

Somerset Assize Orders, 1640-1659

Valentine Powell, one of the coroners of the foresaid county, haveinge ympannalled a jury to inquire how hee came by his death, refused to take their verdict unles they would find that hee voluntarily and feloniously murdered himselfe, whereby his goods are claymed and his wife and children undone, and likewise altered their verdict after hee had received it, together with severall other misdemeanours conteyned in the said petition hereunto annexed. This court doth therefore desire Richard Jones [sic], one of the justices of the peace of this county, to send for the said Agnes Weekes, Valentine Powell, and all such as cann testifie anythinge concerninge the complaynte charged in the said petition by the said Agnes Weekes against the said Mr. Powell and certifie the same att the next assizes and generall gaole delivery to be holden for this county.

Valentine Powell was an attorney: see no. 89 above and p. xx.

Assizes, Summer 1659, before Richard Newdigate, Justice of the Upper Bench.

151. [f. 71v] Whereas it appeareth to this court by the humble petition of the inhabitants of Compton Dando in this county that there is a bridge lyinge in the parish of Compton Dando aforesaid called Turn bridge uppon a common highway leadinge to and from the city of Bristol which is in great decay for want of reparacons, and that att the assizes held att Chard in and for the said county in the yeere of the Lord 1655 it was referred to the fower next justices of the peace to the said bridge to viewe the same and inquire who ought to repaire it, who accordingly did but could not find that the said bridge ought to bee repayred by any particuler person or parish but by the whole county, and whereas att the makeinge of this order noe thinge could bee made appeare to the court to the contrary but that the said bridge ought to bee repayred by the county. This court doth therefor order and desire six of the justices of the peace of this county liveinge neerest to the said bridge, or any fower of them whereof one of them to bee of the quorum, to meete together with all convenient speede and viewe the decayes of the said bridge and take such speedy course for the repayre thereof by the inhabitants of the whole county as the statute in that case made and provided requireth.

The heading to the orders from this assizes is missing. Since, however, the winter assizes on all circuits were put off (see p. xxvi) these orders were presumably made at the summer assizes 1659.

See nos. 98, 136 above.

152. Whereas this court is informed that Richard Browne, keeper of the common gaole of this county, hath suffred one Edward Hulett, who was comitted to his chardge and indicted for the felonious killinge of one Robert Page, to escape. This court doth therefor desire John Barker, esq., one of the justices of the peace of this county, to examine all such wittnesses as cann testify anythinge concerninge the escape of the said Edward Hewlett and to binde such wittnesses over as hee shall thinke fitt to the next assizes to be holden for this county, there to prosecute the same.

See no. 137 above.