

The governors of the workhouse were the elected Board of Guardians who met weekly at the old Coach and Horses public house in Lyminge. These were mostly the county magistrates and country gentlemen from parishes comprising the Union which were;

Acrise	Newington
Cheriton	Paddlesworth
Elham	Postling
Elmstead	Saltwood
Folkestone	Sellinge
Hawkinge	Standford
Hythe	Stelling
Lyminge	Stowting
Lympne	Swingfield
Monks Horton	Sandgate

In 1841 a building was erected for the reception of vagrants. They were few in numbers at first and could be put to picking Oakum or breaking stone. The clerk faithfully compiled the minute book and letter book. Occasionally an item of human interest appears. Mr Tyson (the medical man) examined Sophia Clapstone who was pregnant. The Master, Mr Chubb tendered his resignation as it appeared his son was the father. He was persuaded to stay on and 6 months later " Sophia Clapstone had a child, deceased. To funeral expenses 14/3d ".

But times changed and in the twentieth century "the poor" ceased to be regarded as a race apart from the rest of society. The children were freed from their uniform of corduroy and pearl buttons and the old ladies from their black coal scuttle bonnets. The children were housed in cottage homes and went to ordinary schools. Old age pensions meant that only the infirm need enter the workhouse to end their days. Finally in 1930 all duties formally appertaining to the workhouse authorities were transferred to the County Councils. The old workhouse building is no longer the bleak building it used to be and now forms the basis of St Marys Hospital, a pleasant home for the elderly.