

Act One Scene Seven - The Parish Hall - A Week Later - The Weekly Meeting

<Lights up>
<Music down>

(We find Geraldine, David, Frank, Mrs Cropley and Jim in their usual places.)

DAVID (Very relaxed and amenable.) Right. Well, I'll give them another minute or two.

HUGO (Bounds in.) Sorry I'm late, mes enfants. (He drops several pounds in the box.)

(To Geraldine) Ann Robinson was on the telly.

GERALDINE Ann Robinson?

DAVID Are yes, how's your little collection going, Vicar? had to put many pounds in yourself?

GERALDINE None at all, David, thank you very much for asking. Hoping to collect a few tonight though. Jim, I expect you'll be contributing a few quid won't you?

JIM (Very definitely.) Nope.

GERALDINE Nope? as in 'Nope nope, nope, nope, nope, yes'?

JIM On the contrary. Nope as in 'nope'.

GERALDINE (Amazed.) Right. Funky.

(Owen enters.)

OWEN Sorry I'm late. All my cows escaped.

GERALDINE (Encouraging him to swear) Bloody cows. They're a bloody, bloody nuisance aren't they?

OWEN They can be a bit of a bore, yes.

DAVID Right, we'll start. I declare this meeting of the Parish Council open.

(David notices that Frank has his arms folded and is not writing.)

Frank - are you getting this down?

FRANK Don't worry - I'll just knock something off at the end. No one reads the minutes anyway.

(Everyone is taken aback.)

DAVID Item one ...

MRS CROPLEY Ooh, Mr Chairman, if I could just butt in here.

DAVID Of course, Letitia you butt in to your heart's content, my little beauty.

(He beams at her and smiles smugly at Geraldine.)

MRS CROPLEY Thank you. Now then, I just wondered if anyone would care to try my home-made orange juice.

(She produces glasses of orange juice on a tray.)

GERALDINE (Clapping as she can see a fine on the way.) Aha ha ha! And what's in it, Mrs C?

MRS CROPLEY Orange juice.

GERALDINE Yes, but anything else? No yeast, no balsamic vinegar, no urine?

MRS CROPLEY No.

(Geraldine is very disappointed.)

DAVID Right, let's begin. Item one. The new video club. How's it coming on, Vicar?

GERALDINE Yes, well, I've had some thoughts about the kind of film...

(She stops as David unwraps a large chocolate bar.)

DAVID Don't mind me. Didn't have any supper. (He takes a big bite.) Mmmmm.

GERALDINE (Completely distracted.) Yes. Yes, as I was saying...

DAVID Sorry, forgetting my manners. Anybody else like a bar?

(He produces a huge bag full of chocolate bars and hands them out to all, except Geraldine. She can't take her eyes off the chocolate bar Owen starts to eat.)

GERALDINE Yeah, um. Right, as I was saying ... Sorry, I'm feeling a bit faint actually. Owen, I think you had something to say, didn't you?

OWEN Yes, well now, a few of us have been thinking about how we might kick off the video club...

GERALDINE Oh that's it, that's it. Since we're a country parish, I thought we might like to start with an animal film - maybe *Black Beauty*, something like that.

FRANK We chose an animal film, too.

JIM *The Silence of the Lambs*

OWEN In a double-bill with *Reservoir Dogs*.

GERALDINE Right, maybe we could follow that with a romance? (she looks at Hugo pointedly.)

HUGO (Hugo fidgets then puts another pound in the box.)

FRANK Our thinking again.

GERALDINE Good. *Sleepless in Seattle*?

FRANK *Last Tango in Paris*.

GERALDINE Right. And I thought we could have something with a religious bent - you know, *Jesus Christ Superstar* or *Godspell*.

MRS CROPLEY *The Exorcist*.

GERALDINE David, I'm afraid I'm going to have to have that Mars Bar.

(She reaches over to grab it from him.)

DAVID Ah, ah, ah. Vicar. Oh, and I've got a small box of chocolates here to share round to celebrate my half birthday. (It is a very large box of chocolates)

(He produces a huge box of chocolates and everyone helps themselves.)

OWEN Lovely one, Mr Horton. Thank you very much.

(Geraldine is not amused.)

<Black out>
<Music up>