

APPENDIX No. 1

NOTE.—The members present at the meeting at which the above report was agreed to were:—Councillors Buckwell, Carden, Galliers, Holder, Hollis, Neale, Jarvis and Wilson.

No. 227d.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON.

REPRINT OF THE REPORT OF THE TELEPHONES COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH DECEMBER, 1901.

The telephones committee beg to remind the council that at a meeting of the council held on the 18th April last, the committee submitted a report recommending the construction of a municipal telephone installation within the Brighton telephone area for 2,000 subscribers, at an estimated cost of £43,461 12s., and that the council then passed the following resolutions upon the subject:—

‘That Mr. Bennett’s report and estimate be approved, and that application be made to the several local authorities within the Brighton telephone area for permission for the corporation to construct telephones in their respective districts, either underground or overhead as may be advised by the corporation telephone engineer.’

‘That application be made to the local government board for sanction to borrow a sum of £45,000 to defray the cost of construction (including interest on capital during the period of construction) a system of municipal telephones within the County Borough of Brighton and the several other towns and parishes comprised within the Borough telephone area, such loan to be repayable within 25 years, but the first payment to a sinking fund for the liquidation of the debt to be deferred for three years from the date of borrowing.’

‘That subject to the sanction of the local government board being given to the required loan, and to satisfactory agreements being previously entered into with the several local authorities having the control of roads under, over or along which it is necessary that telephone circuits shall be constructed, Mr. A. R. Bennett be appointed telephone engineer to the corporation to carry out the work specified in his report, and that he be paid for his services a commission (in which shall be merged his charge of £52 10s. 0d. for his report and estimate) of 5 per cent on the actual cost of the works, but not exceeding a total sum of £2,069 12s. 0d.’

Since the above mentioned date, the committee have been in negotiation with the county councils and the several urban authorities comprised within the exchange area, with the following result:—

East Sussex County Council.—1. The council to consent to the erection of poles and wires on the main roads and district roads within their area, subject to the payment of an annual rental of 5s. per mile of road on which poles or wires shall be erected.

2. All poles erected on main roads to be of such kinds and descriptions as the county surveyor shall approve, and all works are to be carried out to his satisfaction. The poles to be used on rural district roads to be similar to those used by the Tunbridge Wells corporation, or alternatively of such description as the county surveyor shall approve.

3. All poles and wires are to be removed within six months after notice.

4. The charges to subscribers within the county area are not to exceed those for the time being made to subscribers within the County Borough of Brighton in respect of similar services.

5. Wires passing across the line of any tramway or light railway worked by means of overhead electric wires, are to be placed underground.

The agreement embodying these terms has not yet received the approval of the county council, but the committee believe that the county council will agree to them.

West Sussex County Council.—The committee believe that the terms when agreed to by the East Sussex County Council, will also be accepted by the West Sussex County Council.