

Navenby Fire Engine House

On the 6th June 1844 at the Parish meeting, discussions took place on the building of an engine house and also the removal of the market cross. Some suggested using the materials from the cross to help build the engine house, or other purposes the meeting may approve of.

The engine house appears in the picture (~1972 © Neville Chapman) to be built of brick, so it is unlikely that anything from the market cross was used in its construction. It was agreed at the meeting that the Parish pay for half the expenses and committee of the Fire Engine subscribe for the other half.



On 18th June 1844 the Parish meeting discussed the site of the engine house and it was agreed to be built on the West end of Frank King's garden, with access from Stone Pit Lane (Which became Blacksmith Lane and now East Road) close to the Smithy.



In 1884 it was manned by 12 members of the village led by Edward Addison of Manor Farm though by 1937, their numbers had fallen to just 5.

Initially they had one horse-drawn manual pump engine which was used until 1943 when it was replaced by a lightweight powered trailer pump. (The national fire service formed at this time and this was part of the upgrade.) Two members of the brigade had draw bars attached to their own cars to enable them to tow the pump.

In the Spring of 1924 Dr. Campbell kindly supplied the village with a wheeled bier for the use of the parishioners. The local undertakers were tasked with any maintenance. This was kept in the fire engine house along with the gravedigger's tools.

The engine House was demolished in the mid 1970's and the site made into a hardstanding for the mobile library. The hardstanding still remains but the mobile library no longer frequents the village. A small library is now located at The Venue.

Sources:
Parish Minutes,
Lincolnshire Archives.
National census returns,
"Hat pegs of History" – Maurice Addison.