Anno decimo

# Georgii III. Regis.

## An Act for building a Workhouse in the Parish of *Saint Martin in the Fields*, within the Liberty of *Westminster*, in the County of *Middlesex*.



WHEREAS the Workhouse belonging to the Parish of Saint Martin in the Fields, within the Liberty of Westminster, in the County of Middlesex, situate in the new Burying-ground belonging to the said Parish, is an ancient Fabrick, and in a ruinous Condition; and in the Opinion of able and experienced Workmen, the same cannot be properly repaired: And whereas it is necessary that a new Workhouse should be built in the said Burying-ground: In order therefore that the same may be built in such Manner as will be least burthensome to the Inhabitants of the said Parish; May it please your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it 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 immediately after the passing of this Act, the Vicar, Church-wardens, Preamble.

Trustees appointed.

wardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish of Saint Martin in the Fields for the Time being (qualified as hereinafter is mentioned) are hereby appointed Trustees for the several Purposes of this Act; and they, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorised and required to meet together in the Vestry-room belonging to the said Parish, or in some other convenient Place within the said Parish, upon the Monday Sevennight next after the passing of this Act, and proceed to put this Act in Execution; and shall and may adjourn themselves, and afterwards meet there, or at any other Place within the said Parish, as they, or any Five or more of them, shall think proper, as often as it shall be thought necessary for putting this Act in Execution; and shall, at their First or at any other Meeting or Meetings, ascertain and direct what Money shall be raised within the Limits of the said Parish, in order to defray the Expences of taking down the said Workhouse, and of building a new Workhouse and other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies upon the said Piece of Ground called the New Burying-ground, or any Part thereof, for the Reception, Relief, Maintenance and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, and for all other the Purposes of this Act.

Trustees are to meet, and direct what Money shall be raised for the Purposes of the Act.

Provided always, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Trustee for the Purposes of this Act, during such Time as he shall have any Share or Interest in any Contract, or enjoy any beneficial Employment under or by virtue of this Act; and the said Trustees shall, at all their Meetings to be held for the Purposes of this Act, defray their own Expences.

No Trustee to act where interested;

and they are to bear their own Expences.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority, and they are hereby authorised and impowered to cause the present Workhouse belonging to the said Parish to be taken down, and to sell and dispose of the Materials of which the same shall consist, or to apply the same for the Use of the said Parish, in such Manner as they, or any Five or more of them, shall think fit.

Trustees may take down the present Work-house;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorised and required to cause a new Workhouse and such other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies to be erected and built, of such Dimensions, in such Manner, and in such Place and Places in the said new Burying-ground, as the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall order, direct, and appoint; and by

and cause a new one to be built.

and

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and out of the Monies to be received for the Purchase of the Annuities herein-after authorised to be granted, to pay and satisfy all necessary Charges relating thereto, and also all Money which shall be justly due to the Artificers, Workmen, and others employed in and about the taking down the said Work-house, and in and about the erecting and building a new Workhouse, and other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies for the Reception, Relief, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, and furnishing the same, and in and about all others Matters and Things relating to the Execution of this Act.

Trustees may hire a House for the Reception of the Poor till the Work-house is built.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, may and have hereby Power and Authority to contract for the Hire of any House or Houses, Building or Buildings, within or contiguous to the said Parish, for the Purpose of receiving, maintaining, and employing the Poor of the said Parish, until such Time as the new-intended Work-house and other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies shall be fit and proper for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish; and the Rent or Rents which shall be payable for the same shall be charged upon, and shall from Time to Time be paid out of the Moneys to be raised by virtue of this Act.

Money to be raised by Annuities.

And in order that a sufficient Sum of Money may be forthwith raised for the Purposes aforesaid, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons to contribute, advance, and pay to the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, or to such Person or Persons as they, or any Five or more of them, shall, by any Writing under their Hands, appoint to receive the same, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Six thousand Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of One or more Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the natural Life of every such Contributor, or the natural Life of such other Person as shall be nominated by or on the Behalf of such Contributor at the Time of Payment of his or her Contribution-money; which Annuity or Annuities shall not exceed the Rate of Nine Pounds per Centum per Annum for every One hundred Pounds, and so in proportion for any greater or lesser Sum to be advanced as aforesaid; and shall be payable and paid in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, or such other Place in the said Parish as the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall from Time to Time appoint, by Four

Payments in the Year, the First of such Payments to begin and be made to the respective Purchasers or their Assigns at the Expiration of Three Months next after Payment of his or her Purchase-money; all which said Annuities, so to be purchased as aforesaid, shall not exceed in the Whole the yearly Sum of Five hundred and forty Pounds, and shall be publickly sold in the Vestry-room belonging to the said Parish, or at such other Place within the said Parish as the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall order and direct, to the best Bidder for the same, on Seven Days Notice thereof being first given in the London Gazette or other publick News-paper, and a like Notice affixed upon some One of the Doors of the said Parish Church, signifying such intended Sale: And the Money arising by the Sale of such Annuities shall be applied in defraying the Expences of taking down the present Work-house, and in building a new Work-house, and other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish, and for and towards furnishing the same, and other the Purposes of this Act, and to and for no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

How the several Annuitants shall be paid.

And, for the better ascertaining and regulating the Payment of the said Annuities, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall, by Warrant under their Hands, directed to One or more of the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, order and direct the Payment of the said Annuities to the respective Proprietors from Time to Time as the same shall become due; which said Overseer or Overseers is and are hereby required, upon the Receipt of such Warrant, forthwith to pay the same out of the First Monies which shall be in his or their Hands, and by this Act be appropriated or appointed for the Payment thereof, and arising by the Rate or Rates made half-yearly or oftener for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish; and such Warrants so paid shall be allowed in Account to such Overseer or Overseers of the Poor on making up his or their Accounts.

Names of Annuitants to be intered in a Book.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, are hereby required to provide One or more Book or Books, in which shall be fairly written in Words at Length the Names, proper Additions, and Places of Abode of all such Persons as shall become Purchasers of any of the said Annuities, and of all Persons by

whose

whose Hands the said Purchasers shall pay in any Sum or Sums of Money, and also the Sum and Sums so paid for the Purchase of such Annuity or Annuities respectively, and the Days of Payment thereof, and also an Account of the Interest that shall be paid from Time to Time to each Annuitant, and by whom received; which Book or Books shall be kept by, and lodged in the Hands of the Vestry-clerk of the said Parish for the Time being; and it shall be lawful for the respective Purchasers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, Agent or Agents, and also to and for any Person or Persons paying to the Rate or Assessment appropriated or appointed for the Payment thereof, from Time to Time, and at all seasonable Times, to have recourse to and inspect the said Book or Books without paying any Thing for such Inspection.

Annuities to be charged upon the Rate made for Relief of the Poor; and shall be exempt from Taxes.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Annuities, so to be purchased as aforesaid, shall be, and are hereby charged upon, and shall be paid and payable from Time to Time out of, the Monies arising by the Rates or Assessments to be made Half-yearly or otherwise for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish; and the Contributor or Contributors, duly paying the Consideration or Purchase Money for any such Annuity or Annuities, or such Person or Persons as he, she, or they shall appoint his, her, or their respective Assigns, shall have, receive, and enjoy, and, by virtue of this Act, be intitled to have, receive, and enjoy, the said Annuity or Annuities, out of the said Rates or Assessments, during the Term of the natural Life of the Person to be nominated by each such Purchaser or Contributor in Manner aforesaid; and that all and every such Purchaser and Purchasers, and his and their Assigns respectively, shall have good, sure, absolute, and indefeasible personal Estate and Interest in the Annuities so by them respectively purchased, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; and none of the said Annuities shall be subject or liable to the Tax charged upon Lands by Authority of Parliament, or to any publick or parochial Tax.

That every Annuitant shall have an Order for Payment of his Annuity signed by Five Trustees;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Purchaser or Contributor as aforesaid, his, her, or their Assigns, upon Payment of the Consideration or Purchase-money for such Annuity or Annuities into the Hands of the said Trustees, or to such Person or Persons as they, or any Five or more of them, shall, for that Purpose, appoint, shall have a Receipt or Receipts for the same, and an Order on Parchment or Vellum

Vellum for the Payment of the said Annuity or Annuities for and during the natural Life or Lives of such Person or Persons as shall be nominated therein; every such Order to be signed by the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them; which being so signed, shall, by the Authority of this Act, be firm, good, valid, and effectual in Law, according to the Purport and true Meaning thereof; and upon every Default of Payment of the said Annuities by the Space of Forty Days next after the Time or Times when the same shall be payable (being lawfully demanded) the Rates or Assessments appropriated or appointed for the Payment thereof shall be vested in the Annuitants, until the same Annuities, together with the legal Interest, and all Costs and Charges occasioned by the Nonpayment thereof, shall be fully paid and satisfied.

which he may assign over to any other Person.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Purchaser or Purchasers of any such Annuity or Annuities, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, at any Time or Times, by Writing under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals (without any Stamp thereon) to assign such Annuity or Annuities, or any Part thereof, or Interest therein, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, and so toties quoties; and a Memorandum or Entry of all such Assignments, and the Days the same were brought to be so entered, shall be made known to the said Trustees, or to their Vestry-clerk, and shall be by him entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose at the Charge of the Trust; and the said Book or Books shall and may, at all seasonable Times, be inspected by any Persons interested therein; but no such Assignment shall be deemed good and effectual, until such Memorandum and Entry shall be made as aforesaid.

All Contracts to be entered in Books.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees, or any Five or more of them, shall cause all Contracts made with or by the Artificers and Workmen, or others employed or to be employed in or about the said Workhouse and other necessary Buildings and Conveniencies, and all Receipts, Payments, Debts, and Credits, and all other Matters or Things relating thereto, and all other their Proceedings concerning the same, to be fairly written and entered in a Book or Books to be provided for those Purposes, which shall at all convenient Times be open to the Inspection and Perusal of all Persons paying to the said Rates or Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, Vestrymen, Constables, and other ancient Inhabitants of the said Parish, are hereby authorised and required to assemble and meet together in the Vestry-room of the said Parish Twice or oftener in every Year, (if Occasion shall require) due Notice having been given in the Parish Church on the preceding Sunday before such Meeting; and they, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall make One or more Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, for and towards the Relief of the Poor, and for the several Purposes of this Act, upon all and every Person or Persons who do or shall inhabit, hold, occupy, possess, or enjoy any Land, House, Shop, Wharf, Warehouse, or any other Building, Tenement, or Hereditament, or any other Person or Persons who by Law is or are chargeable and assessable for and towards the Relief of the Poor, as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, Vestrymen, Constables, and other ancient Inhabitants of the said Parish, or the major Part of them, at such Meeting or Meetings, shall think proper to be rated and assessed; which said Rates or Assessments so to be made shall be allowed by Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the City and Liberty of Westminster, and Notice thereof shall be given in the Parish Church the Sunday next after the same shall have been so allowed. How often, &c. the Poor Rates shall be made.

Provided always, That in case any Person or Persons shall find him, her, or themselves aggrieved by any such Rate or Assessment as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such Person or Persons, on giving reasonable Notice to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, to appeal to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the County of Middlesex; and the Justices of the Peace there assembled are hereby authorised and required to receive such Appeal, and to hear, adjust, and finally determine the same. Appeal to the Quarter-sessions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, so directed and authorised to be made as aforesaid, shall and may, on Refusal or Neglect to pay the same by any Person or Persons liable thereto, be recovered in such Manner as the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor are directed to be recovered by Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor by an Act made in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of Queen Elisabeth, for the Relief of the Poor, and in an Act made in the Seventeenth Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for remedying some Defects in the said last-mentioned Act, or by or in any other Act now in being relating For enforcing the Payment of Rates.

relating to Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor, or for the Relief of the Poor; which said several Methods of recovering the said Rates or Assessments for the Relief of the Poor shall, and they are hereby declared to be legal Methods and Ways of enforcing the Payment of the Rates or Assessments directed to be made as aforesaid, as fully and effectually as if such Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act.

All Charges of making Distress to be settled by the Justices granting the Warrant.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and as often as any Distress or Distresses shall be made for Non-payment of the said Rates or Assessments hereby directed to be made, or any Part thereof, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Person or Persons making such Distress or Distresses to raise and levy the reasonable Charges of making such Distress and Distresses, and of selling and disposing of the same (over and above the Sum of Money due upon the Rates or Assessments for which such Distress and Distresses shall have been so taken); such Charges, in case of any Dispute relating thereto, to be ascertained and settled by the Justices of the Peace granting such Warrant or Warrants of Distress respectively.

How Rates are to be charged where Houses are let to different Tenants.

And whereas there are divers Houses and Buildings in the said Parish which are let out in separate Apartments or ready furnished to Lodgers, whereby the Payment of the said Rates or Assessments may in such Cases be evaded: For Prevention whereof, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That any Person, whether Landlord or Tenant, who shall let out his or her House in separate Apartments, or ready-furnished, to a Lodger or Lodgers, shall, for the several Purposes of this Act, be deemed and taken to be the Occupier thereof, and may be rated or assessed accordingly, and shall be liable and subject to the Payment of the Sum so rated or assessed.

Goods, &c. liable to be sold for Payment of the Rates.

Provided always, That the Goods and Chattels of each and every Person renting or occupying any separate Part or Apartment in such House or Building, or renting or occupying any ready-furnished House, or any Part thereof, shall be liable to be distrained and sold for the Payment of the said Rates or Assessments; and that each and every Person who shall pay such Rates or Assessments so charged on his or her respective Landlord or Landlords, or upon whose Goods or on whose Chattels the same shall be levied in pursuance of this Act, shall and may deduct the same from and out of the Rent due and payable from Time to Time to his, her, or their respective Landlord or Landlords so letting out the same; and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to his or her said Landlord or Landlords for so much

much Money as he or she shall have so paid, or as shall have been so levied on his or her Goods and Chattels in pursuance of this Act.

Landlords to pay the Rate for Houses let to Ambassadors.

Provided also, That every Rate or Assessment which shall be made or imposed by virtue of this Act, for or in respect of any House or Tenement which any Ambassador, Resident, Agent, or other publick Minister of any foreign Prince or State, now doth or hereafter shall inhabit or occupy, shall be paid by the Landlord or Owner of the said Houses or Tenements, who are hereby declared to be liable to be rated and assessed for the same; and in case of Neglect or Refusal to pay such Rates or Assessments for the Space of Five Days after Demand thereof made, the same shall and may be levied and recovered from every such Landlord or Owner, in such Manner as any of the Rates or Assessments herein before granted are directed to be levied and recovered; and the same shall and may be levied and recovered by Distress and Sale of any of the Goods and Chattels of such Landlord or Owner, which shall be found either within the said Parish or elsewhere, in case such Landlord or Owner doth not reside within the said Parish, together with all Costs and Charges attending the same.

Expences of this Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Expences in and about procuring and passing this Act shall be defrayed out of the First Monies which shall be raised by virtue thereof.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be brought or commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, or in relation to the Premises; that in every such Case the Action shall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be brought in the County of Middlesex, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Actions may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act: And if it shall appear to be so done, or if any such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County than as aforesaid; then, and in every such Case, the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants: And if upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions; or if a Verdict shall pass against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; or

General Issue.

if,

if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit in other Cases by Law.

Treble Costs.

Public Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.