Anno quinto

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*, in the County of *Suffolk*.



Whereas the Poor in the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the County of Suffolk, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by their respective Parishes: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor in the said Hundreds, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief and Assistance of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Diseases, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the Able and Industrious, to the Correction and Punishment of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Industry; and thereby the Poor, instead of being wholly supported by the Publick, may contribute to the Support, Assistance, and Relief mutually of each other, and be of some Advantage to the Community to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen: May it therefore 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 after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One Preamble.

Guardians: Their Qualification.

thousand seven hundred and sixty five, all and every Person and Persons who shall then be, and from time to time shall thereafter become seised in his, her, or their own Right, of Lands or Tenements rated to the Poors Rates in any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, at the yearly Value of Thirty Pounds; and all Persons who are or shall be named in any Commission or Commissions of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk, residing in the said Hundreds, and also all Rectors and Vicars for the time being of the several Rectories and Vicarages within the said Hundreds, and also all and every Person or Persons who then, and from time to time thereafter, shall possess or occupy, and be rated to the Poors Rates, in One or more Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, within the said Hundreds, or either of them, or within any other Hundred in the said County, provided they have their chief Place of Residence or Abode within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or One of them, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Tythes, of the yearly Value of Sixty Pounds, shall be, and are hereby

Their Stile and Power.

declared to be, incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*, in the County of *Suffolk*, and shall be for ever hereafter deemed and taken to be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have a perpetual Succession and a Common Seal, and shall be and be called The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*, in the County of *Suffolk*, and shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued by that Name in all Courts and Places of Judicature within that Part of Great Britain called England, and by that Name shall and may purchase, take, and receive, any Goods and Chattles whatsoever to or for the Use of the said Corporation.

Not to hold Lands, except, &c.

Provided always, That such Corporation shall not be capable of taking or holding any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, except as herein after particularly mentioned and expressed.

Women qualified to be Guardians, may act by Proxy.

And be it further enacted, That all Women who shall be seised of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or be rated to the Poors Rates respectively as aforesaid, shall be and they are hereby authorized to act as Guardians for all the Purposes of this Act by Proxy to be appointed under their Hands; and the Persons appointing such Proxies may from time to time revoke such Appointments; and such Proxies shall be granted to such

Persons

Persons as shall be Guardians, but no more than One such Proxy shall be granted to or received by any One Guardian whatsoever.

How the Poor are to be governed until the House be built;

And be it further enacted, That all poor Persons, or Persons incapable of providing for themselves, within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or either of them, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of their several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, in the same Manner they now are, until the House or Houses herein after mentioned shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and from and after the General Meeting of the Guardians, which the Directors of the Poor in the said Hundreds are herein afterwards required to call, within Three Calendar Months next after the said House or Houses shall be built and fitted up for the Reception of the Poor, the said poor Persons, and Persons incapable of providing for themselves, shall be under the Government and Management of the said Guardians of the Poor; and that all poor Children, which at any Time shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government, the Males until they arrive at the Age of Eighteen Years, and the Females until they shall arrive at the Age of Sixteen Years respectively; and that after such Males shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, and such Females the Age of Sixteen Years respectively, they shall be discharged from the Rule and Government of the said Guardians, and be at their own Disposal.

then to be under the Care of the Guardians of the Poor.

Children may be apprenticed by the Directors and acting Guardians.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and acting Guardians who are herein after mentioned, at their General Annual Meeting, or at any of the General Quarterly Meetings by this Act directed to be held, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for any Term or Number of Years, not exceeding the Term of Seven Years, or to bind any such Male Child or Children Apprentices in the Sea Service, to any Captain, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel, or to any Person or Persons in Husbandry, in like Manner as Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, with the Assent of Justices of the Peace, are by the Laws now in being impowered in any Case to bind them; provided, that such Service or Apprenticeship shall not extend to such Males beyond the Age of Twenty one Years, or to such Females beyond the Age of Eighteen Years; and the Persons to whom

such Children shall be bound Apprentices, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such Apprentices, in like manner as they are now obliged by the Laws in being in any Case to provide for Apprentices; and no Apprentice, so bound as aforesaid, shall (except with the Consent of the Directors and acting Guardians present at any Weekly Meeting herein after appointed to be had) be assigned or turned over to any other Person or Persons whomsoever; and then, and in that Case only, to some Person or Persons of the same Trade, Business, or Occupation; and that all the Persons to whom they shall be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them in the same Manner, and under the same Penalties and Forfeitures, as the Person to whom they were first bound as aforesaid were obliged to receive and provide for them.

They may be apprenticed to the Governor or Steward.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk, at any Time before such Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for any Term or Number of Years, not exceeding the Term of Seven Years, to the Governor or Steward herein after directed to be appointed by virtue of this Act for the time being; provided, that such Service or Apprenticeship shall not extend to such Males beyond the Age of Twenty one Years, or to such Females beyond the Age of Eighteen Years; and on the Death, Resignation, or Removal, of such Governor or Steward, such Apprentices, so bound to the Governor or Steward, shall belong and appertain to the succeeding Governor or Steward, without any Assignment being made to him of such Apprentices; and so from time to time to the Governor or Steward for the time being, until the Expiration of the said Term of Seven Years, for which such Children shall respectively serve the said Governor or Steward for the time being as Apprentices, until the End of the said Term, and shall, during the said Term, be considered as Apprentices to the said Governor or Steward for the time being, to all Intents and Purposes, in the same Manner as if they had been originally bound to every such Governor or Steward respectively; and such Children, so to be bound Apprentices to the said Governor or Steward, shall be provided for and maintained by the said Guardians, during such their respective Apprenticeships, in the same Manner as other poor Children are to be provided for and maintained

by virtue of this Act; and all Profits, Benefit, and Advantages, arising from such Apprentices so bound to the said Governor or Steward, shall be accounted for to the said Guardians, and shall be had, received, and taken by them, and applied for the Purposes of this Act.

Poor may be let out for Hire in Harvest Time.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians may, on Application made by any Farmer or other Person wanting a Number of such Children or other poor Persons in Harvest, Hop-gathering, or other Work suitable to the Strength and Ability of such Children or other poor Persons, hire or let out such Number of the said Children, or other poor Persons, as shall be so required, on a Contract for their Labour and Maintenance, at such Wages as shall be agreed for between the said Directors and acting Guardians, and the Person or Persons hiring such Children or other poor Persons; which Wages shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and shall be by him accounted for, and be applied to the Purposes of this Act.

Children may be dismissed to Parents or Friends willing to maintain them.

Provided also, That if the Parents, Kindred, or Friends, of Children so maintained by the said Guardians, shall, either when the said Children shall attain their respective Ages of Eighteen Years and Sixteen Years, or at any Time before, be desirous or willing to receive, maintain, and employ such Children, and such Children shall be willing to be so received, maintained, and employed, it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, if they shall so think proper, to dismiss such Children; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Poor Persons capable of maintaining themselves may be discharged.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, from time to time, to dismiss such poor Persons as they shall judge capable of maintaining themselves by their Labour; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Power to borrow Money.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians to borrow and take up at Interest any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, provided that such Sum and Sums of Money so to be borrowed be not borrowed in less Sums than One hundred Pounds, and to assign over, by Writing signed by Thirteen of the said Directors at least, under the common Seal of the said Corporation, all or any Part of the Poor's Rates to be collected within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford,

as

as a Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest of the Money so to be borrowed (the Charges of such Assignments to be paid for out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act) and Copies of all such Assignments shall be entered in a Book or Books to be kept by the Clerk belonging to the said Corporation; and all and every Person and Persons to whom any such Assignments shall be made, or who shall be intitled to the Money thereby secured, is and are hereby impowered from time to time, by Assignment under his, her, or their Hand or Hands, to be indorsed on the Back of his, her, or their Security, or by any other Writing or Writings to be executed under his, her, or their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, in the Presence of Two or more credible Witnesses, without Stamps, to assign or transfer his, her, or their Right to the Principal and Interest Money thereby secured; and that no such Assignment or Assignments shall be good and effectual in Law unless the same shall, within One Calendar Month after the Date thereof, be produced and notified to the said Clerk, in order that an Entry may be made of such Assignment, containing the Date, Names of the Parties and Witnesses, and of the Sums of Money therein mentioned to be assigned or transferred, in the said Book or Books directed to be kept for entering the said original Assignments; and which Entry such Clerk is, on producing such Assignment, required to make, and to make an Indorsement on such Assignment of the Time of Entry thereof, in such Book or Books, and to sign his Name to such Indorsement; and for such Entry, Indorsement, and other Acts relating to every such Assignment, the said Clerk shall be paid the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence by the Person producing the same to be entered, and no more; it being the Intent and Meaning hereof, that the Clerk shall have no more than Two Shillings and Six Pence for what is to be done by him touching every such Assignment to be made as aforesaid; and that all and every Person or Persons to whom such Assignments shall be made, shall be, in proportion to the Sum or Sums therein mentioned, Creditors on the said Rates equally one with another, and shall have no Preference in respect to the Priority of advancing such Money.

Assignments transferrable.

Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors, at any Time before the Election of the acting Guardians, to borrow and take up at Interest such Sum and Sums of Money as they may find necessary from time to time for the Purposes of this Act,

Power for Directors to take up Money at Interest before the Election of Guardians.

Act, subject to the Limitations, Provisions, and Directions herein prescribed for the borrowing Money.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, or so many of them as shall think fit, shall meet at the White Hart in Wickham Market, on the First Monday in July, One thousand seven hundred and fifty five, and, being so assembled, shall proceed to the Execution of this Act; and between the Hours of Eleven and One of the Clock in the same Day, by a Majority of the Guardians then present, appoint some One Guardian, then present, to be President or Chairman of such Meeting; and such Person so elected President or Chairman shall cause the rest of the said Guardians there assembled to proceed by way of Ballot to the Choice of Twenty four the most able and discreet of the Guardians; which Twenty four Persons so chosen shall be called Directors of the Poor within the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*; and the said Directors shall by Ballot elect and choose One other proper and substantial Person to be Treasurer, and One other sufficient Person to be Clerk to the said Guardians (which Clerk shall from time to time enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose) and likewise such other Officers as the said Guardians shall find necessary for the Execution of this Act.

First Meeting of Guardians.

Guardians may elect Directors and Officers.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors shall and they are hereby authorized and required to allow such Rewards and Salaries to such Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, and also to take such Security from such Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk, or other Officers, for the due Execution of his or their Office or Offices, as to the said Directors shall seem reasonable.

Directors may allow Salaries to the Officers.

And be it further enacted, That the said Treasurer, Clerk, or any other Officer, shall continue in their Office only during the Pleasure of the said Directors and Guardians; and that it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, to be chosen in Manner herein after directed, who shall be present at any General Quarterly Meeting herein after appointed, by Ballot to displace them, or any of them, and upon their Removal, Death, or Resignation, to choose others in their stead, with such Salaries and Allowances, and under such Security, as they shall think proper.

Officers to continue in Office only during Pleasure.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors of the Poor, to be chosen in Manner aforesaid, shall, and they are hereby required and impowered, as soon as conveniently may be, to enter into Contract or Contracts for the absolute Purchase, in Fee-simple, of any

Directors impowered to contract for the Purchase of Lands;

Quantity of Land, for the Use of the said Guardians and their Successors, not exceeding Fifty Acres, with or without Buildings thereon, lying in such Part or Parts of the said Hundreds which they may think most fit and convenient for the Situation of an House or Houses for the Reception and Employment of the Poor, and other Buildings herein after mentioned, and for other Purposes of this Act.

Not to be rated higher than at the Time of the Purchase.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in all future Rates, Taxes, and Levies, to be made for any Parish or Place, wherein any Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, which shall be purchased for the Purposes of this Act shall be situate, such Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, shall not be assessed to any such Rates, Taxes, and Levies, at an higher Value or improved Rent, than the same were rated and taxed at the Time of such Purchase.

To erect an House or Houses for the Reception of the Poor,

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors shall and may, and they are hereby required, within Two Years next after the entering into Contract or Contracts for the Purchase of Lands or Buildings as aforesaid, to build and erect, or cause to be altered, fitted up, and repaired, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Land so purchased as aforesaid, the several Buildings following (that is to say) A convenient Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as an Hospital for the Reception of such aged, sick, and infirm Persons and young Children as are not able to work; One other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve for the Reception, Maintenance, or Employment, of such poor Persons as are able to work; One other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as an House or Houses of Correction for the punishing and keeping to hard Labour such idle and disorderly Persons, who, being able, shall refuse to work, or otherwise misbehave themselves; and such other Buildings as the said Directors shall find necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act, which shall be called The House or Houses for the Poor within the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*; and the said Directors shall keep the Buildings so erected as aforesaid in good Repair, and, from time to time, alter or enlarge the same in such Manner as shall be thought convenient; and that the Expence of purchasing such Lands or Buildings, and of erecting and preparing such Houses or Buildings, and keeping the same in Repair, shall be defrayed out of the Money arising by virtue of this Act.

and other necessary Buildings.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, shall be and they are here-

by declared to be a Committee to direct and ſuperintend the ſaid Buildings, until the ſame ſhall be finiſhed; and the ſaid Committee ſhall enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpoſe, and ſhall and may, by Order under their Hands, or the Hands of any Four or more of them, at a Publick Meeting aſſembled, order any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treaſurer or Treaſurers out of the Money remaining in his or their Hands for the Purpoſes of this Act; and ſuch Order or Orders ſhall be, and is, and are hereby declared to be, a Diſcharge to the Treaſurer or Treaſurers for any Money by him or them reſpectively paid in purſuance of ſuch Order or Orders.

Directors, or any Seven of them, to be a Committee to ſuperintend the Buildings.

And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors of the Poor within the ſaid Hundreds ſhall and may, within Three Calendar Months next after ſuch Workhouſe ſhall be finiſhed, provide and furniſh the ſame with all neceſſary Furniture, Houſhold Goods, and Utenſils; and ſhall alſo provide a convenient Stock of Flax, Hemp, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, or other Materials, for the Employment of the Poor to be received into ſuch Houſe or Houſes; and for that Purpoſe only may ſet up, uſe, and occupy, any Trade, Myſtery, or Occupation, in ſuch Houſe or Houſes.

Directors may provide Furniture and Materials to ſet the Poor to work.

And be it further enacted, That when and ſo ſoon as the ſaid Buildings ſhall be compleated and finiſhed, and properly fitted up for the Reception of the ſaid poor Perſons; that then the ſaid Directors ſhall call a General Meeting of all the Guardians of the Poor in the ſaid Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, at which Meeting the ſaid Guardians, in caſe any of the Directors ſhall be dead, or ſhall be removed out of the County of Suffolk, or ſhall refuſe to act in the ſaid Office, ſhall elect One or more fit Perſon or Perſons from amongſt all the Guardians, to the ſaid Office of Director, in the Room or Stead of ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo dying, removing, or refuſing to act, ſo as to complete the ſaid Directors to the Number of Twenty four; which Perſon or Perſons, ſo to be elected to the ſaid Office, ſhall be choſen by way of Ballot as aforeſaid; and the ſaid Guardians at ſuch Meeting aſſembled, ſhall alſo by way of Ballot elect Thirty ſix Guardians from amongſt all the Guardians, who, together with the ſaid Twenty four Directors, ſhall be the Directors and acting Guardians of the ſaid Poor, and for putting in Execution all the Powers and Authorities of this Act, within the ſaid Hundreds, for the Remainder of the Year in which they ſhall be ſo appointed, and

When the Buildings are completed and fitted up, a General Meeting of the Guardians to be called;

Vacancies in the Number of Directors to be then filled up,

and 36 acting Guardians to be added to the Directors to be choſen,

and until the Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist then next following.

who are impowered to make Rules and Orders for the governing and employing the Poor.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall have, and they are hereby declared to have, full Power and Authority to make, from time to time, such By-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, as well for the better governing the said Corporation, as for the better governing, employing, and supporting, the said poor Persons in the said Hundreds; and for carrying on any Trade that shall be set on Foot by the said Corporation for the Employment of the said Poor, and for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act; and also to constitute and appoint such and so many Committees, to consist of such a Number of the said Directors and acting Guardians, as shall be thought fit for the more easy and effectual Execution of the several Trusts and Powers by this Act reposed and vested in the said Corporation; and from time to time afterwards, to repeal, alter, or amend, such By-Laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem meet, so that such By-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land.

Number required to be present on such Occasions.

Provided always, That no less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Three at the least to be Directors) shall be present at every Meeting for such Purposes; and the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians then present (of which major Part Three at the least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to such By-Laws, Rules, or Constitutions.

Appointment of General Quarterly Meetings to be held annually.

And be it further enacted, That four General Quarterly Meetings shall be held by the said Directors and acting Guardians in each Year, and One of such Meetings shall be held annually on Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, the First of which Meetings shall be held at Wickham Market aforesaid, and the subsequent Meetings at such Place as the Directors and acting Guardians present at the preceding General Quarterly Meeting, from time to time, shall direct and appoint, and at the Times herein after appointed; and at all such Meetings on the Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, the then Directors and acting Guardians shall by Ballot fill up any Vacancies that may have happened in the Twenty four Directors, by Death, Removal, or Refusal of acting; and shall by Ballot proceed to choose Thirty six of the Guardians, Twelve of which at least shall not have been nominated

mon Guardians

Guardians the preceding Year, to be acting Guardians, together with the said Twenty four Directors for the following Year; that is to say, Until the Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, which shall be in the ensuing Year; and at the said General Meeting on Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, the Directors and acting Guardians then present shall examine and audit the Treasurer's Accounts, and then shall by Ballot re-elect the same Person, or elect any other Person to be Treasurer for the following Year, and so from Year to Year, on every succeeding Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, for ever.

Vacancies by Death to be filled up.

Provided also, and be it enacted, That at any other of the General Quarterly Meetings herein after directed to be held, the Directors and acting Guardians present at such Meetings, shall and may fill up any Vacancies that may have happened within the Year, in the Twenty four Directors and Thirty six acting Guardians, by Death or otherwise, by way of Ballot as aforesaid.

Committees of Directors and Guardians appointed;

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, at the said Meeting to be held on Monday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, appoint Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Six at least to be Directors) for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, to inspect, direct, manage, and provide for, the said poor People in such respective House or Houses; and for that Purpose the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians, or any Three or more of them (whereof One to be a Director) shall, in the respective Quarters of the Year for which they shall be appointed as aforesaid, meet at the said House or Houses so to be built for the Reception of the Poor aforesaid, every Monday Morning, or oftener, if it shall be necessary, together with the Clerk for the time being; and such of them as shall be there present, shall and may give such Directions as they shall think proper, for the Employment, Maintenance, and Relief, of the Poor in such House or Houses, and for carrying into Execution such Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, and such Powers and Authorities, as shall be from time to time made and granted by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

and they may divide themselves into Committees to act for each Month.

And be it further enacted, That the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians so to be, from time to time, appointed as aforesaid, for each and every Quarter in the Year, may, and they are hereby authorized, by Agreement amongst themselves, to divide themselves into Committees of Five to act for each Month in each Quarter, but so as not to preclude any of such Fifteen

from being present or voting at any such Weekly or other Meeting aforesaid; and if there shall not be present at any Meeting so appointed to be held Three Directors and acting Guardians together (One whereof shall be a Director) every Director who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and every Guardian who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Shillings; to be levied and recovered by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor.

20 s. Penalty for Non-attendance of a Director, and 10 s. of a Guardian.

The Three General Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted, That the Three other General Quarterly Meetings shall be held on the Monday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, and on the Monday next after the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, and on the Monday next after the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in every Year: Provided always, That if any of the Feasts shall happen on a Monday, then the said General Quarterly Meeting shall be held on the Day following.

Accounts to be settled,

And be it further enacted, That at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians for the preceding Quarter respectively, shall settle their Accounts, and, from time to time, shall cause the same to be delivered by their Treasurer or Clerk for the time being, or other Officer to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the next Quarter Sessions to be held for the said County of Suffolk, at Woodbridge, or elsewhere for the Division of Woodbridge; and the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, shall lay the same before the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions, to be by the said Justices examined, audited, and finally passed; for which a Fee of Ten Shillings and Six Pence, and no more, shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy; and no other Fee or Reward shall be paid to, or had, received, or taken, by the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, or by any Council or Attorney, if any such shall be employed, or by any other Person or Persons, under any Pretext whatsoever.

and laid before the Justices.

And be it further enacted, That at all such Four General Quarterly Meetings, by this Act directed to be held,

held, not less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Three shall be Directors) shall be present at every such Meeting; and that the major Part so assembled (of which major Part Three at the least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to every Order made at such Meeting. Number to be present at Quarterly Meetings.

And, for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed by virtue of this Act, and for providing for the Poor to be employed or relieved in such House or Houses, and for defraying the other Expences of this Act, be it further enacted, That at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to assess such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates or Sums herein after mentioned, upon the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places within the said Hundreds, as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall judge necessary, for paying the Interest due on the said Debt, and for defraying the Expences of the current Quarter, and for and towards paying off and discharging the said principal Debt; and such Assessments being delivered to the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held at Woodbridge aforesaid, or elsewhere for the Division of Woodbridge, and being allowed by the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions assembled (for which Delivery and Allowance no Fee or Reward whatsoever shall be had, received, or taken, by any Person or Persons whomsoever) the said Directors and acting Guardians for the time being, or any Three or more of them, whereof One to be a Director, shall be and they are hereby impowered to issue Warrants under the Seal of the said Corporation, to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor in all and every of the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, within the said Hundreds, requiring such Churchwardens or Overseers to pay, at some particular Time and Place to be specified in the said Warrant, the Sum so assessed upon the said several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, to the Treasurer of the said Guardians for the time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge for such respective Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor; and for the raising the Sums so assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, such respective Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor shall, from time to time, and they are hereby required, with as much Equality and Indifference as is possible, to raise, by Taxation of every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, Assessments to be made, and Warrants issued to the Churchwardens for Payment; the same to be raised equally.

Clear, and others, and of every Occupier of Lands, Houses, Tenements, Tythes Impropriate, Propriations of Tythes, Coal Mines, or saleable Underwoods, in their respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, by the said Directors and acting Guardians, in such and the like Manner as Money for Relief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be raised, with such and the like Remedy to Persons aggrieved by way of Appeal as is given concerning Rates or Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor by the Laws now in being; for all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places wherein such Sums of Money shall be so assessed or received, shall be answerable, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which in that Case is hereby directed to be made by the Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting; and such Rates and Assessments, and also such Re-assessments, shall be levied and recovered in such and the like Manner as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is, by the Laws now in being, to be levied and recovered.

Deficiencies to be re-assessed.

and levied as the Poor's Rates.

Provided always, That no private Charity or Donation whatsoever, heretofore given or hereafter to be given to any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or to any Person or Persons in Trust for the Benefit of any Person or Persons of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall be in any wise affected or altered by reason of any thing herein contained; but the same shall remain and continue to be managed and applied according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Donors thereof, in such Manner as the same have heretofore been managed and applied, or ought to have been managed and applied.

Private Charities not to be affected.

Provided also, That the Sums to be assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians at their General Quarterly Meetings upon any One of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, shall not exceed in any One Year the Sums which shall have been rated, assessed, or expended for the Relief or Maintenance of the Poor in such respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in One Year, upon a Medium of Seven Years, to be drawn from Easter Day, of One thousand seven hundred and fifty three inclusive, to Easter Day, One thousand seven hundred and sixty exclusive; and that where any Charity Money given to

Assessments not to exceed the former Rates upon a Medium.

any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, shall appear in any One or more of the said Seven Years to have been improperly, and against the Intention of the Donor, applied to the Maintenance of the Poor to lessen the Poors Rate, such Sum and Sums, and so much of such Charity Money which shall have been so improperly applied, shall nevertheless be added to the Assessments for the Maintenance of the Poor in those or any of those Years, and shall compose a Part of the gross Sum for which such Medium shall be taken, but for no other Purpose whatsoever.

Monies may be raised for other Purposes.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall not extend to hinder or prevent the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for any of the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places within the said Hundreds, from assessing and raising any Sum or Sums of Money, to make any Payment or Payments, which is or are directed or required by any Law in being to be made out of the Poors Rates; but such Sum and Sums shall and may be assessed and raised for such Purposes, over and above the Sums assessed and required to be raised by the said Directors and acting Guardians, and shall be accounted for in such Manner as if this Act had not been made.

Houses, &c. usually rated to the Poors Rates to continue chargeable.

Provided always, That all such Houses, Lands, and Tythes as are now and usually have been charged and rated to the Poors Rates of any of the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall continue to be charged and rated, although such Houses and Lands be not strictly within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or either of them; and that all such Houses and Lands as have been so usually charged and rated to the Poor as aforesaid, shall be and be deemed as Parcel and Part of the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or One of them, for all the Purposes of this Act; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to attend,

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them, for each respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds, shall, and they are hereby required, upon Notice in Writing, signed by One of the said Guardians, being delivered to them respectively, or left at their respective Places of Abode, at least Two Days before the First Meeting of the said Guardians to attend the said First Meeting, with the Books in which the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor for Seven Years, from Easter-day, One thousand seven hundred and fifty three inclusive, to Easter-day, One thousand seven hundred and fifty exclu-

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five, have been entered; and where no such Books shall be kept, with the original Rates for the Maintenance of the Poor, together with an Account of all such other Sums of Money which shall have been received by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or by any other Person or Persons to their Knowledge within the said Seven Years, for or upon account of the Relief of the Poor in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place; and shall, upon his, her, or their respective Oaths, deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, and leave the same in the Custody of the President or Chairman who shall be chosen at such Meeting (which Oaths such President or Chairman, or any of the Guardians then present, is and are hereby impowered to administer) and such President or Chairman shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the Directors who shall then also be elected, to the End that they may examine the same, and fix and ascertain the Proportions afterwards to be observed in assessing the said respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the said Churchwardens and Overseers, whenever they or any of them respectively shall demand the same after the Expiration of Forty Days from the Delivery thereof to such President or Chairman; and in case all or any of such Accounts or original Rates for any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, shall not be produced at such First Meeting of the said Guardians, such Directors and acting Guardians may notwithstanding assess such Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, at their Discretion (but as equally as they can) in like Proportion with other Parishes, Hamlets, or Places; Regard being had to the Value of such Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, and to the Number of the Poor usually maintained there.

and leave the Poor's Books with the Chairman;

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Constables, or other Parish Officers, for the time being, of all and every the Parishes, Divisions, and Precincts, within the said Hundreds, shall, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, aid and assist the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, to the best of their Power, and shall at all Times obey their Warrants and reasonable Orders relative to the Execution of this Act; and in case any Churchwarden, or Overseer of the Poor, or Constable, or other Officer, shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so assessed upon his respective Parish, Hamlet,

and to assist in the Execution of this Act.

Hamlet, or Place, or to pay at the Time and Place appointed, the Monies so collected and levied, or to obey any such Warrants or Orders, every such Churchwarden, Overseer, Constable, or Officer, so neglecting or refusing, shall be summoned, by Writing under the Hands of any Three Directors or acting Guardians, to appear at the next General Quarterly Meeting of the said Directors and acting Guardians to be holden as aforesaid; and if such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such General Quarterly Meeting, or appearing, he or any of them shall not sufficiently excuse or justify him or themselves, but shall, in the Judgement of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such General Quarterly Meeting, be adjudged guilty of disobeying such Warrant or Warrants, Order or Orders, that then, and in every such Case, all and every Person and Persons so adjudged guilty as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor; but if any such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Parish Officer, so offending and convicted as aforesaid, shall think himself aggrieved, that then it shall and may be lawful for such respective Officer to appeal to the next Quarter Sessions to be holden for the said County at Woodbridge aforesaid, or elsewhere for the Division of Woodbridge, against the Judgement of the said General Quarterly Meeting, and the Justices of the Peace for the said County at the said Sessions so assembled, shall and may hear and determine such Appeal, and may mitigate or set aside such Penalties in such Manner as they shall think proper; and the Judgement of such Justices at such Quarter Sessions shall be final, without any other Appeal; and such Justices shall and may on every such Appeal, and in all other Cases of Appeal to them made, award such Costs to the Person or Persons who to them shall appear to be aggrieved, as to them shall seem meet.

Penalty on their Neglect.

Appeal may be made to the Quarter Sessions.

And be it further enacted, That if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall neglect or refuse to hold any such Quarterly or Annual Meeting or Meetings, every Director and acting Guardian failing in his Duty therein, shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the

Directors, &c. neglecting to hold Quarterly Meetings to forfeit each 5l.

Goods

Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Order of the next General Quarter Sessions for the said County of Suffolk, to be held at Woodbridge aforesaid, or elsewhere for the Division of Woodbridge, unless a sufficient Reason shall be given on the Behalf of such Director or acting Guardian to be allowed by such Sessions; and if there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Directors and acting Guardians at any such Quarterly or Annual Meetings, such necessary Rates shall be ordered to be made by any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County; and in case no such Order is made within One Calendar Month from the Time when such Quarterly Meetings should have been held, the same Proportions shall be rated, assessed, and raised in such respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing Quarter as was raised in the preceding Quarter, and shall be paid to the said Treasurer in such Manner as is herein before mentioned with respect to the taxing, assessing, collecting, recovering, and paying, of the Sums assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

On Default of Directors, &c. Rates to be made by Justices.

And be it further enacted, That after the Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians at the Time appointed by this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor at any of their General Quarterly Meetings assembled as aforesaid, to grant Certificates under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or either of them, and who shall be willing to remove, or who shall have removed out of the said Hundreds, or either of them; which respective Certificates, under the Common Seal of the said Guardians, attested by their Clerk for the time being, and signed by Two Justices of the Peace, as Certificates are by Law directed to be, shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes; and no other Certificates whatsoever to be granted within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall be valid or of any Effect; any Law, Statute, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Directors and acting Guardians may grant Certificates.

And be it further enacted, That as soon as the said Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians as aforesaid, all Certificates which shall have been delivered to, and remain in the Custody of, the respective Parochial Officers, by Persons residing within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall be delivered forthwith, and all Certificates which hereafter shall be delivered

Certificates to be delivered to the Clerk.

vered to the respective Parochial Officers) by Persons coming to reside, or residing within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall be from time to time delivered, within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof by such Officer, to the Clerk of the said Guardians for the time being, who shall cause the same to be filed, so that Recourse may be had thereto at any future Time.

Parishes liable to maintain poor Persons, if Certificates be not delivered.

And be it further enacted, That if the Parishioners of any Parish or Place within the said Hundreds, or either of them, shall suffer any Person or Persons, whose legal Settlement shall not be in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, to inhabit within their Parishes, Hamlets, or Places respectively, without producing such Certificate as aforesaid, and such Person shall become chargeable to such Parish, Hamlet, or Place; that then the whole Charge and Expence occasioned by such poor Person, shall be defrayed by that Parish, Hamlet, or Place, only, without any Assistance from the Common Stock to be raised by this Act; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bonds for Maintenance of Bastards to be delivered to Guardians.

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds already given to Parochial Officers within the said Hundreds, or either of them, by private Persons, to indemnify the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, from any Charge that may arise from particular Bastard Children, shall be delivered likewise by such respective Officers to the said Guardians of the Poor; and it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians to sue on such Bonds in their own Name, and they shall recover the Penalties thereof, as if such Bonds had been originally made to them: And all Bonds hereafter to be made for the same, or any the like Purposes as aforesaid, shall be made to the said Guardians of the Poor; any Law, Statute, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Voluntary Contributions shall be received by the Treasurer.

And be it further enacted, That all voluntary Contributions which well disposed and charitable Persons shall think proper to make towards carrying on the good Purposes hereby intended, shall be paid to and received by the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and be applied and disposed of in such Manner, for the Maintenance, Cloathing, Employment, Accommodation, and Benefit of the Poor, in such House or Houses, as the Contributor and Contributors shall direct and appoint; and if no particular Direction or Appointment shall be given or made touching the Application of such Contributions, the same shall be made Part of the Common Stock, and applied for the General Purposes of this Act; and a List

of the Names of such Contributors, and an Account of the Sums by them contributed, shall be affixed in the most conspicuous Part of the said House or Houses.

Governor, And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from time to time, to appoint a Governor or Steward to oversee and inspect the Persons so maintained in such House or Houses, who shall be a Member of the Church of England, well recommended for Sobriety, Honesty, and Diligence, and who shall be capable of Reading, Writing, and Casting Accounts; and also any Woman or Women who shall be maintained by the said Guardians, or any other Woman or Women as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem most expedient, as a Matron or Matrons, to attend and superintend the Poor in such House or Houses, under the Direction of the Governor or Steward of the Poor in such House or Houses; and such Governor or Steward shall have the Care and Management of the Poor maintained in such House or Houses, and shall from time to time make Report of the Behaviour of such poor Persons as shall be there maintained.

Matron,

and Clergyman, to be appointed; And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall and may, from time to time, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of England, to instruct such Persons as shall be maintained in such House or Houses, in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechism (which the Governor or Steward shall, Once at least in every Week, hear such Children repeat) and also to visit the Sick, baptize the Children, bury the Dead, and perform other Offices of his Function, in such House or Houses: And the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered to make such Salary and Allowances to such Clergyman and Governor or Steward and Matron or Matrons for their Pains and Trouble therein, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians at any such Meeting assembled, shall appear reasonable, and shall and may pay such Salaries and Allowances out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act; and also shall and may, from time to time, displace or discharge him, her, or any of them, as they shall think fit.

and paid.

Punishments of Poor misbehaving. And be it further enacted, That if any poor Person maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses, shall be guilty of profane Cursing and Swearing, or of any

lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour, or shall neglect or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein (such Work or Service being suited to his or their Age, Strength, and Ability) every such Offender, if a Child under the Age of Twelve Years, shall and may be punished by moderate Correction, or by an Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet; or if such Offender shall be above the Age of Twelve Years, then either by Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet, or by being set in the Stocks, to be provided for that Purpose, without any other Diet than Bread and Water, for any Space not exceeding Twelve Hours, such Punishment to be inflicted by Order of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians present at the Weekly Meetings.

Penalty of purloining Apparel, &c.

And be it further enacted, That the Apparel with which any of the Poor, who shall be maintained and cloathed at the Expence of the said Corporation, shall be cloathed, shall remain and continue, and be deemed and taken to be, the Property of the said Corporation; and in case any of the Poor maintained by the said Guardians, shall purloin, sell, or pawn, any of the Materials or Implements of Work belonging to the said Corporation, and with which he, she, or they, shall be intrusted, or shall sell or pawn any of the Apparel with which they shall be cloathed, at the Expence of the said Corporation; or in case any Person or Persons shall run away from such House or Houses, with the Cloaths or Apparel provided by or belonging to the said Corporation, without the Leave of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians, present at a Weekly Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, upon Complaint being made thereof before any Justice of the Peace for the said County, by any of the said Guardians, or by the Governor or Steward for the time being; such Justice of the Peace is hereby required to issue a Warrant for the apprehending any such Offender, and for his or her first Offence, to order the Persons so apprehended, being convicted thereof before such Justice of the Peace, on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered to administer) or on his or her own Confession, to be sent to the House of Correction for the Division of Woodbridge in the said County, and to be publickly whipped by the Keeper of the said House of Correction, or by some Person appointed by such Keeper, as soon as conveniently may be, and then to be discharged from

from the said House of Correction; and for the Second Offence, every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of Felony, and being legally convicted thereof, shall suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws now in being.

Penalty on buying, &c. Cloaths of the Poor.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, receive into Pawn, or secrete, any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel with which any of the Poor, who shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be cloathed at the Expence of the said Guardians, or any of the Materials or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattles, provided by or belonging to the said Corporation, or shall buy or receive any of the Provisions allotted to or provided for the said Poor, every Person so offending shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds, upon Conviction, on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County (which Oath such Justice or Justices is and are hereby impowered to administer;) and the said Penalty of Five Pounds shall be levied, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, of the said Justice or Justices, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Offender; One Moiety of the said Penalty to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Treasurer of the said Guardians for the time being, to be added by him to the common Stock, for the Use of the Poor: And if no Goods or Chattles can be found whereon to make such Distress, or that the said Penalty shall not be forthwith paid; then, and in that Case, such Justice or Justices shall and may, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction for the Division of Woodbridge in the said County, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Encouragement given to the Industrious,

And, to the End that all the poor People in the said House may be encouraged to apply themselves to such Tasks in which they shall be employed with Diligence and Humility; be it further enacted, That out of the Profits arising to the said Corporation from the Work which shall be done by such poor People, such Rewards shall be distributed to the Industrious and Skilful, in Proportion to the Quality and Perfection of their Work, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians, assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting, shall appear reasonable.

And

And for inciting the Governor or Steward and Matron or Matrons of such House or Houses, to discharge the Duty of their Offices with Diligence and Fidelity, be it enacted, That over and above such Salaries as shall be assigned to them by the Order of the said Directors and acting Guardians, they, and each of them, shall receive out of the Profit of Work so done by the said poor People, such Proportion thereof, as by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall be judged proper, so as such Gratuity shall not exceed Two Pence in the Pound of the Value of the said Profits. and to Steward and Matron.

And be it further enacted, That the Profits of the Work so done by the said poor People in the said House or Houses, deducting thereout such Allowances and Gratuities as are herein before limited, shall be applied in Aid of the said Rates and Assessments towards the Maintenance of the Poor within the said Hundreds. Application of the Profits of the Work.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from time to time, to contract, if they shall think it expedient so to do, with any Person or Persons for employing all the poor People in the said House or Houses, upon such Terms and Conditions as the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper; such Contractor or Contractors being subject to such Rules and Regulations as are herein before prescribed for the Ease and Benefit of the said poor People, and to receive the Profits of their Labour, deducting thereout the Gratuities payable to such poor People, and the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, in Manner aforesaid, in Part or in full Payment and Satisfaction for the Service to be performed by virtue of such Contract; so as no such Contract shall subsist or be in Force for a longer Space of Time than One Year. Directors, &c. may contract for Employment.

And be it further enacted, That if any Governor, or Steward, or other Officer appointed, or Matron, or other Person whatsoever employed, by the said Guardians, shall purloin, imbezzle, or willingly misapply, any of the Monies, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattles, belonging to the said Corporation, every such Offender shall not only be discharged from his or her Office, but shall also forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, and also Treble the Value of such Money, Materials, or Implement of Work, Utensils, Goods, and Chattles, which shall be so purloined, imbezzled, or misapplied; to be levied in such Manner as the Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed upon Overseers of the Poor are directed to be levied, and to be applied to the Use of the Poor in the said House or Houses; and in case sufficient Distress shall not be found, then and in every such Case it shall and may be lawful to and for any One Justice of the Peace for the said County, to commit such Offender to the Common Gaol of the said County, Penalty on Officers misbehaving, &c.

there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Space of Time not exceeding Six Calendar Months, nor less than One Calendar Month.

Directors, &c. may apprehend Vagabonds.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any of the said Guardians and Directors, and for the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or either of them, and for any of them, to apprehend all Persons, being in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, who, not having wherewith to maintain themselves, live idly without Employment, and refuse to work for the usual and common Wages given to other Labourers in the like Work, in the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places where they then are; and also all Persons going about from Door to Door, or placing themselves in the Streets, Highways, or Passages, to beg or gather Alms in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, or Places; and also all Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons, not giving a good Account of themselves, found in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, and to convey or cause to be conveyed to some Justice of the Peace for the said County the Person or Persons so apprehended, and such Person or Persons so apprehended shall be dealt with according to the Laws which shall be then in Force concerning Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons.

Justices to act upon Complaint of Directors, &c.

And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace is or are impowered, by the Laws now in being, to proceed on the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, or of any of them, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice or Justices of the Peace, and he and they are hereby required to proceed in the Complaint of any of the said Directors or acting Guardians, or of the said Governor or Steward for the time being, in such and the like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Complaint had been made by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or any of them.

How Warrants may be directed.

And be it further enacted, That all Warrants to be issued by any Justice or Justices of the Peace in pursuance of this Act, or any Ways respecting the Government and Management of the Poor within the said Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, or either of them, shall and may be directed by such Justice or Justices of the Peace, either to the said Governor or Steward for the time being, or to the Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Peace Officers of the Parish, Hamlet, or Place, where the same are intended to be respectively executed; and such Governor or Steward, Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Officers, is and are hereby authorized and required to execute such Warrants so directed to him or them accordingly, in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or in any other Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds,

Hundreds, or either of them: And all Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to such Governor or Steward, Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Peace Officers, in the Execution of such Warrants, such Persons being properly charged and warned thereto for that Purpose.

Application of Forfeitures.

And be it further enacted, That all Fines and Forfeitures arising from any Offences committed within the said Hundreds, or either of them, where the Whole or any Part thereof is given to the Poor of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or for any Offences against this Act, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, to the Use of the Poor of such House or Houses.

Expences of the Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted, That the Charges and Expences of procuring this Act shall be paid out of the First Monies to be raised or borrowed by virtue of this Act.

Directors, &c. to pay their own Expences.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, shall, at their First and every other subsequent Meeting, defray their own Charges and Expences.

Questions how to be determined.

And be it further enacted, That at the said First and all and every other subsequent Meetings of the said Guardians, or any Committee of the said Guardians, or any of them, and all Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians, all Questions which shall not be directed by this Act to be determined by Ballot, or agreed to be so determined by such Guardians and Directors, shall be determined by the Majority of the Persons present; and, in case of an Equality of Votes, the Chairman of such respective Meeting or Committee shall have the casting Vote.

No strong Liquors to be brought into the Houses.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors into any House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act, such Person or Persons shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, subject to such and the like Pains and Penalties as are, by an Act of the Twenty fourth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, directed to be inflicted on Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into Prisons or Gaols.

The Towns of *Woodbridge* and *Framlingham* not to be included in this Act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Towns and Parishes of Woodbridge and Framlingham, in the said Hundreds, or One of them, shall be and are hereby declared to be exempted and saved out of this Incorporation.

And it is hereby declared, That neither of them is or shall be construed to be incorporated or comprehended within the Intent and Meaning of this Act on any Account whatsoever.

Directors and Guardians how to be elected.

And be it further enacted, That if at any Time or Times hereafter Ten or more of the said Guardians, who shall together be seised, in their own Right, in Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, lying in the said Hundreds, of the yearly Value of Five thousand Pounds, shall desire the Directors and acting Guardians assembled at the General Quarterly Meeting next preceding the Annual Meeting

to

to be held in pursuance of this Act, that at such Annual Meeting a General Meeting may be held of all the Guardians by this Act incorporated; that then, and in that Case, the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such Quarterly Meeting shall, and they are hereby authorized and required, to direct Notice of the holding such General Meeting to be inserted in the Weekly News Paper circulating in the said County of Suffolk, for Four Weeks next preceding the said General Annual Meeting; and that if the Persons desiring such General Meeting shall make it appear to the Guardians there assembled, that there has been any Mismanagement or Abuse of the Trust reposed in the said Directors and acting Guardians; that then the Guardians then and there assembled in pursuance of such Notice, shall and may elect Directors and acting Guardians, in such and the same Manner, and subject to the same Rules, Orders, and Directions, as are herein before prescribed, both with regard to the original Election of the said Directors and acting Guardians, and to the Powers and Authorities in them vested by this Act, when so elected; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Limitation of Actions. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid and brought in the County of Suffolk, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit

General Issue. shall and 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 so to be done, or that such Action or Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their, Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the said Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and

Treble Costs. may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

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

FINIS.