

The Clerk read a letter from the chairman of the Burbage Parish Council notifying the appointment of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain as assistant overseer. The applications for the position of collector were then considered. The candidates were Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Mr. Charles Higham (headmaster for 22 years of the Burbage National Schools), John Elton (of The Lawns, Hinckley), and H. J. Henwood (of Nuneaton).—Mr. C. C. Hurst asked the clerk (Mr. B. Preston) if he thought Mr. Chamberlain would have time to collect the rates in addition to his ordinary duties.—The Clerk: Oh, yes; I do.—Mr. Hurst: That makes all the difference. I move that Mr. Chamberlain be appointed. He was one of the most suitable men for the post, and had just been appointed assistant-overseer. I think it as well these two offices should be combined.—The Rev. E. Bush seconded.—Mr. de la Bere said as a Burbage Guardian he should move an amendment. Mr. Higham was a capital candidate, and there should be an opportunity of voting. Both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Higham were good men. From a sentimental point of view his feelings were in favour of Mr. Chamberlain, because they were aware of the great loss the parish of Burbage had sustained by the death of Mr. Kirby and Mr. Gent, to both of whom Mr. Chamberlain was closely related. That gave him a feeling in favour of Mr. Chamberlain. He considered both gentlemen were equally qualified, and should not vote for one or the other. (Laughter.) I think I am in order, said Mr. De la Bere. (Laughter.)—Mr. Fisher: You must.—Mr. Billson seconded. He was sure Mr. Higham would give satisfaction.—The Chairman: I should have thought the Burbage councillors would have been unanimous.—Mr. Hurst thought Mr. Higham had quite plenty to do, and did not think, with his day and night schools, he would have sufficient time to carry out the duties satisfactorily.—A vote was then taken, with the following result:—For Mr. Chamberlain: Messrs. Kinton, Hill, Norton, Hurst, Lord, Ironmonger, Loxley, Smith, Burt, Holland, Geary, Driver, Biggs, Moore, the Revs. R. Titley, A. E. Disney, and E. Bush, and Mrs. Goode. For Mr. Higham: The Rev. H. Fisher and Mr. Billson.—Mr. Chamberlain was declared elected.