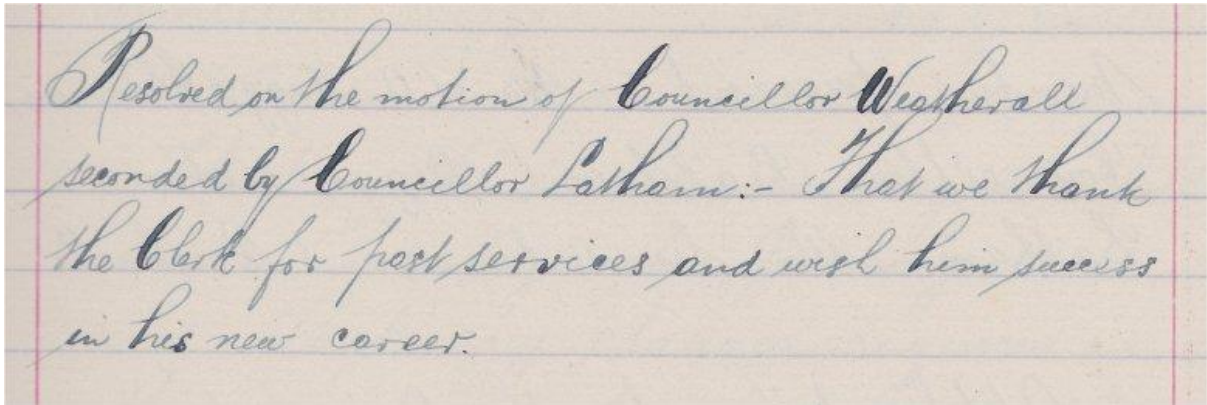


Arthur Turner – missed off the list by his own son

Arthur Turner became the clerk to Farnhill Parish Council in 1903. He lived in Mary Street and was a Clerk in a steel foundry.

For twelve years his neat hand wrote up the minutes of the monthly Council meeting and it must have come as a bit of a shock (not least because he was over 40 years of age) when, at the meeting on 28th October 1915, he announced that he had joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and would like to relinquish his duties as Clerk for a time. The Council immediately passed a motion of thanks; which he duly noted in the minutes.



From the Farnhill Parish Council minute book, October 28th 1915. Arthur Turner's neat handwriting in clear evidence.

The Council considered who might take Arthur Turner's place, before deciding that the best man for the job was his son, Tom.

And so it happened that, just a few months later, it was Tom Turner who drew up the Farnhill Parish Council Roll of Honour listing the 68 Farnhill WW1 Volunteers. A question that cannot be answered is why Tom missed his own father off that list? Clearly, he would have been eligible.

Tom wasn't Clerk to the Council for very long. He was already a teenager when he took over from his father and, in December 1917, he turned 18 and became eligible for military service. He resigned from the Clerk's position, which was taken over by Thomas Appleby the headmaster of Kildwick School. Generously, the Council agreed to continue paying Tom until he was called up.

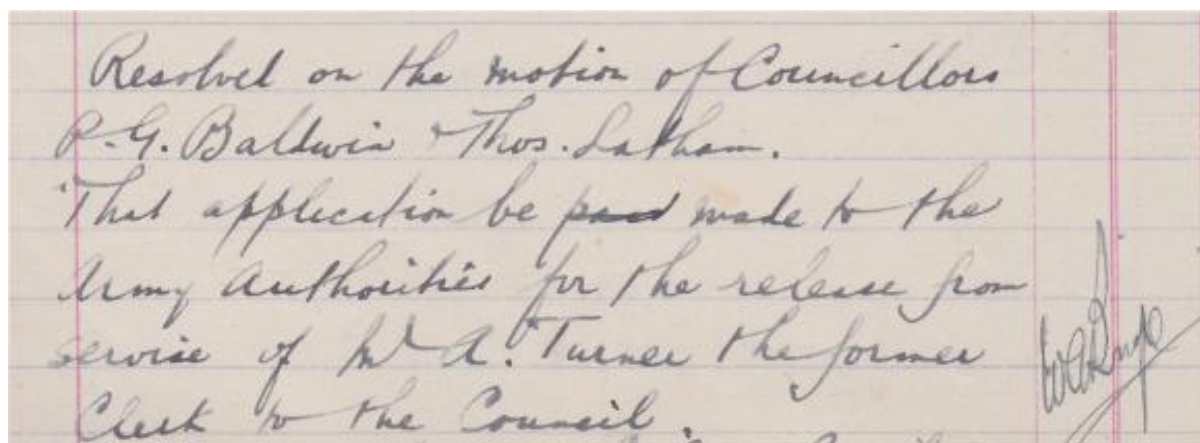
Just a few days later, there were reports concerning Arthur Turner in the local press.

Pte. A. Turner, of the R.A.M.C., formerly clerk to the Parish Council, has been in hospital in Italy, suffering from malarial fever. Pte. Turner enlisted in November, 1915, and after training in England has served at Malta and Salonika. He is hoping to resume duties shortly.

From Craven Herald 4th January 1918. There were similar reports in the West Yorkshire Pioneer and the Keighley News.

This is the only evidence we have of Arthur Turner's military career.

In March 1919, with the war over and the demobilization of troops well underway, Farnhill Parish Council made a rather remarkable request of the authorities.



Resolved on the motion of Councillors P. G. Baldwin & Thos. Latham. That application be made to the Army Authorities for the release from service of Pte. A. Turner the former Clerk to the Council.

"Please can we have Arthur back?". The resolution made by Farnhill Parish Council, in their meeting of 17th March 1919, to ask for the release of Arthur Turner.

And it might have had the desired effect. By May, Arthur Turner's handwriting once again takes over the recording of the Council's minutes; including this vote of thanks to Tom Appleby.

Before commencing business the Chairman moved that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. J. Appleby for carrying on the work of Clerk to the Council, during the absence of Mr. A. Turner, this^{on} being seconded by Mr. W. E. Biggs was heartily accorded by the Council. Mr. J. Appleby suitably replied.

The return of Arthur Turner; from the Farnhill Parish Council minutes 29th May 1919

