

WORCESTERSHIRE WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND OMBERSLEY

This is a composite of gleanings from the Worcestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee (EC) minutes (259.9:2/179/1), the Food Production Committee (FPC) minutes (259.9:179/2), Worcestershire County Council Agricultural Committee (WCCAC) minutes (233.01/614/1) and the Bromsgrove Messenger. It includes material I thought interesting relating to Ombersley. Minutes are normally recorded verbatim and the Messenger paraphrased. Where minutes have been paraphrased, they appear in *italics*.

Broadly, all activity was aimed at increasing food production. Decision making seems to have lain with the Executive Committee, with much day-to-day detail dealt with by the Food Production Committee and the District Committee (Droitwich for Ombersley). The Committees had special powers to increase food production. They could serve Cultivation Orders where the standard of arable cultivation was inadequate. They could serve 'Breaking-up Orders' to get farmers to plough specified grassland in order to grow arable crops. If these orders failed to achieve results, the Committee could take possession (not ownership) of specified land and then arrange suitable tenancies or farm the land in hand.

These bodies ceased operation in September 1920 when remaining land in hand and responsibilities were transferred to the Agricultural Committee of Worcestershire County Council.

Several pieces of land in Ombersley Parish were subject to Committee's actions. The most important (in terms of frequency of consideration) were:

- Powers Farm and other land in Ombersley owned and occupied by Lord Sandys. Cultivation orders were served but not complied with. Lord Sandys was prosecuted for non-compliance but the hearing was adjourned to encourage Lord Sandys to facilitate the transfer of the land to the Committee. Some of the land was let, some became allotments and some was farmed in hand. A training centre for disabled servicemen was established. The County Council oversaw the transfer back to Lord Sandys in late 1921. (Pages 2-11)
- Land occupied by JG Williams Lineholt. This comprised land owned by Lord Sandys and Mr Bromley and Glebe land (Rev. Webster). The Committee's involvement seems mainly to have focused on transferring the land to suitable tenants. (Pages 12-13)
- Jonathan Moule's land at Hadley Heath. The Committee seems to have taken possession of this land and cultivated it for a time. (Pages 14-15)
- Croft's Land, Ombersley. Again the Committee seems to have taken possession of this land, but there are very few details. (Page 16)
- Other cultivation and breaking-up orders. (Pages 17-19)

From page 20 onwards some general points from the Minutes are included.

Power Farm Ombersley

25/7/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr EW Hill submitted report on Powers Farm Ombersley, owned and occupied by Lord Sandys. The farm is about 110 acres, nearly all arable, and there are about 42 acres of fruit plantation which is in a deplorable condition, a great part being absolutely derelict. Provided the report of the Droitwich Committee coincides with W Hill, Lord Sandys to be written to at once calling his attention to the facts of the report + asking what suggestions he has to make.

15/8/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The condition of the farm was again discussed, and it was decided that the Executive Committee be recommended to issue a formal direction to Lord Sandys in respect to a 14 acre field No. 1028, instructing him to clean and cultivate the part of the field which is under oats within 14 days of the harvesting of the crop and the part which is under potatoes within 3 weeks from the date of the order, and also formal direction to cut and burn the rubbish in the fruit plantation.

18/8/1917 : EC. FPC report. On the motion of the Chairman [Wheeler] seconded by Mr Dixon it was resolved to issue a formal direction to Lord Sandys in respect of field No. 1028 on Powers Farm Ombersley instructing him to clean and cultivate the part of the field which is under oats within 14 days of the harvesting of the crop, and the part which is under potatoes within 3 weeks of the date of the Order, and also formal direction to cut and burn the rubbish in the fruit plantation.

22/8/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr Jewhurst, on behalf of Lord Sandys has acknowledged receipt of the Committee's formal direction in regard to this farm, and he promises that the same shall have immediate attention. The Droitwich District Committee are asked to report on the matter in time for the meeting on September 5.

5/9/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Droitwich District Committee reported that up till September 1st nothing has been done with the farm. The Organising Secretary was directed to write to Mr Jewhurst drawing his attention to the Direction already issued.

12/12/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Organising Secretary was directed to ascertain whether the Direction served in respect of the farm had been complied with.

15/12/1917 : EC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved on the motion of Mr Walker seconded by Mr Dorrell that the Droitwich District Committee be asked to inspect and report on Powers Farm Ombersley with specific reference to the Direction already served on the case.

19/12/1917 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. A report signed by Mr HC Gardner and Mr T Amphlett dated December 18th was read with regard to Powers Farm Ombersley; Mr Amphlett attended the meeting and spoke as to the present condition of this and other land in the occupation of Lord Sandys. Resolved on the motion of Mr Walker seconded by Col. Wheeler that subject to Mr CH Bird's advice on legal points the Executive Committee be recommended to take proceedings against Lord Sandys for failing to comply with the Direction served upon him dated August 18th 1917; further resolved that the Executive Committee be recommended to apply to the Food Production Department of the Board of

Agriculture for permission to take possession of the whole of the land in the occupation of Lord Sandys in the Parish of Ombersley, except the garden and grounds immediately adjoining his residence, with a view to working it themselves.

22/12/1917 : EC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved on the motion of Mr Dorrell seconded by Mr Walker that subject to the sanction of the Food Production Department, proceedings be taken against Lord Sandys for failing to comply with the Direction served upon him dated August 18th 1917; further resolved that application be made to the Food Production Department for permission to take possession of the following enclosures in the Parish of Ombersley in the occupation of Lord Sandys: Nos. 977, 1028, 1054, 1063, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1110, 1111, 1114, 1115, 1117, 1148, 1149.

2/1/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Col. Wheeler reported that he, Mr Dorrell, Mr Walker, Mr Allsebrook, Mr HC Gardner and Mr Amphlett had inspected the farm that morning. He gave particulars of the state of the farm, and the Committee resolved to press on with the prosecution of Lord Sandys.

9/1/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Organising Secretary reported that the Food Production Department had authorised the Executive Committee to take possession of about 106 acres of land in the ownership and occupation of Lord Sandys, and to prosecute Lord Sandys for failure to comply with the Direction served upon him. Letter dated January 5th from Mr EW Jewhurst was submitted. The Sub-committee recommend the Executive Committee to take steps to let off Fields Nos. 1028 and 977 and to cultivate the rest of the land themselves. Instructions were given to the Organising Secretary with regard to the finding of a Bailiff.

30/1/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved that Mr EG Righton Jun. of Evesham be directed to make a record and valuation of land at Ombersley in the occupation and ownership of Lord Sandys of which the Committee propose to take possession; that the Committee advertise that some of the land will be let; that when applications for the land are received Members of the Droitwich District Committee be consulted on the letting thereof.

6/2/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Lord Sandys attended the Meeting and stated that he had no intention whatever of evading the Committee's formal Direction with regard to Powers Farm; the reason the Direction was not complied with was shortage of labour and pressure of other work. Resolved that the decision previously arrived at in the matter be adhered to.

Letter from Mr EG Righton Jun. of Evesham was submitted stating that he could not undertake the report and valuation of the Farm. Resolved the Mr WA Fisher of Evesham be requested to undertake the work.

Letter from the Ombersley Branch of the Agricultural Labourers' and Rural Workers' Union was submitted, requesting the County Council to consider the advisability of apportioning the field known as the "Old Hopyard" belonging to Lord Sandys for alternative purposes. Resolved that the Branch be informed that their application will be considered with others.

9/2/1918 : EC. 1167. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr CH Bird (County Solicitor) attended with reference to the proposed prosecution of Lord Sandys. Proposed by Mr Berkeley seconded by Mr Lambert that subject to the approval of the Board of Agriculture, application be made when the summons comes on for hearing of Tuesday next, for same to be adjourned on condition that Lord Sandys will give the Committee every facility as regards the taking possession of his land. Five members voted for the resolution and one against. The resolution was accordingly declared carried.

9/2/1918 : Messenger. Account of WWAC meeting. Land at Ombersley. The Cultivation Sub-committee asked that a valuation be made of land at Ombersley which the Committee proposed to take possession, that some of the land be advertised as to let and that the Droitwich District Committee be consulted as to the letting.

20/2/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary reported that MR WA Fisher of Evesham inspected this Farm on February 19th. Resolved that on receipt of his report, copy thereof be handed to Mr EW Hill who will consult with Mr HC Gardner and Mr T Amphlett, and bring up a scheme for dealing with the land.

23/2/1918 : Messenger. Account of WWAC meeting. 'The Committee and Lord Sandys. The Chairman said there were one or two gentlemen in the county who were silently defying the Committee's order. He had given instructions that in all cases where complaints were received that land ordered was not being cultivated, a letter should be sent from the Committee's offices requiring the work to be done at once. He would be inclined to make examples of such people. Referring to the case of Lord Sandys, the Chairman said the summons against him had not been withdrawn; it was adjourned, and it might be raised again at any Petty Sessions if circumstances were not satisfactory. The summons was adjourned with the view of seeing if Lord Sandys would help the Committee in taking over his farm. Hoped that would meet the case.'

27/2/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr EW Hill reported as to interview with Mr HC Gardner and Mr T Amphlett re the letting of portions of this Farm. It was resolved to recommend the Executive Committee to take possession of the Farm, and of other land at Ombersley in the ownership and occupation of Lord Sandys; that certain of the applicants for land be invited to meet the Sub-committee on Wednesday next at 11am; that the present bailiff be asked to continue to act for a time as the Committee's bailiff; and that the Executive Committee be recommended to ask for permission to take possession of horses, implements etc necessary for the cultivation of the land.

2/3/1918 : EC. 1239. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved on the motion of Mr Dorrell seconded by the Chairman [Wheeler] that the Food Production Department be asked to authorise the Committee to take possession of horses, implements, etc necessary for the cultivation of land, owned and occupied by Lord Sandys in the Parish of Ombersley, also of a small piece of ground, ON 1056 area 0.610 acres, in addition to the land in respect to the taking possession of which sanction has already been received.

6/3/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Letter dated March 4th from Lord Sandys was submitted. The Secretary was directed to reply that the Committee would be prepared to

take over suitable seeds and manure ordered by Lord Sandys. Resolved that the District Committee be asked to appoint Mr Amphlett and Mr HC Gardner as a Sub-committee to look after the Farm.

Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved that application be made for four men to work on the farm and to be lodged in the Bailiff's house.

9/3/1918 : Messenger. Account of Worcestershire Food Production Executive meeting. 'Lord Sandys' Land. The Cultivation Committee reported that Mr EW Hill stated that he had had an interview with Mr HC Gardner and Mr T Amphlett with regard to the letting of a portion of Powers Farm Ombersley. The Committee recommended the Executive to take possession of the farm, and of other land in Ombersley in the ownership and occupation of Lord Sandys, and that certain of the applicants for land be invited to meet the Sub-committee; that the present bailiff be asked to continue to act for the time as the Committee's bailiff; and that the Executive ask for permission to take possession of horses, implements etc necessary for the cultivation of the land. The recommendation was adopted.

13/3/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved that subject to the approval of Mr Dorrell, Mr A Stanton be allowed to remove some apple trees on the portion of the farm it is proposed to let to him.

The Secretary reported that possession was being taken the following day, and that Mr Joseland was attending to make a valuation of horses, implements etc.

A communication signed by about 34 members of the Agricultural and Rural Workers' Union was submitted, stating that they had formed themselves into an Allotment and Small Holding Association, and requesting the Committee to grant them the field called the Old Hopyard on Powers Farm, Ombersley, for allotment purposes. The Executive Committee was recommended to let the land to the Association on a proper agreement at 55s per acre.

15/3/1918 : EC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr Dorrell reported that he thought the apple trees on the portion of the farm which it was proposed to let to Mr A Stanton should not be moved; resolved that Mr Stanton be not allowed to move these trees. Report from Mr Maddocks AEO was submitted, stating that on March 14th he took possession on behalf of the Committee of the farm house, milchings and land, horses, gears, implements etc.

20/3/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Letter dated 16th March from Lord Sandys was submitted relative to the taking possession of horses etc, and complaining that the Committee had commandeered one of his men. The Secretary was directed to reply that the Committee had no power to commandeer the man.

Further letter from Lord Sandys was submitted asking to be allowed to retain the orchard known as Long Headlands. Resolved that Lord Sandys be informed that the Committee cannot see their way to withdrawing from possession of the orchard.

23/3/1918 : Messenger. Account of WWAC meeting. 'An Ombersley Farm. The Cultivation Committee reported that possession had been taken of Power Farm Ombersley and Mr T Amphlett was requested to give oversight to the cultivation of the farm. A communication signed by about 84 members of the Agricultural and Rural Workers' Union was submitted,

stating that they had formed themselves into an Allotment and Small Holding Association, and requesting the Committee to grant them the field called the Old Hopyard on Powers Farm, Ombersley, for allotment purposes. The Executive Committee was recommended to let the land to the Association on a proper agreement at 55s per acre. Mr Lawson Walker said it was important that the land should be handed over as soon as possible to the Association, and he moved that sanction to the signing of the agreement be given. This was agreed to.'

27/3/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary submitted heads of proposed agreement for the letting of the Old Hop-yard to the Ombersley Allotment Association, together with letter on the same subject dated March 27th from Mr LM Marshall. Resolved that the heads of agreement be approved; the rent to be paid in advance unless Mr George Bracken or some other substantial person will sign an agreement to be personally responsible for the rent; the right of re-entry to extend not only to bad cultivation, but also to payment of rent.

The Secretary reported that he had received Mr Joseland's valuation of implements, horses etc taken over on Powers Farm, amounting to £308/16/-.

24/4/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Letter from Mr T Amphlett was submitted stating that the following were required for Powers Farm:-

- 1 ton Sulphate of Ammonia
- 4 tons Potato manure
- 6 Digging Forks
- 6 Spades
- 1 Axe
- 2 tons seed potatoes
- 2 Bass Brooms
- 2 pairs Plough lines

Resolved that Mr Amphlett be requested to obtain the goods mention in the list.

15/5/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary submitted claim by Messrs Steel & Sons of Brentford on behalf of Lord Sandys in respect of the taking possession by the Committee of the farm. The claim was for:-

Tenant Right Interest in the land on March 4 th 1918	£ 415 8 6
Loss of profit from March to Christmas of fruit plantation	£ 427 3 0
Loss of profit from March to Christmas on arable land	£ 145 17 10
Loss of profit from March to Christmas on meadow land	<u>£ 15 0 0</u>
Total	£1003 9 4

It was intimated that a periodical claim for loss of profits during the occupation of the land by the Executive Committee could also be made.

The Secretary was directed to obtain from Messrs Steel & Sons a detailed statement with priced Inventory.

5/6/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley (Order (Cul.) 7). Letter dated May 17th from Mr H Game was submitted asking for an increase in his wages. Resolved that Mr Game be informed that the Committee cannot see their way to grant any increase at present; that the Committee understand that he is keeping a cow at the farm and that he be asked

whether he is crediting the Committee with the cost of the keep of the cow. [Mr Game was the Committee's Bailiff at Powers Farm]

19/6/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Letter dated June 10th from Mr Game was submitted relative to the keeping of a cow by him on the above farm. Resolved that no action be taken in the matter at present.

Letter dated June 7th from the Food Production Department was submitted stating that the Board offered no objection to the payment of the sum of £313/16/0 to Lord Sandys in respect of live and dead stock taken over by the Committee; the amount should be charged to the Cultivation Account of the Farm. Resolved that a sum of £313/16/0 be paid to Lord Sandys accordingly.

3/7/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley (Ombersley Cul. 7) Mr Lander reported as to call at the Office by Mr G Bracken with reference to the agreement re the Old Hop-yard. Resolved that the clause in the Agreement relating to fences, drains etc be amended by the insertion of the words "subject to their condition of entry" – that the rent be payable half yearly in advance at Midsummer and Christmas instead of Lady Day and Michaelmas.

10/7/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley (Ombersley Cul. 7) Resolved that Mr JN Edmonds of Malvern Wells be employed to act with Mr WA Fisher of Evesham in regard to the report, claim and dilapidations connected with this farm.

31/7/1918 : FPC. Old Hop-yard Ombersley. The CEO reported that he had inspected the Old Hop-yard Ombersley, let by the Committee to the Ombersley Allotment Association. The ground was all planted and the crops were looking well. He stated that he had not yet been able to get the agreement completed as same had not yet been signed on behalf of the Association. Resolved on the motion of Col. Wheeler that the Association be informed that unless the agreement is signed within a fortnight the Committee will take possession of the land, crops, etc.

3/8/1918 : EC. Resolution re taking possession of Old Hop-yard if agreement not signed.

14/8/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The CEO reported that Mr W Blackburn had called at the office with reference to renting field No. 896 area 4.188 acres, known as "Hill Top". Resolved that the Secretary write to MR T Amphlett asking whether in his opinion, the field should be kept in hand.

11/9/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. a) The Secretary reported that as directed by Col. Wheeler he had made application to the Department for a grant of £500 for the purchase of stock. He now submitted letter from the Department asking the Committee to specify what items of stock were included in the £500. Resolved that the Secretary reply that the Committee wish at present to purchase about 10 heifers at a sum not exceeding £250, and that they will ask for the remainder of the money as they require it.

b) The Secretary reported that Mr Amphlett recommended the Committee to let field No. 896 area 4.188 acres to Mr W Blackburn of Ombersley. The Secretary further reported that he had seen Mr Blackburn who was prepared to take the field as from Michaelmas next at a

rent of 15/- per acre. The Committee recommend the Executive Committee to let the field to Mr Blackburn on the terms mentioned.

9/10/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr T Amphlett with respect to the letting of Fields 1050 and 1115 to Mr JW Arnold of Holt. He now submitted reply from Mr Amphlett stating that in his opinion those two fields should be retained as part of Powers Farm. The Secretary was directed to write to Mr Arnold to this effect.

23/10/1918 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary reported receipt of letter from Mr EW Jewhurst agent for Lord Sandys, asking whether Lord Sandys might have use of the vacant cottage at Powers Farm. The Secretary stated he had communicated with Mr T Amphlett on the subject and he recommended that the cottage should be retained by the Committee. Resolved that Mr Jewhurst be informed that the Committee cannot let him have the cottage.

The Secretary submitted agreement for the letting of field No. 896, area 4.188 acres to Mr W Blackburn, Ombersley, at £10pa; Mr Blackburn had signed the agreement and same was now signed by Col. Wheeler on behalf of the Executive Committee.

With reference to Lord Sandys' claim for compensation, the Secretary reported that his Lordship's claim amounted to £1002. Of this amount the Committee's Valuer admitted £397, but he scheduled dilapidations against Lord Sandys to the extent of £566. The claim is being dealt with.

27/1/1919 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Letter dated January 22nd from Mr George Bracken was submitted making the application for field No. 1054 area 8.038 acres, part of Powers Farm for allotment purposes. Resolved that subject to the approval of the Droitwich District Committee and of Mr T Amphlett the Sub-committee recommend the Executive Committee to let the field in question to the Ombersley Allotments and Small Holdings Association on the same terms as field no. 1028 (the Old Hop-yard).

10/2/1919 : FPC. Allotments at Ombersley (Ombersley Cul. 7). Letters dated February 6th and February 10th from Mr HC Gardner and February 5th from Mr T Amphlett were submitted with reference to the use for allotment purposes of field 1054. The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Bracken that the Committee will be prepared to let the field to the Ombersley Allotment Association for allotment purposes as from Michaelmas next.

24/2/1919 : FPC. Ombersley Allotments. [Not verbatim] Agreed at the request of the Allotment Association to let field 1054 from Lady Day rather than Michaelmas.

1/3/1919 : EC. Agrees FPC 24/2/1919 re letting field 1054 from Lady Day. Wheat to be valued and Allotment Association to pay for it. Agreement similar to Old Hop-yard.

10/3/1919 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Draft agreement for the letting of field 1054 to the Ombersley Allotments and Small Holdings Association was submitted and approved. T Amphlett authorised to purchase 10 tons of Scotch seed potatoes for Powers Farm.

15/3/1919 : EC. 1940. Ombersley Allotments (Cul 7). Ingoing valuation for crops etc = £32/17/-. Once paid and the agreement signed Association has immediate possession of Field 1054.

14/4/1919 : FPC. [Discussing future of farms in hand]

Powers Farm Ombersley. The question of retaining possession of the farm was discussed. Resolved that the portion of the farm in hand be offered to the Small Holdings Committee of the Worcestershire County Council after Michaelmas. Resolved that the 14 bullocks from the farm be sent to Allesboro Farm, Pershore; and that Mr T Amphlett is authorised to purchase artificials for potatoes and fruit up to the amount of about £200.

6/5/1919 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Mr EW Hill reported that the Small Holdings Committee of the County Council had considered the offer of the Committee to hand over to them after Michaelmas the portion of Powers Farm that is in hand. On the instruction of the Small Holdings Committee he was enquiring from Lord Sandys whether his lordship would let the farm to the County Council if the Executive Committee withdrew from possession. The Sub-committee approved of the action mentioned by Mr Hill.

26/5/1919 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. Resolved that Col. Wheeler sign the submission to the arbitrator in respect of Lord Sandys' claim.

21/7/1919 : FPC. Lord Sandys' Horse Hire Account. The matter of the account against Lord Sandys for horse hiring was further discussed. The Secretary was directed to point out to Lord Sandys that apparently he was confusing the FPD horses with the Army Remount Horses, and also to call his attention to the fact that the work done by the FPD horses was presumably claimed by him when the Committee took possession of the land.

[Secretary produced schedule of all land in possession of Committee – not available now. Includes]

Powers Farm Ombersley. The County Council to be informed that in the opinion of the Committee this land is suitable for land settlement purposes.

30/8/1919 : EC. Resolved on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr HC Gardner that the Labour Sub-committee be and is hereby authorised, if they think proper, to arrange for Powers Farm Ombersley to be used as a training centre for disabled men.

3/1/1920 : EC. 2133. Power Farm Training Centre. It was reported that the Board of Agriculture had sanctioned the establishment of a training centre for training disabled ex-service men at Power Farm. The matter of a specification for the erection of huts and the hauling of material for the huts was discussed and was left in the hands of the Chairman.

21/2/1920 : EC. 2148. Training Centre at Powers Farm. Resolved on motion of Mr HC Gardner, seconded by the Chairman, that Lieut. WG Knott be offered the post of Supervisor of the Training Centre at Powers Farm Ombersley with salary at the rate of £200pa and quarters, the offer to be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

20/3/1920 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. *Decided to retain possession. Not verbatim*

1/5/1920 : EC. 2158. *Two page report of decisions re the setting up of the Training Centre at Powers Farm including staffing, equipment, seeds and plants, two cows and some breeding sows. Allotments to be laid out near the huts for each man. Triangle of land ON 1050 in the possession of the Executive Committee 0.510 acres to be handed over to the Training Centre. Messrs HC Gardner, T Amphlett and WJ Dorrell to form an Inspection and Complaints Committee.*

29/5/1920 : FPC. Powers Farm Ombersley. The Secretary was directed to write to Mr Game, Bailiff of Powers Farm, calling his attention to the fact that the Labour Bill is very high and that the condition of the farm is not wholly satisfactory; that work still remains to be done which ought to have been done previously and that the Committee will expect him to show better results for the money that is being expended. The Secretary was also directed to draw Mr Game's attention to the fact that he is now charging his wages at £3/6/0 pw instead of £2/8/6 and that unless some satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, the Committee will require the extra 17/6pw to be refunded. [Continued wrangling over Mr Game's wages until the final meeting of the Committee dated 4/8/1920.]

20/11/1920 : WWCAC. Report of the Cultivation Sub-committee. Farms in hand. Dean Lodge Farm Bishampton and Common Farm Churchill given up at Michaelmas; Allesborough Farm Pershore and Powers Farm Ombersley still being cultivated by the Committee.

14/3/1921 : WWCAC. Report of the Cultivation Sub-committee. Under land in possession: Powers Farm and other land at Ombersley. The Committee were negotiating with Lord Sandys.

13/6/1921 : WWCAC. Report of the Cultivation Sub-committee. Powers Farm and other land Ombersley. Your Sub-committee have not yet come to any arrangement with Lord Sandys as to relinquishing possession of Powers Farm and other land belonging to his lordship in Ombersley.

12/9/1921 : WWCAC. Report of the Cultivation Sub-committee. Land in possession. Powers Farm and other land Ombersley. Negotiations with Lord Sandys for giving up of this land are in progress.

Training of Disabled Ex-service Men. The Training Centre at Powers Farm Ombersley has been closed. Notice given to the Principal Lieut. Knott and huts and equipment sold to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Figures for County:

Applications received	129
Placed in training with individual farmers	54
At Powers Farm Training Centre	33
In other Counties	2
	89
Interviewed but not approved	24
Withdrawn by applicant	16
Total	129

12/12/1921 : WWCAC. Report of the Cultivation Sub-committee. Powers Farm and other land at Ombersley, property of Lord Sandys given back at Michaelmas. On the Sub-committee relinquishing possession, all tenancies created by the Sub-committee automatically terminated. With reference to the two fields now in allotments and let by the Sub-committee to Ombersley Allotments and Small Holdings Society Ltd, Lord Sandys has agreed to let one of the fields to the Society at £3/10/- per acre; as to the other field, he has agreed to let to the Society at a similar rent for 11 months certain. Another holding his lordship has agreed to let to the Sub-committee's tenant for 11 months certain. As to the other two tenancies, Lord Sandys requires the land for his personal occupation. The sale of live and dead stock on the portion of the Powers Farm lately in the occupation of the Sub-committee took place on September 28th and realised £633/3/6. The accounts of the farm when completed will show a considerable loss. [No figures found]
There are now no disabled ex-service men receiving Agricultural Training under the Sub-committee.

JG Williams Land Lineholt

2/10/1917 : FPC. JG Williams Lineholt. The Organising Secretary reported that he had been endeavouring to obtain specific information with regard to Mr Williams' various holdings but had not yet succeeded in doing so. It was decided to ask the Droitwich District Committee to mark Mr Williams' holdings on the Ordnance Maps.

7/11/1917 : FPC. JG Williams Lineholt. The Sub-committee are taking the necessary action to see if the land which Mr Williams rents can be let elsewhere. They ask for instruction to get the tenancies determined.

10/11/1917 : EC. 926(f). JG Williams Lineholt. Resolved on motion of Mr Dorrell seconded by Mr Walker that the Organising Secretary take the necessary action to terminate the present tenancy of Mr JG Williams of land rented by him from Lord Sandys, the Reverend Webster and Mr Bromley Martin, with a view to such land being let to tenants satisfactory to the Committee.

12/12/1917 : FPC. Re. Williams Lineholt. Letter dated December 8th from Messrs D Smith, Oakley and Garrard was submitted, stating that the property should be submitted for sale shortly. Resolved that the Organising Secretary reply suggesting that Mr Williams' tenancy should be determined, and if this were done, the best course would be for Messrs D Smith, Oakley and Garrard to re-let the land.

19/12/1917 : FPC. Re. JG Williams Lineholt. Letter dated December 17th from Messrs D Smith, Oakley and Garrard (Agents to Major Bromley Martin) relative to the land in the occupation of JG Williams was submitted. The Organising Secretary was directed to reply that, subject to the purchaser meeting the Committee's approval, the Committee would favourably consider the matter of giving him possession.

23/1/1918 : FPC. Re. Williams' Land Lineholt. The Organising Secretary reported that Mr Williams had complained that Mr William Weavers of Church House Farm, Shrawley, had not yet cleared Potatoes or Swedes from Field sub-let to him. Resolved that Mr Weavers be informed that the Committee think that he has more land that he can properly attend to, and they hope he will give some of it up and confine his attention to a smaller area. Resolved that Mr EW Hill be asked to inspect the Potatoes and report. Resolved that the Droitwich District Committee be communicated with as to finding a tenant for the Glebe Land in Williams' occupation.

30/1/1918 : FPC. Mr Williams' Land at Lineholt. Mr EW Hill having reported on the matter, resolved that Mr Weavers be directed to move the Swedes off the ground by February 9th, and that Mr Williams be then ordered to plough, cultivate and prepare for a Spring crop Field 323. Further resolved that Mr JG Williams be directed to clear the scutch off Field 201, plough same before end of February and Summer fallow it.

13/2/1918 : FPC. re. Williams' Land Lineholt. Letter from the Droitwich District Committee dated February 9th was submitted stating that they regretted they had been unable to find a

suitable tenant for the Glebe Land, owing to the land being in very foul state, and there being no buildings on it.

27/2/1918 : FPC. JG Williams Lineholt. Letter dated February 1st from the Rev. J Webster was submitted relative to the letting by the Committee of certain portions of Glebe Land now occupied by Mr Williams. The Secretary was directed to advertise the land as being to let.

6/3/1918 : FPC. JG Williams Lineholt. Letter from D Smith, Oakley and Garrard, dated March 5th asking whether the Committee would accept Mr FW Fisher of Brook Farm, Ombersley, as tenant of the Stone Farm. The Secretary was directed to write stating that the Committee approved of Mr Fisher.

13/3/1918 : FPC. Re. JG Williams, Lineholt. Mr W Maddocks AEO reported that Mr JG Williams of Lineholt, had not carried out any of the Orders issued to him on February 2nd respecting Fields 323 and 201. Letter dated March 12th from Mr FW Fisher of Ombersley was submitted relative to obtaining possession of Stone Farm in the occupation of Mr Williams. Resolved that possession of this Farm be taken as soon as it can be arranged for Mr Fisher or his brother to enter, and that he cultivate as the Committee's Agent until the Farm can be transferred to him.

20/3/1918 : FPC. Mr JG Williams' Land Lineholt. Letter dated March 19th from Mr FW Fisher was submitted stating that as soon as he heard from his Solicitors he would let the Committee know on what date he and his brother would like to have possession. Two letters dated March 10th from Mr Williams were submitted. In one of these he said he saw no alternative but for him to give up possession at once of the Stone Farm as suggested by the Committee. In the other letter he asked to be allowed to leave the Blacksmiths Field for the present. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Committee could not assent to this course.

27/3/1918 : FPC. JG Williams, Lineholt. The Secretary reported that Mr Williams called at the office on March 26th and said he would give up Stone Farm at once to Mr Fisher. He further reported that the Rev Webster was negotiating with Mr William Master with reference to the Glebe Land.

3/4/1918 : FPC. Stone Farm Lineholt. Letter dated March 28th from Mr Williams was submitted agreeing to give up the farm to Mr Fisher.

12/10/1918 : EC. [NB. THIS MAY BE DIFFERENT LAND FROM ABOVE] Ombersley Cul. 56. Mr JG Williams, Lineholt House Ombersley. To cultivate the land referred to in the Schedule:

OS 155	2.25 acres	Immediately cut and burn rubbish
OS 129	3.25 acres	Harvest the crop of potatoes, clean land and clear docks and thistles from gooseberry trees
OS 402&403	10.5 acres	Clean and cultivate the 1.75 acres now planted with strawberries; grub up fruit trees on the 1.75 acre fruit plantation and clean and cultivate land
OS 201	6.75 acres	Clean and cultivate
OS 118	1.75 acres	Clear docks and rubbish and cultivate between the trees

Jonathan Moule's Land, Hadley Heath

25/8/1917 : EC. 728. Jonathan Moule's land at Hadley Heath. Mr CJ Holliday submitted report on the ploughing up of the land. Resolved that Mr Moule be allowed to have the plums on the trees in the hedgerow.

20/3/1918 : FPC. Mr J Moule's Land, Hadley Heath. The Droitwich District Committee recommended that the land be taken over and ploughed and fallowed by the District Committee, the fruit trees to be grubbed, and the work to be done by German Prisoners and horse team from the Camp at Doverdale. Resolved that the Droitwich District Committee be authorised to get the land ploughed and fallowed with labour from Doverdale Camp.

14/4/1919 : FPC. [Discussing future of farms in hand]
Moule's Land, Hadley Heath. Mr Amphlett reported that with the exception of about 1½ to 2 acres this field had been cleaned and planted and was in a satisfactory condition. Resolved that Mr Amphlett be requested to get the wheat top dressed and the final portion of the field fallowed; further resolved that Mr Amphlett be requested to arrange for the field to be let to a suitable tenant as from Michaelmas 1919.

31/5/1919 : EC. 2033. Jonathan Moule's land, Hadley Heath. T Amphlett has provisionally arranged for the land to be let to Mr Turner of the Hadley Bowling Green. Rent should be 25/- per acre. Tenant to take wheat crop at valuation and agree to clean during the present year 2 acres of foul land.

30/6/1919 : FPC. Moule's Land Hadley Heath Ombersley Cul. 24. The Secretary submitted letter dated 13th June from Mr WE Turner of Hadley Bowling Green Hotel declining the tenancy of this land; the Secretary also reported that he had written to Mr T Amphlett asking him if he could arrange for someone else to take the field over. This was approved and it was resolved that when the field be let shortly, the Committee's tractor now at work at Mrs Ashton's field at North Claines be sent to Moule's land to clear the 2 acres which are foul.

21/7/1919 : FPC. Moule's Land Hadley Heath. The Secretary was directed to write to Mr Amphlett asking him to arrange for the harvesting of the crop on the land to be done from Powers Farm.

21/7/1919 : FPC. Lord Sandys' Horse Hire Account. The matter of the account against Lord Sandys for horse hiring was further discussed. The Secretary was directed to point out to Lord Sandys that apparently he was confusing the FPD horses with the Army Remount Horses, and also to call his attention to the fact that the work done by the FPD horses was presumably claimed by him when the Committee took possession of the land.

[Secretary produced schedule of all land in possession of Committee – not available now. Includes]

Moule's Land Ombersley. Possession to be retained until a suitable tenant can be found.

11/8/1919 : FPC. Moule's Land, Hadley Heath. The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr Thos. Amphlett respecting the harvesting of the wheat on the land; he now submitted reply from Mr Amphlett dated 26th July stating that he would see that the crop was harvested and taken to Powers Farm.

6/9/1919 : FPC. Jonathan Moule's Land Hadley. Resolved that unless a suitable tenant can be found for this land, it be worked from Powers Farm.

28/8/1920 : EC. 2168. Jonathan Moule's land Hadley, Ombersley 24. *Had notified Mr Tarleton Rea on behalf of the owner and Mr Jonathan Moule of Hadley that the Committee proposed to withdraw at Michaelmas from possession of field ON1396, 12.573 acres subject to settlement of the Committee's claim under Article 4 of Regulation 2M of the Defence of the Realm Regulations. Instructed T Amphlett of Brookhampton to prepare the Committee's claim.*

Croft's Land Ombersley

23/6/1917 : EC. 533. Croft's Land Ombersley. Report dated 21/6/1917 from T Amphlett on land taken over by the Committee lately in the occupation of Mr GW Croft submitted. [No details of report.]

2/1/1918 : Croft's Land Lineholt. The Organising Secretary reported that the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission have now dealt with Mr Croft's claim; they had awarded him £5 upon the footing that he remained liable for rent, rates etc until September 29th last.

6/2/1920 : FPC. Croft's Land Ombersley, Ombersley 108. *Satisfactory agreement re tenancy. Executive Committee to withdraw from possession. Not verbatim.*

Other Orders etc

6/10/1917 : Messenger. Report of Ploughing Up appeals heard at Droitwich. Includes:

** Hawford Hill Farm, tenant A Moule, owner Mr Briscoe; 31.5 acres arable, 58.5 pasture and 3.5 scheduled. Mr Moule said he had no labour and no cottage. Mr Briscoe said the sorry part of the state of affairs was that they were called upon to plough more land when they could not properly cultivate what was now arable.

** Park Farm, tenant Mr F Sheppey, owner Lord Sandys; 38 acres arable, 200 pasture, 19.5 scheduled. Mr Sheppey offered to break up 8 acres. [NB. No indication of the outcome of appeals or further similar accounts]

24/11/1917 : EC. Notice for breaking up of land. List includes:

Ombersley 9 Mrs Randall, Chatley, Ombersley (tenant)

8/12/1917 : EC. Notices D.2 1918 to be served directing cultivation of land. List includes:

Ombersley 12	F Lamb, Acton Farm
Ombersley 17	E Green & Sons, Hadley Farm
Ombersley 18	Mr Woodfin, Winnall House Farm
Ombersley 37	EH Sheppy, Park Farm

5/1/1918 : EC. Directions D2 1918 directing cultivation of land. List includes:

Ombersley 36 H Wood, Sinton Farm Ombersley

2/2/1918 : EC. Cultivation orders include:

Ombersley 14	W Lamb, Owl Hill Farm near Stourport
Ombersley 16	S Beck, The Cross, Hadley, Droitwich

16/2/1918 : EC. Cultivation orders including:

Ombersley 39	JH Partridge, Wynyards Ombersley
Ombersley 43	JA Jones, Parsonage Farm Ombersley

2/3/1918 : EC. Cultivation orders include:

Ombersley 38 MA Sheppy, Bournehouse, Chatley, Ombersley

9/3/1918 : EC. Cultivation notices served include:

Ombersley 101	A Moule, Harford Hill Farm
Ombersley 102	A Moule, Harford Hill Farm
Ombersley 103	FJ Moule, Mayhouse Farm
Ombersley 104	GW Cook, Hawford Grange
Ombersley 105	WH & AG Pratt, Bulhill, Astley
Ombersley 106	H Wood, Sinton Farm
Ombersley 107	F Sheppy, Park Farm

24/4/1918 : FPC. Cultivation Cases. [Such cases seem to have been reviewed. This is the first time the minutes include such a list including any Ombersley properties. There are no details of what land is involved. Only Ombersley references included below.]

Ombersley 39. Serve Cultivation Order to clear and fallow as suggested by Mr Amphlett
 Ombersley (Cult) 49. Serve Cultivation Order as suggested

Survey Cases. [I think these relate to requirements to plough pasture land etc rather than the standard of cultivation. Again, no indication of land involved.]

Ombersley 107. Land to be ploughed by August 18th

27/4/1918 : EC. Cultivation notices include: [NB. Much more detail included from now on]

Ombersley 107	F Sheppy, Park Farm	OS 1295	Plough by 15/8/1918; plant for 1919 harvest
Ombersley 49	RT Brookes, Oldfield Inn	OS 140, 8.43 acres	Immediately cultivate and clean
Ombersley 39	JH Partridge, Wynyards	OS 261 (part), 8 acres	Thoroughly cultivate and clean, and to fallow same and plant with a wheat crop during the Autumn of 1918

22/5/1918 : FPC. Ombersley 101. [A Moule, Harford Hill Farm] Resolved that the occupier be informed that he is liable for prosecution but that the breaking up of the 10 acres will not be pressed at present, the question of prosecution will depend on how the occupier gets on with the work on his arable land.

25/5/1918 : EC. Cultivation orders include:

Ombersley 49	RT Brookes, Oldfield Inn	Immediately to plant with potatoes land in your occupation OS 140, 8.430 acres. To plant potatoes c1.5 acres of the Glebe Allotment being part of OS 132 & 133, and immediately to clean remainder c1.5 acres
--------------	--------------------------	---

14/8/1918 : FPC. Breaking up orders confirmed. [List includes]

Ombersley 105 Occupier AE Pratt.

11/9/1918 : FPC. Survey cases [include]

Ombersley 107. Substitution allowed subject to tenant obtaining landlord consent; if this is not obtained, original order to stand.

12/10/1918 : EC. Ploughing orders include:

Ombersley 107	F Sheppy, Park Farm	OS 1295, 19.5 acres	To be ploughed by 1/2/1919
---------------	---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

1/3/1919 : ec. Re F Sheppy, Park Farm Ombersley (Omb 107) Report dated February 28th from the Droitwich District Committee was submitted stating that the District Committee adhered to their former recommendations with regard to the ploughing up of the field in question. Resolved on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Walker, that the order to plough up the field be enforced.

5/4/1919 : EC. 1974. Cultivation orders to be served include:

Ombersley Cul. 39. Occupier Mr JH Partridge, Wynyards Farm. Owner G Croft Esq, Long Bank Bewdley. To fallow, clean and after necessary preparation, plant with a suitable crop during the autumn of 1919 for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being field ON 257, area 4.5 acres and part of ON 251 area 7 acres. Such work to be carried in a good and husbandlike manner.

Ombersley Cul. 5. Occupier A Moule Esq, Harford Hill Farm. Owner ? Briscoe Esq, Foley Park, Kidderminster. To fallow, clean and after necessary preparation, plant with a suitable crop during the autumn of 1919 for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being field ON 1360, area 9.143 acres and part of ON 1370 area 6 acres. Such work to be carried in a good and husbandlike manner.

21/2/1920 : EC. Cultivation orders to be served include:

Ombersley 63. Occupier Mr J Todd, Holt Fleet Farm. Owner same. To plough and cultivate and after necessary preparation, plant with a suitable crop during the spring of 1920 for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being field ON 1164, area 9.25 acres. Such work to be implemented in a good and husbandlike manner by the 15th day of April 1920. Also to plough and cultivate immediately and plant with a suitable crop in the spring of 1920 part of filed ON 1166 area c8 acres by 1st day of May 1920. Also to plough, fallow, clean and after necessary preparation plant with a suitable crop for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being the northern part of field ON 1166, area 6.5 acres. Such work to be completed by 1st day of July 1920.

1/5/1920 : EC. Cultivation order:

Ombersley 63. J Brick, Holt Fleet Farm, Ombersley. To plough and cultivate and after necessary preparation, plant with a suitable crop during the spring of 1920 for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being field ON 1164, area 9.25 acres. Such work to be implemented in a good and husbandlike manner by the 15th day of April 1920. Also to plough and cultivate immediately and plant with a suitable crop in the spring of 1920 part of filed ON 1166 area c8 acres by 1st day of May 1920. Also to plough, fallow, clean and after necessary preparation plant with a suitable crop for the 1920 harvest land at present in your occupation and being the northern part of field ON 1166, area 6.5 acres. Such work to be completed by 1st day of July 1920.

Ombersley 39. Occupier W Cartwright, Bugle Gate, Lineholt, Stourport. Owner A Maddesen, 232 Slade Road, Erdington, Birmingham. To plough by 31st day of March 1920 and thoroughly clean before planting land ON 857 area 4.5 acres. Such work to be implemented in a good and husbandlike manner.

General

22/1/1916 : Messenger. Meeting of the War Agricultural Committee at Shirehall. Willis Bund presiding. To ask each District Committee to help carry out a scheme re women working on the land. To get information and put it into a register:

- what women have agricultural knowledge, and if not, are they willing to be trained either near home or away.
- what farmers would employ women and give instruction.

Aim is to organise women's labour across the county. Sub-committee to be established of the great and good including Lady Sandys.

27/1/1916 : Messenger. Reports the Bromsgrove District War Agricultural Committee which discusses the above letter from Willis Bund.

12/2/1916 : Messenger. Droitwich District Committee discusses the issue of women in agriculture. Mr Smith queried whether women would be wanted in rural areas. Accommodation issues would arise if women 'imported'. Decided that Parish Representatives should carry out the canvass either personally or by deputy. [Didn't come across any results of the canvass]

19/2/1916 : Messenger. WCC Education Committee discusses Children on Farms. Chairman (Willis Bund) proposed that rural schools should keep a register of boys and girls of 11 and over whose parents consent to their occupation in agriculture. Those included could be called up immediately by the sponsoring farmer for up to six school sessions a week. Girls included where they could free women for agricultural work. [Somewhat polarised debate reported with keen advocates versus those pointing out educational issues it would raise; major debate whether age should be 11 or 12. HC Gardner member of the Committee.]

18/3/1916 : Messenger. WCC Education Committee. Committee informed that, by including 11 year-olds on their rural school registers of children for agricultural work, they were out of line with a circular. Resolution carried not to change policy after further debate.

20/1/1917 : Messenger. Account of the meeting of the Droitwich Rural War Agricultural Committee. HF Vernon presided. Good attendance including Jackson Gabb, HC Gardner and T Amphlett. Chairman said the County Committee had asked him to lay before the Committee proposals for determining information about land which could be brought into cultivation. Questions being asked were:

1. Area of derelict arable land within the last three years.
2. What can be made more productive in 1917?
3. Area of unproductive grassland more suitable for tillage.
4. Is the occupier willing to improve cultivation?
5. What assistance is needed including machinery, labour and manure?
6. Upon what terms could the land be taken over and cultivated?
7. What crop would be most suitable to be grown?

Gardner spoke about the objectives. Important to take farmers with them. Compulsory powers available, but try voluntary route first.

Appointed men to conduct the surveys. Ombersley and Doverdale = Mr T Amphlett.

'Mr Holden asked how a man would manage if he went to a farmer about the breaking up of land, when his own was not broken up. Mr C Pardoe : Set a good example and break his own up first (Laughter).'

TE Amphlett, B Vernon and Tom Amphlett co-opted members of the Committee.

3/2/1917 : Messenger. Account of the meeting of the Bromsgrove Rural War Agricultural Committee. Lord Cobham presided. He said ' . . . although no very great pinch for food at the present time, still it could not be said that there was no scarcity throughout the country; and those best able to judge were very apprehensive that before many months had passed there might be a somewhat serious pinch. At all events prices might go on increasing up to a dangerous point and they might be within measurable distance of famine conditions similar to those which presided, they were told, in Germany and Austria.' Several causes:

- poor season
- submarine campaign affecting imports
- supply of labour for agricultural work

Mr Lander explained the scheme. Need to turn attention to an industry which had suffered half a century of neglect.. Must grow more food and help farmers to do so. Board had powers to take over whole farms and buildings required for the improvement of the cultivation of the land. ' . . . in fact, the order was one of red hot rank Socialism and would never have been made had not the necessity of the circumstances demanded it. They did not desire to work in opposition to the farmer, but in harmony with him, and were anxious to assist him all they could.'

17/3/1917 : Messenger. Column headed Food Production in Worcestershire. Procedures for getting volunteer labour explained. To apply through Local Labour Exchanges.

Meeting of Representatives from District Committees, including T Amphlett.

[Seem to have raised a number of issues which had arisen, and given guidance on what Districts should do.]

The survey of land had been disappointing. In a good many cases the gentlemen making the survey had given the form to the farmers to complete – 'naturally they did not say of their land was in a bad condition'.

Committees are to keep motor ploughs in use. Complaints that they did not go straight – 'not a question of doing the very best work but of getting the work done somehow'.

Some farmers not taking up soldier labour they were offered. 'There were a certain number of farmers who would not be satisfied unless they could get their own Tom, Dick or Harry. It was no use, they could not have him. They must take the men offered and make the best of them.'

The County Council debated the employment of children on farms. Argument made for reducing the bureaucracy involved. Mr Parks: 'They had arrived at a time when boys of 12 should be used to the best advantage and without any restriction on attendance. He looked upon county schools as labour bureaux from which the farmers could at once obtain boys.' [Criticism made of the Education Committee in this respect.] Mr Woodyatt: 'Boy labour at this juncture was of greater value than German prisoners, conscientious objectors or women'. 'Dr Dixey supported the proposal, saying that it was useless promoting schemes for child welfare if we could not get the food for the mother and children.' Motion carried. [I

think the motion was that a farmer just had to ask for a boy for him to be excused school attendance.]

20/6/1917 : EC. First minuted meeting.

30/6/1917 : EC. 558. School Boys on the Land. On the motion of Mr Dixon seconded by Mr Walker it was resolved that a general approval be given to schemes for employment of school boys in groups on the land.

5/1/1918 : Messenger. Account of flour and coal prosecutions in Droitwich Rural District at Worcester County Petty Sessions. Two cases from Ombersley – one flour and one coal – both about overcharging. [Can look if more detail is wanted]

10/1/1918 : Messenger. Account of WWAC meeting. Second ploughing survey. Acreage now asked to find in Droitwich = 1,620. Notices were sent being sent out stating that where people replied within 7 days the Committee would take action but thought the people should have the opportunity to state their objections. It was necessary that the Committee's suggestion for breaking up should be carried out as quickly as possible.

26/1/1918 : EC. 1130. Agricultural Wages. Nominees to represent employers on District Wages Board includes HC Gardner, Ombersley.

2/2/1918 : Messenger. Account of WWAC meeting. Clarifies the position of tenant farmers with breaking up orders. Corn Production Bill makes it illegal for a landlord to prevent tenants complying or charging them or insisting on reinstatement of pasture.

9/3/1918 : EC. 1276. Resolved on the motion of Mr Lambert seconded by Mr Potter that the Committee give no facilities for the employment on the land of Conscientious Objectors.

6/4/1918 : EC. Reported that HC Gardner had been elected Chairman of the Droitwich District Committee.

27/4/1918 : EC. Agrees release of school boys and girls for agricultural employment.

20/7/1918 : EC. 1576. Farms in hand. Bailiffs to send in fortnightly reports on progress on the farm.

2/12/1918 : FPC. Release of Pivotel Men [sic]. To seek names of 10 such men in each District except Feckenham, Rock and Tewkesbury where 20.

1/2/1919 : EC. Considering whether to order any further ploughing of grassland and enforcing existing orders.

15/2/1919 : EC. Future policy re orders and treatment of outstanding orders set out in full.

15/3/1919 : EC. 1938. Considering Circular from Food Production Department. To issue through the press notice that ploughing up of grass orders will not be enforced and that

Committee orders requiring farmers to grow certain crops withdrawn except those which have been served in the interests of good husbandry and that for the present season farmers have a free choice as to what crops to grow on their land.

26/4/1919 : EC. 1977. Refers to a New Executive Committee.

31/5/1919 : EC. Worcestershire Nominations to the new Executive Committee include HC Gardner.

2016. Doverdale Prisoner of War Camp closed.

14/6/1919 : EC. Arrangements for New Executive Committee. Wheeler elected Chairman. To meet monthly at Shirehall. Meeting determines staff appointments, sub-committee etc.

24/4/1920 : FPC. *Amphlett wants to withdraw from position of Honorary Supervisor. Chairman and CEO suggested that Mr W Maddock, one of the District Exec. Officers, might assist Mr Amphlett – who is considering it. Not verbatim*

10/7/1920 : WCCAC. *First meeting. Wheeler elected Chairman. Established sub-committees etc. [The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Act 1919 required county councils to establish Agriculture Committees which could include non-council members. They had a wide remit and in Worcestershire there were regularly items on agricultural education, crops and pests etc and issues inherited from the Executive Committee. From mid-1922 there were regular items about the contribution of agricultural drainage works and afforestation to relief of unemployment.]*

28/8/1920 : EC. *Final meeting. 2162. Transfer to the County Council. Written to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to say 13 September 1920 would appear a suitable date for transfer of powers to the County Council Agriculture Committee under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Act 1919. Inventory given of furniture etc at the Powers Farm Training Centre.*

28/8/1920 : WCCAC. *Committee seem to have inherited two substantial farm properties from the Executive Committee: Allesborough Farm Pershore and Power Farm Ombersley. The Committee was responsible for the Training Centre at Powers Farm and its budget of £1,670 was the largest item in the first budget apart from an amount for compensation claims.*