

**SUDC**  
**Papers of Street Urban District Council and predecessor bodies**  
**1692-1966**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY**

Street Urban District Council was formed in 1894 and was based in the Vestry Room in Leigh Road, Street, which had been built on land purchased for the parish of Street by William Stephens Clark in 1887. Construction of nearby civic buildings on Leigh Road followed up to the 1920s (Methodist Church, Police House, Technical School, Secondary School, Maxime Cinema and Street Library).

Urban District Councils were created on a national scale during the 1890s as part of major local government reorganisations, replacing the existing parish structure of social care and taking on responsibility for health, public works, housing, cemeteries and recreation. Prior to the creation of SUDC, the parish was responsible for the poor, schools and highways within the parish boundaries.

In Street, many members of the Clark family were overseers of the poor (such as Joseph Clark, Arthur Clothier, James Clark, John Bull, Thomas Clark and Cyrus Clark). Joseph Clark was parish waywarden (of the turnpike highway which now forms the High Street) during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly, the Clark family were also represented on the School Board during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many members of the Clark family and employees of C & J Clark Ltd became SUDC councillors. The ichthyosaur emblem was adopted for the SUDC's seal in 1894.

In 1967 SUDC's offices moved from the Vestry Rooms to the former Technical School (now Strode House) and the SUDC continued to use the premises until 1974, when it was taken over by Mendip District Council. Following the dissolution of the Urban District council as part of wider local government reorganisations, the fossil emblem was adopted by Street Parish Council, which adopted part of the SUDC's former functions along with the newly formed Mendip Parish Council which encompassed Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Frome and Shepton Mallet.

**EXTENT**

21 boxes

**ARRANGEMENT**

The collection is not currently arranged in a hierarchical order.

**ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Items relating to SUDC functions in the period preceding its creation in 1894 have been retained as part of this collection, probably due to the longstanding involvement of the Clark family in the welfare of the residents of Street parish. Therefore, parish records such as overseers' accounts, poor books, waywarden books and Board School papers are also included in this collection.

This collection is held on loan from SUDC and was transferred from storage at Strode House to Clarks in c 1974. SUDC's more recent records were retained by the SUDC in 1972 in the council chamber and in the strongroom: some of these items are now

held by Somerset Archives (these items included rate books, certificates of burial rights, account ledgers, minutes, registers of licences etc). It is thought that other items retained by SUDC/Mendip Council in 1974 may since have been destroyed.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Includes:

Act for Better Repairing of Highways, 1694; Waywarden book (accounts), 1760-1817; Book of Disbursements, 1816-1854; Papers relating to Street Board School, 1875-1905; School Board accounts, 1927-1928; Accounts for Street Local Board of Health, 1853-1966; Local Board of Health minutes, 1853-1983; Treasurers' accounts, 1866-1902; Street Vestry Books (overseers' accounts), 1791-1906; Street parish book of accounts (overseers), 1839-1901; Street parish valuation books, 1850-1859, 1881; Survey of Street, 1802; Street Poor Book (accounts), 1813-1831; SUDC health committee minutes, 1927-1928; SUDC finance committee minutes, 1923-1930; SUDC public works committee minutes, 1923-1930; SUDC housing committee minutes, 1923-1927; SUDC farm committee minutes, 1923-1930; SUDC cemetery and recreational grounds committee minutes, 1923-1925; SUDC special water committee minutes, 1929; SUDC waterworks committee minutes, 1923-1927; SUDC accounts ledgers, 1894-1949; SUDC Board of Health minutes, 1884-1943; Health Committee minutes, 1927; SUDC minute book, 1930-1938; Somerset County Council County Records Committee Book 1 (inventory of parochial documents), 1938

## **ACCESS CONDITIONS**

Access to the collection is arranged via advance appointment only. Access to some collections may be restricted due to Data Protection or other restrictions. Please check with the Archivist.

## **REPRODUCTION CONDITIONS**

Usual Alfred Gillett Trust regulations apply. Permission from the Trust and/or owner of a collection is usually required before publication. Copying of some items may be possible on a case by case basis – please check with the Archivist.

## **LANGUAGE**

English

## **FINDING AIDS**

A rough box-level list is available on the Access database. A typescript list compiled in 1972 is also available, listing the records held by the SUDC (part I: 'taken from the store-room of SUDC' and 'still in the council-chamber, Street' and part II: 'kept at the SUDC in their strong-room').

## **RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION**

Records for Street UDC are held at Somerset Archives (ref: D\U\st), 1943-1974.

## **PUBLICATION NOTE**

It is not known to what extent this collection has been used in published research.