

The forty-seven petitioners prayed as follows:—

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF  
NEW ZEALAND

“In the matter of the Town District Act 1881 and all other Acts affecting the same.

“THE PETITION of the undersigned householders resident within the District in the petition more particularly described SHEWETH that at a meeting held at Sumner in the Heathcote Road Board District in the Provincial District of Canterbury in the Colony of New Zealand on the eleventh day of January one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

“IT WAS RESOLVED that the area or District herein described should be formed into a Town District under and by virtue of the above Act and which said area or District will be fully identified by the description following (that is to say)—commencing at the south eastern corner of the Rural Section No. 744 thence north westerly along the south west boundary of said section to the south western corner thereof thence north easterly following the western boundaries of said Section 744 and 144 to the south east corner of Section 20722 thence north westerly following the south west boundaries of Sections 20722, 152 and 20723 to the south western corner of Section 20723 thence north easterly along the north west boundary of same section to its point of intersection with the south boundary of Section 418 thence westerly following said south boundary of section 418 to the south-west corner thereof thence south westerly along the south east boundary of Section 158 to the south east corner thereof thence westerly and along the south west boundary of said Section 158 to the south west corner thereof thence north easterly along its north western boundary to a point thereon intersected by the south west of Section 410, thence north westerly along the said south west boundary of Section 410 to its south west corner thence south westerly along the south eastern boundary of Section 261 to the south eastern corner of that section thence north westerly along the south west boundary of Section 261 to the south western corner thereof thence north easterly to the south eastern corner of section 262 thence north westerly along the south west boundary of Section 262 to the south western corner thereof thence northerly southerly and easterly following the road forming the northern boundary of Section 309, 158, 418, and No. 2 and along the road or foreshore bounding said Section No. 2 on the north and north-east to its junction with the base of the hills thence southerly following the road forming the easternmost boundary of said Sections 2 and 144 to the north boundary of said Section 144 thence along that boundary to the north east corner of Section 204 thence south westerly along the south east boundary of Section 204 to its junction with the Lyttelton and Sumner Road and thence following that road to the commencing point as the same is shown coloured green on the plan hereunto annexed and marked “A.”

“YOUR PETITIONERS therefore pray:

- “(1) That the area or District herein defined may be formed into a Town District by virtue of the Town Districts Act 1881 and all other Acts effecting the same.
- “(2) That the name or Title of the said District shall be **The Sumner Town District** and that of the Board the **Sumner Town Board**.
- “(3) That your Excellency will declare five as the number of Commissioners to constitute the proposed Town Board.
- “(4) That the first election for the said Town Board shall be fixed for as early a date as possible and that such election shall take place at the Sumner schoolroom within the said District.
- “(5) That the first meeting of the proposed Town Board may be fixed to take place as soon after the first election as circumstances will permit and that such Board hold their first meeting in the said schoolroom and at the hour of 7.30 p.m.
- “(6) That your Excellency will be pleased to appoint **George Leslie Lee** of Avonside, near Christchurch, Esquire, to be Returning Officer under the said Act and to carry out the preliminary provisions of the said Act. (Mr Lee was appointed Returning Officer on 15th February, 1883).

“AND YOUR PETITIONERS will ever pray.”

On the 30th January, 1883, the petition was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary through H. Wynn-Williams, the member for the District, and on the 15th of February of that year, vide Gazette 1883, page 200, Sumner was constituted a Town District.

At the first election any householder in the district was qualified to act as a Commissioner, but in respect of subsequent elections Section 16 of the Town Board's Act 1881 provided that “No person shall be qualified to be elected a Commissioner unless he shall be rated for the purposes of this Act at an annual rental of ten pounds at least.”

Section 17 dealt with the qualification of an elector and Section 18 contained the following interesting provisions:—“Every elector shall be entitled to vote at every election of Commissioners according to the following scale that is to say: (a) If his rateable property whether in one or more tenements is valued on the Valuation Roll at less than fifty pounds he shall have one vote. (b) If such property is so valued at not less than fifty, but less than one hundred pounds he shall have two votes. (c) If such property is valued at not less than one hundred but less than one hundred and fifty pounds he shall have three votes. (d) If such property is valued at not less than one hundred and fifty pounds but less than three hundred and fifty pounds he shall have four votes. (e) If such property is valued at three hundred and fifty pounds and upwards he shall have five votes.”

The first meeting of the newly elected Board was held on Tuesday the 20th day of March, 1883, in the Sumner school room at 7.30 p.m. Present at the meeting were: Commissioner Wiggins, Wheeler, Graham, Duckworth, and Hayward.