



Municipal Corporations Act 1882

1882 CHAPTER 50

PART XIII

GENERAL.

Boundaries.

228 Boundaries of boroughs and transfer of parts to counties.

- (1) Every place at the commencement of this Act included within each borough then existing, and no other place, shall be part of the borough, and in each borough then existing which is a county of itself, shall be part of that county and of no other, as if this Act had not been passed.
- (2) Where under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or any Act amending it, any such county or borough does not, at the commencement of this Act, include a place which, before the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, was part thereof, that place shall continue to be part of the county wherein it is situate, or with which it has the longest common boundary, as if this Act had not been passed.
- (3) But nothing in this Act shall prevent any gaol, house of correction, lunatic asylum, court of justice, or judges lodging, which at the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, was, and at the commencement of this Act is, taken to be, for any purpose, in any county, from being still, for that purpose, taken to be in that county, as if this Act had not been passed.
- (4) Any gaol, court, depot for arms, and any land thereto belonging, which at the commencement of this Act is parcel of a county shall continue to be parcel of the county, and under the exclusive jurisdiction of the authorities of the county, as if this Act had not been passed.
- (5) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the assessments of the land tax or assessed taxes, as those assessments exist at the commencement of this Act, or to extend or diminish the jurisdiction of any commissioners of those taxes, as such commissioners then exist; but all lands, and all parishes, parts of parishes, and places

shall continue to be charged as at the commencement of this Act towards the land tax charged on the county or other district whereof at the commencement of this Act they are part, and to be subject in that behalf to the jurisdiction, of the commissioners of the same county or other district, as if this Act had not been passed.

229 Adjustment between boroughs and counties on change of boundaries.

If any place, which under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or any Act amending it, ceased to be included in a borough or county of a town or city, was before the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, liable to contribute to any rate for satisfying any lawful debt to which the ratepayers of that borough or county were then liable, and if after the commencement of this Act any difference arises concerning the proportion of that debt to be contributed in respect of that place, the Secretary of State, on the application of the council, or of the chairman of a public meeting of the ratepayers of the place, may appoint by writing under his hand a barrister not having any interest in the question to arbitrate between the parties, and by his award under his hand and seal to assess the proportion aforesaid, if any; and the arbitrator shall assess the costs of the arbitration, and direct by whom and in what proportion and out of what fund they shall be paid; and the rate aforesaid shall continue to be levied by warrant of the council and to be paid by the place aforesaid to the treasurer of the borough, as if the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or any Act amending it, or this Act, had not been passed, until the proportion aforesaid is satisfied, and no longer.

Time.

230 Computation of time.

- (1) Where by this Act any limited time from or after any date or event is appointed or allowed for the doing of any act or the taking of any proceeding, then in the computation of that limited time the same shall be taken as exclusive of the day of that date or of the happening of that event, and as commencing at the beginning of the next following day; and the Act or proceeding shall be done or taken at the latest on the last day of the limited time as so computed, unless the last day is a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or Monday or Tuesday in Easter week, or a day appointed for public fast, humiliation, or thanksgiving, in which case any act or proceeding shall be considered as done or taken in due time if it is done or taken on the next day afterwards, not being one of the days in this section specified.
- (2) Where by this Act any act or proceeding is directed or allowed to be done or taken on a certain day, then if that day happens to be one of the days in this section specified, the act or proceeding shall be considered as done or taken in due time if it is done or taken on the next day afterwards, not being one of the days in this section specified.
- (3) Where by this Act any act or proceeding is directed or allowed to be done or taken within any time not exceeding seven days, the days in this section specified shall not be reckoned in the computation of such time.

Distance.

231 Measurement of distances.

The distances mentioned in this Act shall be measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane, and may be determined by the map made under the survey commonly known as the Ordnance Survey.

Notices.

232 Notices on town hall.

Any notice or other document required by this Act to be fixed on the town hall shall be fixed in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of the town hall, or, if there is no town hall, in some conspicuous place in the borough or ward to which the notice or document relates.

Inspection and Copies.

233 Inspection of documents.

- (1) The minutes of proceedings of the council shall be open to the inspection of a burgess on payment of a fee of one shilling, and a burgess may make a copy thereof or take an extract therefrom.
- (2) A burgess may make a copy of or take an extract from an order of the council for the payment of money.
- (3) The treasurer's accounts shall be open to the inspection of the council, and a member of the council may make a copy thereof or take an extract therefrom.
- (4) The abstract of the treasurer's accounts shall be open to the inspection of all the ratepayers of the borough, and copies thereof shall be delivered to a ratepayer on payment of a reasonable price for each copy.
- (5) The Freeman's Roll shall be open to public inspection, and the town clerk shall deliver copies thereof to any person on payment of a reasonable price for each copy.
- (6) A document directed by this Act to be open to inspection shall be so open at any reasonable time during the ordinary hours of business, and without payment, unless it is otherwise expressed.
- (7) If a person having the custody of any document in this section mentioned,—
 - (a) Obstructs any person authorized to inspect the same in making such inspection thereof as in this section mentioned; or
 - (b) Refuses to give copies or extracts to any person entitled to obtain the same under this section ;he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Fees.

234 Tables of fees to be posted.

The town clerk of every borough shall cause a true copy of the tables of fees for the time being authorized to be taken by the clerk of the peace (if any) for the borough, by the clerk to the justices (if any) for the borough, and by the registrar and officers of the borough civil court (if any), to be posted conspicuously in the following places :

- (a) The room where the business of the town clerk's office is transacted;
- (b) The room, if any, where the justices of the borough sit for transacting their business ;
- (c) The room, if any, where the court of quarter sessions of the borough is held; and
- (d) The room, if any, where the borough civil court is held.

Seals and Signatures.

235 Forgery.

If any any person forges the seal or signature affixed or subscribed to a byelaw made under this Act, or the signature subscribed to any minute of proceedings of the council, or tenders in evidence any such document with a false or counterfeit seal or signature, knowing it to be false or counterfeit, he shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding two years.

Applications to Treasury.

236 Notice of application to and correspondence with Treasury.

- (1) Where the council intend to apply to the Treasury for their approval of any sale, loan, or other financial arrangement under this Act notice of the intention to make the application shall be fixed on the town hall one month at least before the application, and a copy of the intended application shall during that month be kept in the town clerk's office, and be open to public inspection.
- (2) If the Treasury either refuse their approval or grant it conditionally or under qualifications, notice of the correspondence between the Treasury and the council shall forthwith and during one month be fixed on the town hall, and a copy of the correspondence shall during that month be kept in the town clerk's office, and be open to public inspection.

Deputy.

237 Acts of deputy not to be invalidated by defect in appointment.

No defect in the appointment of a deputy under this Act shall invalidate his acts.

Overseers.

238 Notices to and acting of overseers.

- (1) Every matter by the Municipal Corporations Acts directed, to be done by overseers may be lawfully done by the major part of them.
- (2) Any notice by the Municipal Corporations Acts required to be given to overseers may be delivered to any one of ; them, or left at his place of abode, or at his office for transacting parochial business.

Declarations and Oaths.

239 Power to administer oaths, &c.

- (1) Where by or under this Act a declaration or oath is required to be made or taken by the holder of a corporate office or other person before the council or any members thereof, or any other persons, they shall have authority to receive and administer the same without any commission or authority other than this Act.
- (2) Nothing in this Act in any case shall require or authorise the taking or making of any oath or declaration that would not have been required or authorised under the Promissory Oaths Act, 1868, or otherwise by law, if this Act had not been passed, or interfere with the operation of the Promissory Oaths Act, 1868.

Forms.

240 Forms in schedule.

The forms in the Eighth Schedule or forms to the like effect, varied as circumstances require, may be used, and shall be sufficient in law.

Misnomer or Inaccurate Description.

241 Misnomer or inaccurate description not to hinder.

No misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, body corporate, or place named in any schedule to the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or in any roll, list, notice, or voting paper required by this Act, shall hinder the full operation of this Act with respect to that person, body corporate, or place, provided the description of that person, body corporate, or place be such as to be commonly understood.

Substitution informer Acts.

242 Provision for references in unrepealed enactments to 5 & 6 Will.4 c.76, &c.

- (1) In the several enactments described in Part I. of the Ninth Schedule, a reference to this Act shall be deemed to be substituted for a reference to the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, and any Act amending it.

- (2) In each of the enactments described in Part II of the Ninth Schedule, there shall be substituted for the respective provision of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, in that part mentioned in connexion therewith, such provision of this Act as is also mentioned in connexion therewith.
- (3) Where any Act passed before this Act, and not specified in the First or in the Ninth Schedule, refers to the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or any Act amending it, or to boroughs or corporations subject to that Act or any Act amending it, the reference shall be deemed to be to this Act or to the corresponding provision of this Act, or to boroughs or corporations subject to this Act (as the case may require).
- (4) All enactments to which this section relates shall, except as in this section provided, continue to operate as if this Act had not been passed.

243 Short titles of Acts partly repealed.

Such of the Acts specified in the First Schedule as will remain in force to any extent after the commencement of this Act may continue to be cited by the short titles -in that schedule mentioned.

Returning Officers at Parliamentary Elections.

244 Mayor of certain boroughs to be returning officer in parliamentary elections.

- (1) In boroughs, other than cities and towns being counties of themselves, the mayor shall be the returning officer at parliamentary elections; but this provision shall not extend to the borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed.
- (2) If there are more mayors than one within the boundaries of a parliamentary borough, the mayor of that borough to which the writ of election is directed shall be the returning officer.
- (3) If when a mayor is required to act as returning officer the mayor is absent, or incapable of acting, or there is no mayor, the council shall forthwith choose an alderman to be returning officer.

Disfranchised Parliamentary Boroughs.

245 Electors in disfranchised boroughs.

Where a borough has, in pursuance of the Representation of the People Act, 1867, or of any Act passed in the session of the thirty-first and thirty-second years of the reign of Her Majesty, ceased to return a member to serve in Parliament, and the persons entitled to vote for the member or members formerly returned by the borough were by law electors for any other purpose, the burgesses of the borough shall be electors for that purpose, and shall in all respects, as regards that purpose, be substituted for the persons so entitled to vote.

Licensing.

246 Explanation of terms " town corporate " &c. in Licensing Act.

In the Act of the ninth year of the reign of King George the Fourth, chapter sixty-one, " to regulate the granting of licences to keepers of inns, alehouses, and victualling houses in England," the expressions "town corporate," " county or place," and " division or place," include every borough having a separate commission of the peace, and the expression " high constable " includes any constable of any such borough to whom the justices of the borough direct their precept under that Act.

Freedom of Trading.

247 Right of free trading in boroughs.

Notwithstanding any custom or byelaw, every person in any borough may keep any shop for the sale of all lawful wares and merchandises by wholesale or retail, and use every lawful trade, occupation, mystery, and handicraft for hire, gain, sale, or otherwise within any borough.

Cinque Ports.

248 Special provisions as to certain of the Cinque Ports.

- (1) The boroughs of Hastings, Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, being four of the Cinque Ports, and the borough of Rye, are in this section referred to as the five boroughs.
- (2) The jurisdiction, powers, and authorities of the court of quarter sessions, recorder, coroner, and clerk of the peace for each of the five boroughs shall extend to the non-corporate members and liberties thereof, and to such corporate members thereof as have not a separate court of quarter sessions.
- (3) The jurisdiction, powers, and authorities of the persons constituted justices within and throughout the liberties of the Cinque Ports by virtue of their commission, shall extend to all places being within the limits of the five boroughs or of their members or liberties, corporate or non-corporate, and not being within the limits of a borough having a separate commission of the peace.
- (4) The justices for the five boroughs respectively shall have all the jurisdiction, powers, and authorities of justices for a county relating to the granting of licences or authorities to persons to keep inns, ale-houses, or victualling houses, or to sell exciseable liquors by retail within any of the corporate or non-corporate members or liberties of the five boroughs respectively, not being within the limits of a borough having a separate commission of the peace.
- (5) The non-corporate members and liberties of the five boroughs and such corporate members thereof as have not a separate court of quarter sessions shall be charged by the respective courts of quarter sessions of the five boroughs, with a due proportion of all those expenses of the five boroughs, to the payment whereof rates in the nature of county rates are applicable; and such rates may be assessed and levied in the manner in which rates of that description were assessed and levied before the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, under any enactment then in force, but subject to the operation of any subsequent enactment affecting the same.

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- (6) A due proportion of inhabitant householders to serve as grand jurors and jurors at the respective courts of quarter sessions of the five boroughs shall be summoned by the clerks of the peace thereof from the non-corporate members and liberties thereof, and such corporate members thereof as have not a separate court of quarter sessions; and the attendance of such jurors shall be enforced, and their defaults punished, in the manner by this Act directed with respect to jurors in boroughs.
- (7) Nothing in this section shall affect the Cinque Ports Act, 1869, or the Acts therein recited.

Cambridge.

249 Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge.

- (1) It shall be lawful for the Queen, from time to time, by her commission of the peace for the borough of Cambridge, to constitute the Vice-Chancellor for the time being of the University of Cambridge a justice for that borough.
- (2) He shall not, by reason of being so constituted, have any greater authority as to the grant of licences to alehouses than any other justice named in the commission.
- (3) But nothing in this section shall affect the rights and privileges which the Vice-Chancellor lawfully has or enjoys, or might have lawfully had or enjoyed if he were not so constituted a justice.

Savings.

250 Saving for existing corporations.

- (1) Nothing in this Act shall prejudicially affect any charter granted before the commencement of this Act, or take away, abridge, or prejudicially affect any of the rights, powers, privileges, estates, property, duties, liabilities, or obligations vested in or imposed on any municipal corporation existing at the commencement of this Act, or in or on the mayor, or the council of a borough then existing, or any members or committee of the council, by the incorporation of the inhabitants of the borough, or by transfer from any other authority, or otherwise; but every such charter shall continue to operate, and every such corporation shall continue to have perpetual succession and a common seal, and to be capable in law by the council to do and suffer all acts which at the commencement, of this Act they and their successors respectively may lawfully do or suffer, and the corporation and all members and officers thereof and their sureties, and every such mayor, and every such council and committee, and every such officer, shall continue to have, enjoy, and be subject to the like rights, powers, offices, privileges, estates, property, duties, liabilities, and obligations, as if this Act had not been passed, without prejudice, nevertheless, to the operation of the repeal of enactments by this Act, and to the other express provisions of this Act.
- (2) Nothing in this Act shall alter the boundaries of any borough existing at the commencement of this Act, or the number, apportionment, or qualification of the aldermen or councillors thereof, or the division thereof into wards.
- (3) Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of the council of a borough to collect by their own officers the borough rate and watch rate, or either of them, where, at the

commencement of this Act, they are authorized by law to so collect, and are so collecting, the same.

- (4) Nothing in this Act shall alter the respective jurisdiction of county and borough justices.
- (5) Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of any borough named in Schedule (A.) to the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, to have a separate commission of the peace.

251 Saving for local Acts.

Nothing in this Act shall alter the effect of any local Act of Parliament.

252 Saving for Prison Acts.

Nothing in this Act, except the provision referring to the Ninth Schedule, shall affect the Prison Act, 1865, or the Prison Act, 1877, and nothing in this Act shall affect the Act of the session of the fifth and sixth years of Her Majesty, chapter ninety-eight, " to amend the laws concerning prisons," or revive or restore any enactment which, being contained in that Act, or in the Municipal Corporation (Justices) Act, 1850, or in any other Act, is virtually repealed or superseded by the Prison Act, 1865, or the Prison Act, 1877.

253 Saving for military and naval officers, &c.

Nothing in this Act shall compel the acceptance of any office or duty whatever in any borough by any military, naval, or marine officer in Her Majesty's service on full pay or half pay, or by any officer or other person employed and residing in any of Her Majesty's dockyards, victualling establishments, arsenals, barracks, or other naval or military establishments.

254 Saving for dockyards, barracks, &c.

Nothing in this Act shall affect the watching, paving, or lighting, or the internal regulations for the government, of any of Her Majesty's dockyards, victualling establishments, arsenals, barracks, or other naval or military establishments, or make the tenements therein or the inhabitants thereof liable to any rate for watching, paving, or lighting.

255 Saving as to Admiralty.

Nothing in this Act shall affect the authority of justices vested in the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom, or any authority to appoint coroners to act within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty.

256 Saving for Lord Warden.

Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction and office of the Lord Warden in his office of Admiral of the Cinque Ports.

257 Saving for universities.

Nothing in this Act shall—

- (1) Affect the rights, privileges, duties, or liabilities of the chancellor, masters, and scholars of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge respectively, as by law possessed under the respective charters of those universities or otherwise; or
- (2) Entitle the mayors of Oxford and Cambridge respectively to any precedence over the vice-chancellors of those universities respectively; or
- (3) Entitle any person to be enrolled a citizen of the city of Oxford or burgess of the borough of Cambridge by reason of his occupation of any rooms, chambers, or premises in any college or hall of either of those universities ; or
- (4) Compel any resident member of either of those universities to accept any office in or under the municipal corporation of Oxford or of Cambridge ; or
- (5) Authorize the levy of any rate within the precincts of those universities, or of any of the colleges or halls thereof, which now by law cannot be levied therein, or make either of those universities, or the members thereof, liable to any rate to which they are not liable to contribute at the commencement of this Act; or
- (6) Authorize the transfer of any rights or liabilities by a local authority to the municipal corporation of the borough of Cambridge without the consent of the chancellor, master, and scholars of the University of Cambridge; or
- (7) Affect the rights or privileges granted by charter or Act of Parliament to the University of Durham.

258 Saving for jurisdiction over cathedral precincts.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent any jurisdiction or authority exercised in or over the precinct or close of any cathedral from being continued concurrently with the jurisdiction and authority of the justices of the borough in which the precinct or close is situate.

259 Saving for royal prerogative.

Nothing in this Act shall prejudicially affect Her Majesty's royal prerogative ; and the enabling provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the powers exercisable by Her Majesty by virtue of her royal prerogative.

260 Saving as to repealed enactments.

- (1) The repeal effected by this Act shall not affect—
 - (a) Anything done or suffered before the commencement of this Act under any enactment repealed by this Act; or
 - (b) Any proceeding or thing pending or in course of being done at the commencement of this Act under any enactment repealed by this Act; or
 - (c) Any jurisdiction or practice established, confirmed, or transferred, or right or privilege acquired or confirmed, or duty or liability imposed or incurred, or compensation secured, by or under any enactment repealed by this Act; or

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- (d) Any disability or disqualification existing at the commencement of this Act under any enactment repealed by this Act; or
 - (e) Any fine, forfeiture, punishment, or other consequence incurred or to be incurred in respect of any offence committed before the commencement of this Act against any enactment repealed by this Act; or
 - (f) The institution or the prosecution to its termination of any legal proceeding or other remedy for ascertaining, enforcing, or recovering any such jurisdiction, practice, right, privilege, duty, liability, compensation, disability, disqualification, fine, forfeiture, punishment, or consequence as aforesaid; or
 - (g) The terms on which any money has been borrowed before the commencement of this Act under any enactment repealed by this Act.
- (2) The repeal effected by this Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland, and shall not, as regards the enactments described in Part II. of the 'First Schedule, operate in respect of any place other than a borough to which this Act applies, and shall not revive or restore any statute, law, usage, custom, royal or other charter, grant, letters patent, byelaw, jurisdiction, office, right, title, claim, privilege liability, disqualification, exemption, restriction, practice, procedure, or other matter or thing abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or not in force or existing at the commencement of this Act, or otherwise affect the past operation of any enactment repealed by this Act.
- (3) All elections, declarations, appointments, byelaws, rates, tables of fees, and regulations made, or pending, or in the course of being made, and all other things done, or pending, or in the course of being done, under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, or any other enactment repealed by this Act, before or at the commencement of this Act, shall for the purposes of this Act be of the like effect as if they had been made or done, or were pending, or in the course of being made or done under this Act, and shall, as far as may be requisite for the continuance, validity, and effect thereof, be deemed to have been made or done, or may be carried on and be made or done, as the case may require, under this Act.