and the candidate's consent thereto are delivered in accordance with these rules, the candidate shall be deemed to stand nominated unless and until the returning officer decides that the nomination paper is invalid, or proof is given to the satisfaction of the returning officer of the candidate's death, or the candidate withdraws.

(2) The returning officer shall be entitled to hold a nomination paper invalid only on one of the following grounds, that is to say:—

(*a*) that the particulars of the candidate or the persons subscribing the paper are not as required by law; or

(*b*) that the paper is not subscribed as so required.

(3) As soon as practicable after the latest time for the delivery of nomination papers, the returning officer shall examine the nomination papers, and decide whether the candidates have been validly nominated in accordance with these rules.

(4) Where he decides that a nomination paper is invalid, he shall endorse and sign on the paper the fact and the reasons for his decision.

(5) The returning officer shall send notice of his decision to each candidate at his place of residence as stated on his nomination paper.

(6) The decision of the returning officer that a nomination paper is valid shall be final and shall not be questioned in any proceeding whatsoever.

(7) Subject to the last foregoing paragraph, nothing in this rule shall prevent the validity of a nomination being questioned on an election petition.

Withdrawal of candidates

10.—(1) A candidate may not later than the time appointed for that purpose by the Timetable withdraw from his candidature by notice of withdrawal signed by him and attested by one witness and delivered at the place appointed for the delivery of nomination papers.

(2) In the case of a candidate who is outside the United Kingdom, a notice of withdrawal signed by his proposer and accompanied by a written declaration also so signed of the candidate's absence from the United Kingdom shall be of the same effect as a notice of withdrawal signed by the candidate:

Provided that where the candidate stands nominated by more than one nomination paper a notice of withdrawal under this paragraph shall be effective if, but only if—

(*a*) it and the accompanying declaration are signed by all the proposers, except any who is, and is stated in the said declaration to be, outside the United Kingdom ; or

(*b*) it is accompanied, in addition to the said declaration, by a written statement signed by the candidate that the proposer giving the notice is authorised to do so on the candidate's behalf during his absence from the United Kingdom.

Publication of nominations

11.—(1) The returning officer shall prepare and publish a statement in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, showing the persons who have been and stand nominated and any other persons who have been nominated, with the reason why they no longer stand nominated.

(2) The statement shall show the names, addresses and descriptions of the persons nominated as given in their nomination papers.

(3) The statement shall show the persons standing nominated arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames, and, if there are two or more of them with the same surname, of their other names.

(4) In the case of a person nominated by more than one nomination paper, the returning officer shall take the particulars required by the foregoing provisions of this rule from such one of the papers as the candidate or the returning officer in default of the candidate may select.

(5) The statement as to persons nominated shall be published by causing it to be affixed to the place fixed for the delivery of nomination papers.

Nomination in more than one electoral area

12. A candidate who is validly nominated for more than one electoral area must duly withdraw from his candidature in all those electoral areas except one, and if he does not so withdraw he shall be deemed to have withdrawn from his candidature in all those electoral areas.

Method of election

13.—(1) If the number of persons remaining validly nominated for the electoral area after any withdrawals under these rules exceeds the number of vacancies, the councillors shall be elected from among them at a poll under Part III of these rules.

(2) If the said number does not exceed the number of vacancies, the person or persons (if any) deemed to be elected under the following provisions of this rule shall be declared elected in accordance with Part IV of these rules.

(3) The person or persons (if any) remaining validly nominated for the electoral area after any withdrawals under these rules shall be deemed to be elected.

(4) If, at an ordinary election of rural district councillors, no person remains validly nominated as aforesaid, or the number of persons so remaining validly nominated is less than the number of vacancies, such of the retiring councillors for the electoral area as were highest on the poll at the last ordinary election, or as filled the places of councillors who were highest on the poll at that election, or if the poll was equal or there was no poll, as may be determined by the drawing of lots conducted under the direction of the returning officer, shall be deemed to be elected to fill up the vacancies not filled under paragraph (3) of this rule.

PART III

CONTESTED ELECTIONS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Poll to be taken by ballot

14. The votes at the poll shall be given by ballot, the result shall be ascertained by counting the votes given to each candidate, and the candidate or candidates to whom the majority of votes have been given shall be declared to have been elected.

The ballot papers

15.—(1) The ballot of every voter shall consist of a ballot paper and the persons remaining validly nominated for the electoral area after any withdrawals under these rules, and no others, shall be entitled to have their names inserted in the ballot paper.

(2) Every ballot paper shall be in the form in the Appendix, and shall be printed in accordance with the directions therein, and—

(*a*) shall contain the names and other particulars of the candidates as shown in the statement of persons nominated;

(*b*) shall be capable of being folded up;

(*c*) shall have a number printed on the back;

(*d*) shall have attached a counterfoil with the same number printed on the face;

(*e*) shall be of a different colour from that of any ballot papers used in an election of parish councillors held on the same date and for the same area.

(3) The order of the names in the ballot paper shall be the same as in the statement of persons nominated.

The official mark

16.—(1) Every ballot paper shall be marked with an official mark, which shall be either embossed or perforated.

(2) The official mark shall be kept secret.

Prohibition of disclosure of vote

17. No person who has voted at the election shall, in any legal proceeding to question the election, be required to state for whom he voted.

Use of schools and public rooms

18.—(1) The returning officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes—

(*a*) a room in a school in receipt of a grant or in respect of which a grant is made, out of moneys provided by Parliament, from or by the Minister of Education;

(*b*) a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

(2) The returning officer shall make good any damage done to, and defray any expense incurred by the persons having control over, any such room as aforesaid by reason of its being used for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes.

(3) The use of a room in an unoccupied house for the said purposes shall not render a person liable to be rated or to pay any rate for the house.

(4) The election shall not be held in a church, chapel or other place of public worship.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE POLL

Notice of poll

19.—(1) Notice of the poll shall be published by the returning officer, and the manner of publication shall be the same as in the case of the notice of election.

(2) Notice of the poll shall specify—

(*a*) the day and hours fixed for the poll ;

(*b*) the number of councillors to be elected ;

(*c*) the particulars of each candidate remaining validly nominated (the order of the names of the candidates, and the particulars of the candidates, being the same as in the statement of persons nominated) ;

(*d*) the names of the proposer and seconder signing a person's nomination paper ; and

(*e*) the situation of each polling station and the description of the persons entitled to vote thereat.

(3) In the case of a candidate nominated by more than one nomination paper, the nomination paper mentioned in sub-paragraph (*d*) of paragraph (2) of this rule shall be that from which the names and other particulars of the candidate shown in the statement of persons nominated are taken.

Death of candidate

20. If before the poll is commenced proof is given to the satisfaction of the returning officer—

(*a*) that a person remaining validly nominated has died after the latest time for delivery of nomination papers, or

(*b*) that a person shown in the statement of persons nominated as standing nominated had in fact died before the latest time for delivery of nomination papers,

the returning officer shall countermand the poll.

Provision of polling stations

21.—(1) The returning officer shall provide a sufficient number of polling stations and, subject to the following provisions of this rule, shall allot the electors to the polling stations in such manner as he thinks most convenient.

(2) One or more polling stations may be provided in the same room.

(3) The polling station allotted to electors from any parliamentary polling district wholly or partly within the electoral area shall, in the absence of special circumstances, be in the parliamentary polling place for that district, unless the polling place is outside the electoral area.

(4) The returning officer shall provide each polling station with such number of compartments as may be necessary in which the voters can mark their votes screened from observation.

Appointment of presiding officers and clerks

22.—(1) The returning officer shall appoint a presiding officer to attend at each polling station and such clerks as may be necessary for the purposes of the election, but he shall not appoint any person who has been employed by or on behalf of a candidate in or about the election.

(2) The returning officer may, if he thinks fit, preside at a polling station and the provisions of these rules relating to a presiding officer shall apply to a returning officer so presiding with the necessary modifications as to things to be done by the returning officer to the presiding officer or by the presiding officer to the returning officer.

(3) A presiding officer may do, by the clerks appointed to assist him, any act (including the asking of questions) which he is required or authorised by these rules to do at a polling station except order the arrest, exclusion or removal of any person from the polling station.

List of proxies

23. The registration officer shall as soon as practicable prepare a special list (in these rules referred to as "the list of proxies") giving—

(*a*) the names and numbers on the register of the electors for whom proxies have been appointed;

(*b*) the names and addresses of the persons appointed.

Equipment of polling stations

24.—(1) The returning officer shall provide each presiding officer with such number of ballot boxes and ballot papers as in the opinion of the returning officer may be necessary.

(2) Every ballot box shall be so constructed that the ballot papers can be introduced therein, but cannot be withdrawn therefrom, without the box being unlocked.

(3) The returning officer shall provide each polling station with—

(*a*) materials to enable voters to mark the ballot papers;

(*b*) instruments for stamping thereon the official mark;

(*c*) copies of the register of electors for the electoral area or such parf thereof as contains the names of the electors allotted to the station;

(*d*) the parts of the list of proxies prepared for the election corresponding to the register of electors for the electoral area or part thereof provided under the last foregoing paragraph.

(4) A notice in the form in the Appendix, giving directions for the guidance of the voters in voting, shall be printed in conspicuous characters and exhibited outside every polling station and in every compartment of every polling station.

Appointment of polling and counting agents

25.—(1) Each candidate may, before the commencement of the poll, appoint polling agents to attend at polling stations for the purpose of detecting personation and one or more counting agents up to the number he may be authorised by the returning officer to appoint to attend at the counting of the votes:

Provided that—

(*a*) every polling agent employed for payment on behalf of a candidate shall be appointed by the candidate's election agent;

(*b*) the number of counting agents authorised by the returning officer shall be the same in the case of each candidate;

(*c*) the appointment of an agent may be on behalf of more than one candidate;

(*d*) not more than one polling agent shall be appointed to attend on behalf of the same candidate at a polling station;

(*e*) not more than three or, if the number of candidates exceeds twenty, four polling agents shall be appointed to attend at any polling station.

(2) If the number of polling agents appointed to attend at a polling station exceeds the permitted number, only those agents, up to the permitted number, whose appointments are signed by or on behalf of the greater number of candidates, or in the event of an equality in the number of signatures, only such of those agents as may be determined by the returning officer, shall be deemed to have been duly appointed.

(3) Notice in writing of the appointment, stating the names and addresses of the persons appointed, shall be given by the candidate to the returning officer and shall be so given not later than the time appointed for that purpose by the Timetable.

(4) If an agent dies, or becomes incapable of acting, the candidate may appoint another agent in his place, and shall forthwith give to the returning officer notice in writing of the name and address of the agent appointed.

(5) Counting agents may be appointed and the notice of appointment given to the returning officer by the candidate's election agent, instead of by the candidate.

(6) In the following provisions of these rules references to polling and counting agents shall be taken as references to agents whose appointments have been duly made and notified and who are within the permitted number.

(7) Any notice required to be given to a counting agent by the returning officer may be delivered at or sent by post to the address stated in the notice of appointment.

(8) A candidate may himself do any act or thing which any polling or counting agent of his, if appointed, would have been authorised to do, or may assist his agent in doing any such act or thing.

(9) Where by these rules any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agents, the non-attendance of any agents or agent at the time and place appointed for the purpose, shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

(10) No returning officer, presiding officer or clerk authorised to attend at a polling station or at the counting of the votes or any partner or clerk of any such person shall act as a candidate's agent in the management or conduct of the election and if any such person does so act he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be taken as preventing a candidate from acting as his own election agent.

Declaration of secrecy

26.—(1) Before the opening of the poll a declaration of secrecy in the form in paragraph (4) of this rule, or in a form as near thereto as circumstances admit, shall be made by—

(*a*) the returning officer;

(*b*) every presiding officer or clerk authorised to attend at a polling station or the counting of the votes;

(*c*) every candidate attending at a polling station or at the counting of the votes and every election agent so attending;

(*d*) every candidate's wife or husband attending at the counting of the votes;

(*e*) every polling agent and counting agent;

(*f*) every person permitted by the returning officer to attend at the counting of the votes, though not entitled to do so.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing paragraph, the following persons attending at the counting of the votes, that is to say:—

(*a*) any candidate;

(*b*) any election agent, or any candidate's wife or husband attending by virtue of rule thirty-nine of these rules, authorising election agents and candidates' wives or husbands to attend as such;

(*c*) any person permitted by the returning officer to attend, though not entitled to do so;

need not make the declaration before the opening of the poll but shall make it before he or she is permitted to attend the counting, and a person becoming obliged to make a declaration by reason of his appointment after the opening of the poll shall make the declaration before acting under the appointment.

(3) The returning officer shall make the declaration in the presence of a justice of the peace, and any other person shall make the declaration in the presence either of a justice of the peace or of the returning officer, and paragraphs (5), (6), (7) and (9) of this rule shall be read to the declarant by the person taking the declaration.

(4) The declaration shall be as follows:—

"I solemnly promise and declare that I will not at this election for the electoral area of in the Rural District of do anything forbidden by paragraphs (5), (6), (7) and (9) of rule 26 of the Second Schedule to the Rural District Council Election Rules, 1949, which have been read to me."

(5) The following persons, that is to say:—

(*a*) the returning officer;

(*b*) every presiding officer or clerk attending at a polling station;

(*c*) every candidate or election agent so attending;

(*d*) every polling agent so attending,

shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to—

(i) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station;

(ii) the number in the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or

(iii) the official mark.

(6) Every person attending at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not—

(*a*) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number on the back of any ballot paper;

(*b*) communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

(7) No person whatsoever shall—

(*a*) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;

(*b*) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;

(*c*) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;

(*d*) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted.

(8) No person having undertaken to assist a blind voter to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.

(9) If any person acts in contravention of this rule, he shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

THE POLL

Admission to polling station

27.—(1) The presiding officer shall regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at the same time, and shall exclude all other persons except—

(*a*) the candidates and their election agents;

(*b*) the polling agents appointed to attend at the polling station;

(*c*) the clerks appointed to attend at the polling station;

(*d*) the constables on duty; and

(*e*) the companions of blind voters.

(2) A constable or person employed by a returning officer shall not be admitted to vote in person elsewhere than at his own polling station under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1948(a), in that behalf, except on production and surrender of a certificate as to his employment which shall be in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, and signed by an officer of police of or above the rank of inspector or by the returning officer, as the case may be.

(3) Any certificate surrendered under this rule shall forthwith be cancelled.

Keeping of order in station

28.—(1) It shall be the duty of the presiding officer to keep order at his polling station.

(2) If a person misconducts himself in a polling station, or fails to obey the lawful orders of the presiding officer, he may immediately, by order of the presiding officer, be removed from the polling station by a constable in or near that station or by any other person authorised in writing by the returning officer to remove him, and the person so removed shall not, without the permission of the presiding officer, again enter the polling station during the day.

(3) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.

(4) The powers conferred by this rule shall not be exercised so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

Sealing of ballot boxes

29. Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer shall show the ballot box empty to such persons, if any, as are present in the polling station, so that they may see that it is empty, and shall then lock it up and place his seal on it in such manner as to prevent it being opened without breaking the seal, and shall place it in his view for the receipt of ballot papers, and keep it so locked and sealed.

Questions to be put to voters

30.—(1) The presiding officer may, and if required by a candidate or his election or polling agent shall, put to any person applying for a ballot paper at the time of his application, but not afterwards, the following questions, or either of them, that is to say:—

(*a*) in the case of a person applying as an elector—

(i) Are you the person registered in the register of local government electors now in force for this electoral area as follows [*read the whole entry from the register*]?

(ii) Have you already voted at the present election [*adding in the case of an election for several electoral areas,* in this or any other electoral area] otherwise than as proxy for some other person?

(a) 11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 65.

(*b*) in the case of a person applying as proxy—

(i) Are you the person whose name appears as A.B. in the list of proxies for this election as entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of C.D.?

(ii) Have you already voted here or elsewhere at the present election as proxy on behalf of C.D.?

(2) A ballot paper shall not be delivered to any person required to answer the above questions or any of them unless he has answered the questions or question satisfactorily.

(3) Save as by this rule authorised, no inquiry shall be permitted as to the right of any person to vote.

Challenge of voter

31.—(1) If at the time a person applies for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person, or after he has applied for a ballot paper for that purpose and before he has left the polling station, a candidate or his election or polling agent declares to the presiding officer that he has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant has committed an offence of personation and undertakes to substantiate the charge in a court of law, the presiding officer may order a constable to arrest the applicant, and the order of the presiding officer shall be sufficient authority for the constable so to do.

(2) A person against whom a declaration is made under this rule shall not by reason thereof be prevented from voting.

(3) A person arrested under the provisions of this rule shall be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.

Voting procedure

32.—(1) A ballot paper shall be delivered to a voter who applies therefor, and immediately before delivery—

(*a*) the ballot paper shall be stamped with the official mark, either embossed or perforated ;

(*b*) the number, name and description of the elector as stated in the copy of the register shall be called out ;

(*c*) the number of the elector shall be marked on the counterfoil ;

(*d*) a mark shall be placed in the register against the number of the elector to denote that a ballot paper has been received but without showing the particular ballot paper which has been received ; and

(*e*) in the case of a person applying for a ballot paper as proxy, a mark shall also be placed against his name in the list of proxies.

(2) The voter, on receiving the ballot paper, shall forthwith proceed into one of the compartments in the polling station and there secretly mark his paper and fold it up so as to conceal his vote, and shall then show to the presiding officer the back of the paper, so as to disclose the official mark and put the ballot paper so folded up into the ballot box in the presence of the presiding officer.

(3) The voter shall vote without undue delay, and shall leave the polling station as soon as he has put his ballot paper into the ballot box.

Votes marked by presiding officer

33.—(1) The presiding officer, on the application of—

(*a*) a voter who is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting in manner directed by these rules ; or

(*b*) if the poll is taken on a Saturday, a voter who declares that he is a Jew, and objects on religious grounds to vote in manner directed by these rules ; or

(*c*) a voter who declares orally that he is unable to read ;

shall, in the presence of the polling agents, cause the vote of the voter to be marked on a ballot paper in manner directed by the voter, and the ballot paper to be placed in the ballot box.

(2) The name and number in the register of electors of every voter whose vote is marked in pursuance of this rule, and the reason why it is so marked, shall be entered on a list (in these rules called " the list of votes marked by the presiding officer ").

In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the name of the voter shall be the number of the elector.

Voting by blind persons

34.—(1) If a voter makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed on the ground of blindness to vote with the assistance of another person by whom he is accompanied (in these rules referred to as " the companion "), the presiding officer shall require the voter to declare orally whether he is so incapacitated by his blindness as to be unable to vote without assistance.

(2) If the presiding officer is satisfied that the voter is so incapacitated and is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these rules referred to as " the declaration made by the companion of a blind voter ") that the companion is a qualified person within the meaning of this rule and has not previously assisted more than one blind person to vote at the election, the presiding officer shall grant the application, and thereupon anything which is by these rules required to be done to or by the said voter in connection with the giving of his vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

(3) For the purposes of this rule, a person shall be qualified to assist a blind voter to vote, if that person is either—

(*a*) a person who is entitled to vote as an elector at the election ; or

(*b*) the father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter of the blind voter and has attained the age of twenty-one years.

(4) The name and number in the register of electors of every voter whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion shall be entered on a list (in these rules referred to as " the list of blind voters assisted by companions ").

In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the name of the voter shall be the number of the elector.

(5) The declaration made by the companion—

(*a*) shall be in the form in the Appendix ;

(*b*) shall be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter applies to vote with the assistance of a companion and shall forthwith be given to the presiding officer who shall attest and retain it.

(6) No fee, stamp duty or other payment shall be charged in respect of the declaration.

Tendered ballot papers

35.—(1) If a person, representing himself to be—

(*a*) a particular elector named in the register ; or

(*b*) a particular person named in the list of proxies as proxy for an elector,

applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted in person either as the elector or his proxy, the applicant shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the following provisions of this rule, to mark a ballot paper (in these rules referred to as " a tendered ballot paper ") in the same manner as any other voter.

(2) A tendered ballot paper shall—

(*a*) be of a colour differing from the other ballot papers ;

(*b*) instead of being put into the ballot box, be given to the presiding officer and endorsed by him with the name of the voter and his number in the register of electors, and set aside in a separate packet.

(3) The name of the voter and his number in the register of electors shall be entered on a list (in these rules referred to as the " tendered votes list ").

(4) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be endorsed or entered together with the name of the voter shall be the number of that elector.

Spoilt ballot papers

36. A voter who has inadvertently dealt with his ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper may, on delivering it to the presiding officer and proving to his satisfaction the fact of the inadvertence, obtain another ballot paper in the place of the ballot paper so delivered (in these rules referred to as " a spoilt ballot paper "), and the spoilt ballot paper shall be immediately cancelled.

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

37.—(1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence, the presiding officer shall adjourn the proceedings till the following day and shall forthwith give notice to the returning officer.

(2) Where the poll is adjourned at any polling station—

(*a*) the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned shall be the same as for the original day ; and

(*b*) references in these rules to the close of the poll shall be construed accordingly.

Procedure on close of poll

38.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the presiding officer shall, in the presence of the polling agents, make up into separate packets, sealed with his own seal and the seals of such polling agents as desire to affix their seals—

(*a*) each ballot box in use at the station, sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and unopened, but with the key attached ;

(*b*) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together ;

(*c*) the tendered ballot papers ;

(*d*) the marked copies of the register of electors and of the list of proxies ;

(*e*) the counterfoils of the used ballot papers and the certificates as to employment on the day of the poll ;

(*f*) the tendered votes list, the list of blind voters assisted by companions, the list of votes marked by the presiding officer, a statement of the number of voters whose votes are so marked by the presiding officer under the heads " physical incapacity ", " Jews ", and " unable to read " and the declarations made by the companions of blind voters ;

and shall deliver the packets to the returning officer to be taken charge of by him.

(2) The packets shall be accompanied by a statement (in these rules referred to as " the ballot paper account ") made by the presiding officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to him, and accounting for them under the heads of ballot papers in the ballot box, and unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers.

COUNTING OF VOTES

Attendance at counting of votes

39.—(1) The returning officer shall make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, and shall give to the counting agents notice in writing of the time and place at which he will begin to count the votes.

(2) No person other than—

(*a*) the returning officer and his clerks ;

(*b*) the candidates and their wives or husbands ;

(*c*) the election agents ;

(*d*) the counting agents ;

may be present at the counting of the votes, unless permitted by the returning officer to attend.

(3) The returning officer shall give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with reference thereto, as he can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of his duties in connection therewith.

(4) In particular, where the votes are counted by sorting the ballot papers according to the candidate for whom the vote is given and then counting the number of ballot papers for each candidate, the counting agents shall be entitled to satisfy themselves that the ballot papers are correctly sorted.

The count

40.—(1) Before the returning officer proceeds to count the votes, he shall—

(*a*) in the presence of the counting agents open each ballot box and, taking out the ballot papers therein, count and record the number thereof ;

(*b*) if polls have been taken together for the election of rural district councillors and parish councillors, separate the ballot papers relating to the election of rural district councillors from those relating to parish councillors and count and record the numbers relating to each election ; and

(*c*) then mix together the whole of the ballot papers relating to the election of rural district councillors contained in the ballot boxes.

(2) The returning officer, while separating, counting and recording the number of ballot papers and counting the votes, shall keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers printed on the back of the papers.

(3) The returning officer shall, so far as practicable, proceed continuously with counting the votes, allowing only time for refreshment :

Provided that he may, in so far as he thinks necessary, exclude the hours between eight o'clock in the evening and nine o'clock on the following morning.

(4) During the excluded time the returning officer shall take proper precautions for the security of the ballot papers and other documents, and in particular shall place the ballot papers and other documents relating to the election under his own seal and the seals of such of the counting agents as desire to affix their seals.

Re-count

41.—(1) A candidate or his election agent may, if present when the counting or any re-count of the votes is completed, require the returning officer to have the votes re-counted or again re-counted but the returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable.

(2) No step shall be taken on the completion of the counting or any re-count of votes until the candidates and election agents present at the completion thereof have been given a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right conferred by this rule.

Rejected ballot papers

42.—(1) Any ballot paper—

(*a*) which does not bear the official mark ; or

(*b*) on which votes are given for more candidates than the voter is entitled to vote for ; or

(*c*) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number on the back ; or

(*d*) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty ;

shall, subject to the provisions of this rule, be void and not counted.

(2) Where the voter is entitled to vote for more than one candidate, a ballot paper shall not be deemed to be void for uncertainty as respects any vote as to which no uncertainty arises and that vote shall be counted.

(3) A ballot paper on which a vote is marked—

(*a*) elsewhere than in the proper place ; or

(*b*) otherwise than by means of a cross ; or

(*c*) by more than one mark ;

shall not by reason thereof be deemed to be void (either wholly or as respects that vote), if an intention that the vote shall be for one or other of the candidates clearly appears and the way the paper is marked does not of itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he can be identified thereby.

(4) The returning officer shall endorse—

(*a*) the word " rejected " on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted ; and

(*b*) in the case of a ballot paper on which any vote is counted under paragraph (2) of this rule, the words " rejected in part " and a memorandum specifying the votes counted ;

and shall add to the endorsement the words " rejection objected to " if an objection is made by a counting agent to his decision.

(5) The returning officer shall draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected, including those rejected in part, under the several heads of—

(*a*) want of official mark ;

(*b*) voting for more candidates than voter is entitled to ;

(*c*) writing or mark by which voter could be identified ;

(*d*) unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty ;

(*e*) rejected in part ;

and any counting agent may copy the statement.

Decisions on ballot papers

43. The decision of the returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, but shall be subject to review on an election petition.

Equality of votes

44. Where, after the counting of the votes (including any re-count) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, the returning officer shall forthwith decide between those candidates by lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.

PART IV

FINAL PROCEEDINGS IN CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

Declaration of result

45.—(1) In a contested election, when the result of the poll has been ascertained the returning officer shall forthwith declare to be elected the candidate or candidates for whom the majority of votes have been given, and shall as soon as possible publish the name or names of the candidate or candidates elected and the total number of votes given for each candidate, whether elected or not.

(2) In an uncontested election, the returning officer shall, not later than eleven o'clock in the morning on the day of election, publish the name or names of the person or persons elected.

The return

46. The returning officer shall forthwith upon declaration of the result of the election return the name of each person elected to the clerk of the rural district council.

PART V

DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

Verification of ballot paper account

47.—(1) On the completion of the counting at a contested election the returning officer shall seal up in separate packets the counted and rejected ballot papers, including ballot papers rejected in part.

(2) The returning officer shall then in the presence of the counting agents verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by him, and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt ballot papers and the tendered votes list) and shall draw up a statement as to the result of the verification, which any counting agent may copy.

(3) The returning officer shall not open the sealed packets of tendered ballot papers or of counterfoils and certificates as to employment on the day of the poll.

Delivery of documents to clerk of the council

48. The returning officer shall then forward to the clerk of the rural district council the following documents, that is to say:—

(*a*) the packets of ballot papers;

(*b*) the ballot paper accounts and the statements of rejected ballot papers and of the result of the verification of the ballot paper accounts;

(*c*) the tendered votes lists, the lists of blind voters assisted by companions, the lists of votes marked by the presiding officer and the statements relating thereto, and the declarations made by the companions of blind voters;

(*d*) the packets of counterfoils and certificates as to employment on the day of the poll;

(*e*) the packets containing marked copies of registers and of lists of proxies,

endorsing on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the election to which it relates and the name of the electoral area for which the election was held.

Orders for production of documents

49.—(1) An order for—

(*a*) the inspection or production of any rejected ballot papers, including ballot papers rejected in part; or

(*b*) for the opening of the sealed packets of counterfoils and certificates as to employment on the day of the poll or for the inspection of counted ballot papers,

may be made by either the county court or an election court if the court is satisfied by evidence on oath that the order is required for the purpose of instituting or maintaining a prosecution for an offence in relation to ballot papers, or for the purpose of an election petition.

(2) The order may be made subject to such conditions as to persons, time, place and mode of inspection, production or opening as the court making the order may think expedient and may direct the clerk of the rural district council having custody of the ballot papers and the sealed packets of counterfoils and certificates to retain them intact for such period as may be specified in the order:

Provided that in making and carrying into effect the order, care shall be taken that the way in which the vote of any particular elector has been given shall not be disclosed until it has been proved that his vote was given and the vote has been declared by a competent court to be invalid.

(3) An appeal shall lie to the High Court from any order of a county court made under this rule.

(4) Any power given under this rule to a county court may be exercised by any judge of the court otherwise than in open court.

(5) The production of any document by the clerk of the rural district council in accordance with an order under this rule shall be conclusive evidence that the document relates to the election specified in the order, and any endorsement on any packet of ballot papers so produced shall be prima facie evidence that the ballot papers are what they are stated to be in the endorsement.

(6) The production from proper custody of a ballot paper purporting to have been used at any election, and of a counterfoil marked with the same printed number and having a number marked thereon in writing shall be prima facie evidence that the elector whose vote was given by that ballot paper was the person who at the time of the election had affixed to his name in the register of electors the same number as the number written on the counterfoil.

(7) Save as by this rule provided, no person shall be allowed to inspect any rejected or counted ballot papers in the possession of the clerk of the rural district council or to open any packets of counterfoils and certificates.

Retention and public inspection of documents

50.—(1) The clerk of the rural district council shall retain for six months among the records of the rural district all documents relating to an election which are in pursuance of these rules forwarded to him by a returning officer or held by him and then, unless otherwise directed by an order under the last foregoing rule, shall cause them to be destroyed.

(2) The said documents, except ballot papers, counterfoils and certificates as to employment on the day of the poll, shall during a period of six months from the day of election be open to public inspection at such time and in such manner as may be determined by the county council.

(3) The clerk of the rural district council shall, on request, supply copies of or extracts from the documents open to public inspection on payment of such fees, and subject to such conditions, as may be determined by the county council.

Supplemental provisions as to documents

51. Subject to the provisions of these rules, the clerk of the rural district council shall, in respect of the custody and destruction of ballot papers and other documents coming into his possession in pursuance of these rules, be subject to the directions of the rural district council.

PART VI

SUPPLEMENTAL

General duty of returning officer

52. It shall be the general duty of the returning officer to do any act or thing that may be necessary for effectually conducting the election under these rules.

Notices

53. Any notice or other document required under these rules to be affixed to the offices of the rural district council shall be exhibited—

(*a*) in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of the offices of the council; or

(*b*) if the council have no offices, in some conspicuous place in the rural district or in the area to which the document or notice relates.

Interpretation

54.—(1) The expression "electoral area" means each ward of a parish, parish or combination of parishes, as the case may be, into which a rural district is divided for the election of rural district councillors.

(2) A reference in this Schedule to a rule shall be construed as a reference to a rule contained in this Schedule.

(3) Any person before whom a declaration is authorised to be made under these rules may take the declaration.

APPENDIX

Note.—The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

NOTICE OF ELECTION Rule 4.

RURAL DISTRICT OF

ELECTION OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS for the [Ward of the parish of] [Parish of] [Combined parishes of] in the Rural District.

1. An election is to be held of Rural District Councillors for the said [ward] [parish] [combined parishes]. If the notice relates to more than one election, adapt form accordingly.

2. Nomination papers must be delivered at on any day after the date of this notice, but not later than noon on the day of .

3. Forms of nomination paper may be obtained from the returning officer at . The returning officer will at the request of any local government elector for the electoral area prepare for signature a nomination paper.

4. If the election is contested, the poll will take place on the day of .

(Signed).....
Returning Officer.

day of , 19 .

NOTE 1.—The attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the rules for filling up nomination papers and other provisions relating to nomination contained in the election rules in the Second Schedule to the Rural District Council Election Rules, 1949.

NOTE 2.—Every person guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice will, on conviction, be liable to penalties.

NOMINATION PAPER Rule 5.

ELECTION OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS for the [Ward of the parish of] [Parish of] [Combined parishes of] in the Rural District of .

Date of publication of notice of election.....

We, the undersigned, being local government electors for the said [ward] [parish] [combined parishes], do hereby nominate the undermentioned person as a candidate at the said election.

Candidate's surname	Other names in full	Place of Residence	Description

Signature	Electoral Number (*see* note 3)
Proposer.....	.....
Seconder.....	.....

NOTE 1.—The attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the rules for filling up nomination papers and other provisions relating to nomination contained in the election rules in the Second Schedule to the Rural District Council Election Rules, 1949.

NOTE 2.—Where a candidate is commonly known by some title he may be described by his title as if it were his surname.

NOTE 3.—A person's electoral number is his number in the register to be used at the election (including the distinctive letters (if any) of the register and of the parliamentary polling district in which he is registered) except that before publication of the register his number (if any) in the electors lists for that register shall be used instead.

NOTE 4.—An elector may not—

(*a*) subscribe more nomination papers than there are vacancies to be filled in the electoral area; or

(*b*) subscribe a nomination paper for more than one electoral area of a rural district; or

(*c*) subscribe more than one nomination paper in respect of the same candidate.

Rule 11.

STATEMENT AS TO PERSONS NOMINATED

RURAL DISTRICT OF

The following is a statement as to the persons nominated for election as Rural District Councillors for the [Ward of the parish of] [Parish of] [Combined parishes of] in the Rural District.

[Ward] [Parish] [Combined Parishes]	Persons nominated				Decision of returning officer that nomination paper is invalid, or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated
	Surname	Other names in full	Place of Residence	Description	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

The persons opposite whose names no entry is made in column 6 have been and stand validly nominated.

Dated this day of , 19 .

.....

Returning Officer.

BALLOT PAPER Rule 15.

Form of Front of Ballot Paper

Counterfoil No.

The counterfoil is to have a number to correspond with that on the back of the Ballot Paper.

1	**BROWN** (JOHN EDWARD Brown, of 52, George Street, Bristol, merchant.)	
2	**BROWN** (THOMAS WILLIAM Brown, of 136, London Road, Swindon, salesman.)	
3	**JONES** (William David Jones, of High Elms, Wilts., gentleman.)	
4	**MERTON** (Hon. George Travis, commonly called Viscount Merton, of Swanworth, Berks.)	
5	**SMITH** (Mary Smith, of 72, High Street, Bath, married woman.)	

Form of Back of Ballot Paper

No.

Election for the [Ward of the parish of] [Parish of] [Combined parishes of] in the Rural District of .

day of , 19 .

Note.—The number on the ballot paper is to correspond with that on the counterfoil.

Directions as to printing the ballot paper.

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as practicable, the following arrangements shall be observed in the printing of the ballot paper:—

(*a*) no word shall be printed on the face except the particulars of the candidates;

(*b*) no rule shall be printed on the face except the horizontal rules separating the particulars of the candidates from one another and the vertical rules separating those particulars from the numbers on the left-hand side and the spaces on the right where the vote is to be marked;

(*c*) the whole space between the top and bottom of the paper shall be equally divided between the candidates by the rules separating their particulars.

3. The surname of each candidate shall in all cases be printed by itself in large capitals, and his full particulars shall be set out below it and shall be printed in ordinary type except that small capitals shall be used—

(*a*) if his surname is the same as another candidate's, for his other names; and

(*b*) if his other names are also the same as the other candidate's, either for his residence or for his description unless each of them is the same as that of another candidate with the same surname and other names.

4. The number on the back of the ballot paper shall be printed in ordinary type.

Rule 24.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE VOTERS IN VOTING

1. The voter may vote for not more than candidate(s).

2. The voter should see that the ballot paper, before it is handed to him, is stamped with the official mark.

3. The voter will go into one of the compartments and, with the pencil provided in the compartment, place a cross on the right-hand side of the ballot paper, opposite the name of each candidate for whom he votes, thus X.

4. The voter will then fold up the ballot paper so as to show the official mark on the back, and leaving the compartment will, without showing the front of the paper to any person, show the official mark on the back to the presiding officer, and then, in the presence of the presiding officer, put the paper into the ballot box, and forthwith leave the polling station.

5. If the voter inadvertently spoils a ballot paper he can return it to the officer, who will, if satisfied of such inadvertence, give him another paper.

6. If the voter votes for more than candidate(s) or places any mark on the paper by which he may afterwards be identified, his ballot paper will be void, and will not be counted.

7. If the voter fraudulently takes a ballot paper out of a polling station or fraudulently puts into the ballot box any paper other than the one given to him by the officer, he will be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

Rule 27.

CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT

Election in the [Ward of the parish of] [Parish of] [Combined parishes of] in the Rural District of .

I certify that (name)..... who is numbered..... in the register of electors for the electoral area named above, is likely to be unable to go in person to the polling station allotted to him at the election on (date of poll).....by reason of the particular circumstances of his employment on that date—

* (*a*) as a constable,

* (*b*) by me for a purpose connected with the election.

Signature .....

* Police rank .....
(Inspector or above)

* Returning Officer.

Date.....

* Delete whichever is inapplicable.

NOTE.—The person named above is entitled to vote at any polling station of the above electoral area on production and surrender of this certificate to the presiding officer.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY THE COMPANION OF A BLIND VOTER Rule 34

I, A. B., of , having been requested to assist C. D., who is [*in the case of a blind person voting as proxy add* voting as proxy for G. H.] numbered on the register of local government electors for the electoral area of in the Rural District of to record his vote at the election now being held for the said electoral area, do hereby declare that [I am entitled to vote as an elector at the said election] [I am the* of the said voter and have attained the age of twenty-one years], and that I have not previously assisted any blind person [except E. F., of], to vote at the said election.

* State the relationship of the companion to the voter.

(Signed) A. B.

day of , 19 .

I, the undersigned, being the presiding officer for the polling station for the electoral area of in the Rural District of , do hereby certify that the above declaration, having been first read to the above-named declarant, was signed by the declarant in my presence.

(Signed) X. Y.

day of , 19 , at minutes past o'clock [a.m.] [p.m.].

NOTE.—If the person making the above declaration knowingly and wilfully makes therein a statement false in a material particular, he will be guilty of an offence.

THIRD SCHEDULE

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF A RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OR BY A RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

I, A. B., having been elected to the office of * , hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgment and ability.

* Insert description of office.

Dated this day of , 19 .

Signature.....

This declaration was made and subscribed before us

Members of the Rural District Council.† { .... }

†If the declaration is made and subscribed before the clerk of the rural district council, or a justice of the peace or magistrate, or a commissioner for oaths, or a British consul, adapt form accordingly.