Anno tricesimo primo

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for the more easy and speedy repairing of Publick Bridges within the County of *Devon*.

Preamble, reciting Clause in Act 12 *Geo.* 2. &c.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act for the more easy assessing, collecting, and levying of County Rates; it is enacted, That no Part of the Money to be raised and collected in pursuance of the said Act, shall be applied to the Repair of any Bridges, until Presentment shall be made by the respective Grand Juries at the Assize, Great Sessions, General Gaol Delivery, or General or Quarter Sessions

Sessions of the Peace held for any County, Riding, Division, City, Town-corporate, or Liberty, of the Insufficiency, Inconveniency, or want of Repairations of their Bridges: And whereas till such Presentments have been made, the Justices of the Peace have no Power at their General or Quarter Sessions to contract and agree for rebuilding, repairing, and amending the same, or any other Works which are to be repaired and done by Assessment on their respective Counties, Cities, Ridings, Hundreds, Divisions, Liberties, or Town-corporate, and then only for any Term or Terms of Years, not exceeding Seven Years, in such Manner as by the said Act is directed: And whereas by frequent Accidents and sudden unforeseen Decays which happen to Bridges by Floods and Stormy Weather, Frost and otherwise, which need immediate Repairs; and for want of which it has happened that several Bridges or great Parts of them have been thrown down or carried away before the same can be presented according to the Directions of the said recited Act, and for want of Powers in the Justices of Peace to contract with Persons for repairing, amending, and rebuilding the said County Bridges before they are in Decay or are presented, great Inconveniencies and Hindrances have arisen to His Majesty's Subjects travelling in the County of Devon, and very large and unnecessary Expences and Costs have afterwards been paid and borne out of the said County Rates, the greatest Part of which might have been by a timely Repair prevented, if any Person had been by Contract obliged to keep, repair, and support the said County Bridges, when and as often as the same had been needful; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and fifty eight, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Devon, at their General or Quarter Sessions, if they think proper and convenient, from time to time, to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for supporting, maintaining, keeping in Repair, repairing, amending, and rebuilding, all, any, or either of the Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, and Wearings, thereunto belonging,

Justices of the Peace, at their General or Quarter Sessions, impowered to contract for repairing, maintaining, or rebuilding, the County Bridges, &c. for a certain Term;

and the Highways or Causeways adjoining to the Ends of any Bridges within the said County of Devon, for any Term or Terms of Years not exceeding Twenty one Years, at certain annual Sum or Sums, Payment or Payments, Allowance or Allowances, for the same; such Contract or Contracts to be made and entered into, although the said Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, Wearings, Highways, or Causeways, shall not at the Times of such Contracts have been presented as by the said Act is directed; such Contractor or Contractors, giving sufficient Security for the due Performance thereof, to the Clerk of the Peace of the said County for the time being; and that such Justices at their respective General or Quarter Sessions, shall give publick Notice of their Intention of contracting with any Person or Persons, for rebuilding, repairing, and amending, the Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, Wearings, Highways, and Causeways; and that such Contracts shall be made at the most reasonable Price or Prices which shall be proposed by such Contractors respectively; and that all Contracts when agreed to, and all Orders relating thereto, shall be entered in a Book to be kept by the Clerk of the Peace in and for the said County for the time being, for that Purpose, who is hereby required to keep them amongst the Records of the said County, to be from time to time inspected at all seasonable Times, by any of the Justices of the Peace of the said County, and by any Person or Persons employed or to be employed, by any Parish, Township, or Place, contributing to the Purposes of the said recited Act, without Fee or Reward; and that such Contracts so made shall be to all Intents and Purposes, as binding and effectual, and shall be paid out of the said County Rates to be raised by virtue of the said recited Act, in like Manner, as if the same had been made after Presentment made as in the said recited Act is mentioned, of the want of Repairation of such Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, Wearings, Highways, and Causeways; any thing in the said recited Act, or in any other Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

though such Bridges, &c. be not presented.

Contractors to give sufficient Security.

Justices to give publick Notice of their Intention.

Contracts and Orders relating thereto, to be entered in proper Books.

Contracts for these Purposes declared to be binding.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That if at any Time or Times, any Accidents or unforeseen Decays shall happen to any Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, Wearings, Highways, or Causeways, within the said County of Devon, and the Justices of the Peace at their General or Quarter Session, shall not have contracted with

Provision for immediate Repairs, &c. in Cases of unforeseen Accidents, or Decays, when no Contract shall have been made by the Justices.

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with any Person or Persons, for the supporting, maintaining, and keeping the same in Repair, for any Term of Years in Manner herein before-mentioned; it may and shall be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the said County, either upon their View, or upon the Information of Two or more Witnesses, to contract with or employ any Person or Persons immediately to repair such Bridges, Ramparts, Banks, Cops, Wearings, Highways, and Causeways; and the Expences attending such Repairs, not exceeding Twenty Pounds, shall be paid out of the said County Rates, in the same Manner as if the Justices of the Peace at their General or Quarter Session, had contracted with such Person or Persons for the Repairs thereof; any thing in the said recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed, taken, and adjudged, and the same is hereby declared to be a Publick Act; and all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, are hereby required as such to take Notice hereof.

FINIS.