

PLAYING FIELD

20/07/1964 'provision of Playing Field Thornhill- a letter was read from a resident . It was agreed the Clerk to contact Mr Bessy for advice and arrange a meeting with a representative from the Playing field Association, the Parish Council and a delegation from the residents of Thornhill.'

21/09/1964 'It was agreed to ask the Thornhill School Managers to give their support to an application to the County Education Committee for usage of the playing field which the County Council have plans for.'

19/10/1964 'the Clerk reported that the Thornhill School Managers had supported the Parish Council in their request that the playing field formerly intended for the use of the School only be open to outside of School hours for the use of the children of Thornhill.'

23/11/1964 'that the Clerk enquire if the County Council have acquired the site to the south of Thornhill or if it has been included in the estimates for 1965-1966. That the Clerk contact the Rural Council for their observations. That the Clerk try to arrange a meeting with the parents committee in order that they may be informed of the position to date.'

15/02/1965 'Clerk had been informed by the Director of Education that the land for the playing field had been acquired.'

24/05/1965 ' The County Education Committee informed the Clerk that children would be allowed to use the school playing field outside of school hours for a trial period of one year.'

22/05/1967 'A letter from Mr Bessy was read, he explained that the County Council is experiencing difficulty in obtaining access to the field and requested the help of the Parish Council in the matter. It was agreed that the Council would contact the tenant .'

19/06/1967 'Mr Sarginson reported that with Mr Wilson had reached agreement with Mr Smith. The amount of land agreed upon was less than that requested by the County Council representative. It was agreed to thank Mr Bessy for his letter but to request him to arrange with the County Architect to allow Mr Sarginson to be present when the county representative views the proposed entrance again.'

25/09/1967 'Reported that the County Architect department had not contacted him, but the Southern Area Education Department had considered a fresh way of access round the bungalows now being built for Mr Ban. The cost of such a scheme seems to have halted negotiations.'

13/11/1967 ' Mr Sarginson reported that a little progress had been made and the access was now to be between the bungalow and the garden of Mr Smiths tenancy.'

20/05/1968 'It was reported that Mr Lace had resigned from the School Managers as a protest at the lack of progress by the County Council. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Bessy informing him of the Parish Councils concern at the lack of progress, in spite of the fact that the County Council had

required the Parish Council to negotiate with a tenant to agree access over his garden.'

17/06/1968 'Mr Bessy informed the Council that the land for access would be purchased in six weeks from the 29th May.'

24/03/1969 'Dissatisfaction was expressed at the continued lack of playing field facilities at Thornhill, particularly for unsupervised play, It was suggested that the parents on the estate should try to set up a committee to investigate the possibility of acquiring a play area for older children (i.e. in addition to the area with swings installed for the younger children).'

19/05/1969 'there was more discussion about the new Thornhill playing field. it was proposed that the Parish Council undertake responsibility for the new playing field for use after school hours for a trial period of one year when it becomes available. This resolution was passed. The field is not adjacent to the School building and Mr Wilson felt that little damage seems possible. No further action to be taken until the field becomes available for use.'

21/07/1969 'It was reported that work has started on the new playing field. Complaints had been received about cattle straying on to the estate as the temporary fence is inadequate. The County Architect to be informed.'

20/10/1969 'Mr Bessy to be asked the terms on which this field may be made available for general use by the children of Thornhill after school hours.'

15/12/1969 'Letter from Mr Bessy indicating willingness to allow regulated use of playing field out of school hours ,by Thornhill school children junior and secondary age i.e. not adults if some supervision can be arranged to prevent misuse.'

19/01/1970 'Mr Scott attended and conditions for usage of the playing field were discussed. He and Mr Wills are willing to try to form a football club for Thornhill boys and to undertake supervision of usage of the ground he was invited to attend the next meeting to report progress.'

16/03/1970 'Mr Bolton, the Area representative for Cumberland Education Authority gave a talk on the usage of the new School playing field and answered questions from the audience (53 people) the possibility of acquiring an additional unrestricted play area is to be investigated.'

22/05/1970 'the Playing Field Association state that their original grant of £70 has been reduced to £55 and the balance cancelled as expenditure certified to date was below the original estimated total.'

'It was agreed that members of the Council should join a working party to discuss the use of the field, with members of the County Council and the Education Authority. The Clerk was instructed to forward the application form B/11(A) asking for permission for school children resident on Thornhill to use the field out of school ours from the 1st of June to the 31st August 1970.

20/07/1970 'Mr Turner and Mr Boag were appointed representatives on a working party to study the question of use of the field.

21/09/1970 'Thornhill School Playing field is to be open to use as a community playing space out of school hours for a trial period of 6 months from 08/09/1970 Clerk instructed to thank Mr Bessy for the use of the ground.'

15/02/1971 'Thornhill playing field can continue to be used until further notice from the Education Authority.'

19/04/1971 'from Mr Bessy - the children can continue to use the school field and a set of goal posts may be erected in a different position to allow recovery of the goal mouths during the summer.'

21/06/1971 'preliminary discussion on the feasibility of the Parish Council acquiring additional land adjacent to present School Playing Field.'

26/07/1971 'possibility of extending field discussed, enquiries to be made re planning in the vicinity.'

20/09/1971 'County Planning say no planning impediments to existing field except in an easterly direction.'

17/01/1972 'Map received from ERDC showing land under consideration for old peoples bungalows in vicinity of playing field.'

18/09/1972 'ERDC have plans prepared for 10 bungalows leaving a portion of land 75' wide around the existing field.'

16/10/1972 'Cumberland Education Committee to be asked if they will recommend that this piece of land be let to the Parish Council for use as playing area and if so on what terms.'

22/01/1973 'proposals from Education Committee discussed at length. Sub committee formed to consider financial aspects.'

09/04/1973 'long discussion and report of meeting with ERDC and Education Dept. resolved to ask District Valuer to negotiate on Parish Councils behalf for the 2.56 acres adjoining the present field and to inform the council of the price. Present estimated cost is £2000, ERDC will give a grant of £850, Education Dept will pay the ten per cent of the cost of the land and development charges such as drainage and fencing, and of the future maintenance in return for occasional usage - the land to be for community use.'

12/11/1973 'cost of land for possible extension to playing field given as £10,800. County Council and ERDC to be told this price is prohibitive for this Council'

20/05/1974 'Acquisition of additional land at Thornhill for extension of playing field to be abandoned because of increase of cost from estimated £1500 to £10,000 approximately'

15/07/1974 'Copeland to be asked if sewer has been re-routed'

14/10/1974 'Clerk to order seat 'Glenlock' teak 6ft plus irons to be delivered to Mr Oldfield for erection at Thornhill school playing field. Enquire if Community Industries can concrete the seat into place'

10/02/1975 'Vehicular gate is damaged, Education Committee accept responsibility for repair'

21/04/1975 'Seat at playing field has been installed and is now damaged. Resolved to remove it temporarily with a view to repairing and resetting it.'

12/09/1977 'Mr Oldfield attended annual meeting Playing Fields Association. Concerned that meeting dominated by big sports clubs. Thought purpose was to provide playing fields where none existed. No definite answer given to his query, suggested that all Parish Councils be given chance to attend next meeting instead of subscribers only, this was agreed, recommends continuing our subscription.'

15/05/1978 'Youths playing on school field have asked if no dog notices can be put up, Mr Lace advised that the School Managers have repeatedly asked the Education Committee to do this.'

19/11/1979 'Mr Oldfield and Mr Wilson spoke to Mr Threlfell about land between playing field and OAP Bungalows, His solicitor thinks County Council have plans for this land, Clerk to ask Education Dept.'

18/02/1980 'It had been heard unofficially that there was a chance of a piece of land belonging to Mr Clark on Thorntrees Drive which was not going to be built on. Planning Dept had specified some open space/play area on the estate and it was felt Mr Clark might agree to PC developing this for recreational purposes. Matter to be discussed informally.'

17/03/1980 'BNFL Recreational Grant. Mrs Allen had seen Mr Clark and he seemed in favour of liasing with PC on open space development. Clerk to write to him and suggest a meeting with Thornhill Sub-committee, also to advise Copeland of plans for bowling green.'

21/04/1980 'checked with Copeland Planning on space left on Thorntrees estate for recreation space, small toddlers play area shown also spare piece of land approximately 100 x 50 m which is unsuitable for building at present. Mr Howgill said it might cost £10,000 to make a bowling green It was decided a sub committee should approach Mr Clark to see what plans he has for spare land and whether he would sell at a reasonable rate.'

21/07/1980 'Mr Clark was prepared to sell the land at agricultural rate. Site approximately 1 ¼ Acres It was agreed to start negotiations for purchase of land if he was willing to sell at reasonable price. Members were not keen if it was going to be expensive.'

15/09/1980 'No price has been set on the land, Clerk to ask Copeland for approximate agricultural value.'

20/10/1980 'District Valuer at Ulverston s willing to give an estimate on seeing the plans, now posted. (Two local opinions give agricultural value approx.£1500 per acre)'

17/11/1980 'District valuer gave value of £12-1400 per acre. It was agreed we should now approach our solicitor for advice on how to proceed.

15/12/1980 'Report on meeting with Mr Gough solicitor who suggested a letter be sent to Mr Clark making an offer subject to contract and asking if he wished to negotiate. However since Mr Threlfell has right of way involved it was decided personal contact might be better. Clerk to find out whether toddlers play area was condition of planning consent. It was agreed an offer of £1500 be made to start with.'

19/01/1981 'Mr Clark has now decided that he no longer wants to sell the land.

16/02/1981 'No reply from Copeland about transferring BNFL Grant to other scheme or amenity fund.

16/03/1981 'BNFL Grant still waiting replies from Lowside Quarter and Copeland. Egremont Town Council want to wait for further information. Agreed to open special deposit account at bank ,waiting reply from Copeland about transfer of grant.'

13/04/1981 'cheque for £1000 received from Copeland as BNFL Grant.'

17/01/1983 'Mr Wilson brought up the subject of making bowling lanes on the disused railway line again. It was pointed out that as far as we know BR have not yet agreed to sell and in any case we do not have enough money to buy the land and develop it like that. Mr Oldfield suggested that a better site for bowling lanes would be between the playing field and the OAP Bungalows where Copeland had proposed a garage site. There was also the Thorntrees site which was dormant at the moment because the estate had not been completed. It was generally agreed that a meeting with officials of Copeland to discuss this matter would be beneficial. Clerk to write to Mr Todd asking him to convene a meeting with the chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, members of the Planning dept and Parish Council members.'

20/06/1983 'meeting with Copeland Officials on 13th June. Extension to School Playing field was discussed and a meeting with the County Council arranged. Mr Wilson and Mr Oldfield had been to see Mr Threlfell to ask about the possibility of buying or renting some more of his land but he said it was being used by his daughter for grazing and he was not keen to part with any of it. BNFL had three fields just south of the Old Vicarage which were to let but when enquiries were made they had decided to sell the land in one lot. It was agreed that this was worth pursuing if land could not be found at Thornhill and there was a possibility that St Bridgets might join in. Mr Wilson agreed to work out the amount of land required for an extra football pitch and see Mr Threlfell's daughter to ask if she would let part of her land, also to see BNFL to ask if one field could be rented on a temporary basis.'

18/07/1983 'School managers had agreed to let the football club use the School Playing Field for this next season and would see how the field stood up to the extra use. Mr Wilson had had discussions on the management and maintenance of a possible extension to the field, should the PC be able to purchase more land. The District Valuer had agreed to negotiate on our behalf and it was agreed the Clerk should write to him and ask him to approach Mr Threlfell to try to start negotiations for the purchase of a piece of his land adjacent to the playing field.'

21/11/1983 'Grant application forms received from County Council and Sports Council -Mr Wilson and Mr Turnbull to start filling them in. Copeland advise possibility of either grant or loan. If compulsory purchase was necessary they would have to do it on our behalf. Clerk to write to District Valuer asking for progress report and estimated value of land (needed on grant forms.)

19/12/1983 'Recreational Space. Reply from District Valuer advising estimated value of £6-7000 but he had not yet received a reply from Mr Threlfell. Mr

Wilson and Mr Turnbull had been filling in some of the grant application forms for the Sports Council but were still gathering the rest of the information needed. It was agreed that Mr Turnbull should carry on with this and if agreement of sale is received from Mr Threlfell the application could be sent in with out further delay.

16/01/1984 ‘ District Valuer advised that Mr Threlfell’s agents had suggested a price at over twice as high as his figure which was out of the question as far as he was concerned but he would continue the negotiations. Grant application form almost completed figure of £9000 quoted for drainage. Copeland advise we should tell District Valuer of this additional cost.’

20/02/1984 ‘Nothing further from District Valuer, suggested that we ask Mr Threlfell if we could rent the field possibly for say 10 years with an option to buy at the end of it. members agreed with this suggestion, clerk to write to District Valuer asking his advise on 1/straight renting of the land with no options 2/renting with an option to but 3/ possible rent for that type of land. If he agrees with either 1 or 2 clerk to ask him to negotiate with Mr Threlfell’s agents.

19/03/1984 ‘District Valuer had not heard from Mr Threlfell’s agent but he thought it likely that “if they could not achieve a significantly higher price than agricultural value of the land” then they would not sell. He also commented that the problem of drainage costs would complicate the idea of renting the land. Clerk to explain that the land could be used without drainage Copeland suggested that this might be necessary and should therefore be included in any grant applications.’

16/04/1984 ‘ Mr Threlfell has now agreed to sell the land for £8000, there was a long discussion on the possible costs of fencing, drainage etc management and maintenance of the field , grant applications and other means of finance. A resolution “ to purchase the land with whatever means appropriate” was agreed unanimously. Clerk to forward grant applications to appropriate bodies also to ask CALC for a loan application (in case grants are not forthcoming or delayed and we need to borrow some money to purchase the land) details to be forwarded to Goughs (solicitors) asking them to handle the legal side for us. It was suggested that the various sports clubs on Thornhill should meet with the Parish council to discuss plans for the land. Clerk to invite them to attend the Parish Meeting on 30th April.’

21/05/1984 ‘clerk had asked Goughs solicitors to handle the legal side of the purchase for us and they now wanted two members to be nominated to sign the conveyance. Mr Oldfield proposed that the Chairman and Vice-chairman be nominated. This was agreed unanimously. Grants and loans had been applied for from the Sports Council, County council and Copeland but they had all replied advising that it would be at least Sept./Oct. before they could make a decision on this, CALC had been approached for an authority to borrow money and this had been given verbally to Mr Gray (written permission to follow later) It was proposed to go ahead with the purchase of the land by borrowing £8000 at the best terms available and to pursue applications for grant aid - this was agreed

unanimously. Mr Turnbull, Mr Wilson and Mr Gray to provide further details need on grant forms and investigate possibility of a bank loan.'

19/06/1984 'Planning permission for change of use had been applied for, letter sent to Copeland telling them that we don't have sufficient money to purchase the land and will not be able to get a grant until the autumn asking if a grant from Copeland would be prejudiced if we had a bank loan to cover our immediate needs. Letter sent to Sports Council asking permission to purchase the land before they consider our grant application. Letter sent to county Council asking them to forward copy of deeds to existing Playing Field to Mr Goughs.

Borrowing approval for £8000 received from the Dept. of Environment. It was then proposed and agreed to get a bank loan of £5000 using £3000 from the Amenity fund to make up the purchase price. Balance of the Amenity fund would be used to make the first years payment on the loan and to cover the immediate costs i.e. fencing etc. The loan would be from Nat West Bank at 11 ½ % over 10 years (repayments = £111.92 per month) with 75p per £100 cancellation fee should we obtain a grant later. The Chairman and Vice-chairman would sign to secure the loan and Goughs would be asked to negotiate it for us.'

16/07/1984 'Agreement to proceed with purchase had been received from the Sports Council but this did not guarantee their support. Mr Wilson had spoken to Goughs who were still waiting for copies of deeds from the county Council and they suggested we obtain loan for ourselves. He had then spoken to the Nat West Bank again who offered a structured loan - 7½% over 10 years (72.92 per month repayment) with 1% arrangement charge at commencement but there did not seem to be any provision for repaying the loan before the end of 10 years should we get a grant. Members were not happy about this. It was then agreed that a small finance sub committee of Mr Wilson, Mr Hind and Mr Williams should negotiate a loan of £5000 on the best possible terms with provision for possible repayment of part of the capital if a grant were to be obtained..'

17/09/1984 ' Loan of £5000 now agreed with the Bank (7½% over 10 years) Contract signed on our side, just waiting for clearance on responsibility for fence between field and Mr Boston, but solicitor says contract should be exchanged in a couple of days. Sports Council had asked for details of drainage scheme, now decided not to drain and have asked them to delete £9000 cost from application. We asked them to include £500 for a concrete cricket strip but they don't agree with this type of wicket so that will be deleted as well. Mr Wilson had meeting with a colleague from County Council also spoke to a Mr Berry about maintenance. This will cost us £11 per hour for mowing. Sports Council will discuss our application on 16th October so it was agreed to get realistic quotes for fencing and pass to them together with the rest of the information required.'

15/10/1984 'Mr Wilson and Mr Hind had signed for the loan of £5000 from Nat West Bank, bank had requested written approval of this from PC so letter to be sent. Clerk to discuss arrangements for repayment with the bank and it was suggested that a separate account should be opened to deal with expenses for the playing field. It was agreed that the financial committee arrange repayments in

the best financial interests of the PC. Mr Gray asked that CALC be informed that we had only used £5000 out of the £8000 on our borrowing approval. Clerk to write to Copeland asking if our grant application can be included in next years budget. Amended figures had been sent to Sports council £8700 for purchase and fencing £1400 for cricket strip and mat and £3300 for hard surfaces, log wall and floodlight. Mr Wilson had been told we might possibly get 30% of grant on first two items (approx. £3000) He would write to the Lord Taverners asking for advice and possibility of a grant on the cricket strip. Clerk to write to Thornhill School governors (on the advice of Mr Berry of county Council) explaining that we are buying adjoining land and asking their agreement to combine the two sports fields. Contract was now signed and ready to return to Goughs together with a cheque for £8000.'

'PURCHASE OF LAND COMPLETED ON 5TH NOVEMBER 1984

19/11/1984 'Sports council had recommended grant of £5000 and loan of £2000 to be confirmed, however School Managers received letter from Education Committee advising that approx. 1 acre of the school field should be sold off - that would leave a strip of "no mans land" between theirs and our and we would not be able to put in a cricket square. Mr Wilson had explained position to Sports council who said this may mean a reduced grant. Clerk to write to Education Dept complaining about proposed sale. Letter received from County Council advising that our grant application had been deferred until February. Letter received from Kells Community Workshop offering their services in any development on the field. School Managers had agreed in principle to the removal of the fence between the two fields. Clerk to write to Nelsons (Cockermouth) asking them to erect the boundary fence on our piece of land in accordance with the estimate they had submitted for £448.50.'

17/12/1984 ' Sports Council said that any loan would not be interest free however there was a possibility we would get grant of £5000 and no loan. This still to be confirmed. Chairman proposed that a sub-committee be set up to deal with playing field matters agreed that this be done (Mr Wilson Mr turnbull and Mr Gray) Land was now fenced. Education committee meet on 19/12 but Dr Burgess thought it unlikely that any land would be put up for sale.

21/01/1985 'Letter received from Cumbria Playing field Association advising no grant from them and Sports Council replied confirming their recommendation for £5000 grant and no loan, they are still waiting details of cricket pitch proposal. Sub-committee to deal with this. No official word from Education committee re sale of school land, but it is believed that no sale will take place. OAP's living in the bungalows concerned about floodlights being erected. Sub-committee to see them with proposals.'

18/02/1985 Community Projects had produced an estimate for a laying a turf wicket (£1789) copy sent to Sports council. Fence between the two fields taken down.'

18/03/1985 Sports Council had asked for details on cricket pitch and Community projects now sorted it out. Recommendation now sent to Main Sports Council in

London and hopefully some money will be forthcoming soon. A complaint had been received from a resident about balls repeatedly being kicked into the garden sometimes breaking glass in the green house. they had asked if a high net could be provided behind the goal posts to prevent this happening. It was agreed that if such a net were placed there it would probably be used as a climbing frame and would not last very long. The best solution would be to move the goal posts down the field away from that end of the field. Mr Wilson had spoken to the deputy head of the school who agreed that this would be alright as the pitch was too long for juniors anyway. Matter to be taken to the School Managers for a decision and to write to resident explaining the situation.'

15/04/1985 ' Nothing heard from Sports Council, had heard that a grant of £900 to come from Copeland but nothing official yet. Suggested that we ask MSC tree planting scheme to plant some trees along the line of new fencing. Clerk to ask if this is possible and if so to organise site meeting to discuss. School Managers had agreed to moving one set of goal posts away from the boundary fence. Mr Banks had been offered a building from Sellafield which might do as a changing room for the playing field. It was rather large but there was a possibility of taking only part of it. School Managers had agreed in principle to it being placed on the school part of the field and matter had been forwarded to the Education Committee for approval. However it was not certain this would be the right place for it either way it would need proper foundations and services laying on. Mr Turnbull also said it would need a lot of work to put it right for our purposes. Planning permission would be required. Although there were a lot of points against having it it was an opportunity not to be turned down with out a lot of thought as a changing room would be extremely expensive. Here we were being offered one merely for the cost of foundations, services and some renovation. It was agreed that the BNFL members would inspect this building on site and Mr Wilson would discuss possible siting and provision of services with Copeland building inspectors.'

13/05/1985 'Offer of £5000 grant now confirmed by Sports Council, London subject to completion of various forms which Mr Turnbull agreed to undertake. CC Ground staff had been asked to cut the grass on our land which was agreed but asked that posts be put in to mark boundary of school field. This would cause difficulties when cricket pitch was made so it was agreed to one marker on each dyke. Landscaping unit at Cleator Moor had agreed to plant trees round the perimeter Mr Wilson to arrange site meeting to discuss. Mr Turnbull had visited the Afternoon club to tell the OAP's what was planned for the Playing field. They said they would like to see a bowling lane and perhaps tennis facilities. They also mentioned about the many dogs fouling the field and asked if anything could be done about it. Clerk to ask Copeland if a bylaw can be made covering the field.'

17/06/1985 'Cheque for £4500 received from sports Council. Mr Wilson and Mr Turnbull to complete MSC application form so that a start can be made on the cricket pitch. Grass now cut except for area round rolls of old fencing. Clerk to ask Mr Caddy if he can remove this. Mr Turnbull had drawn scale plan of school

field to be kept on record. Mr Wilson had written to Education Dept Carlisle outlining plans for field. In reply to our request to have the dyke repaired Education Dept had replied they would do it when funds allowed but would not put in another access point near Harpur Place as this would cost approx. £650. Members thought this price ridiculous. Clerk to ask permission to get someone local to do it. Portable building. Mr Banks explained this was a youth club project and not really to do with the PC. The Youth club would make the change rooms available to local sports clubs. They had permission from Education Dept to place the building on the playing field subject to the usual planning condition.'

15/07/1985 'MSC form for the laying of the cricket pitch was ready to go in, but we were still waiting approval from County Council for the use of their land as part of the out-field. It was agreed by 6 votes to 1 (2 abs.) that the form should go in with out further delay. County council had repaired dyke and given permission that PC could make another pedestrian access. They will clean the rubbish dumped on their part of the field but more has now been dumped on ours. It was agreed that we should try to make it difficult for people to get on the field with wheelbarrows. Clerk to ask MSC to make new access when they come to do the cricket pitch.'

16/09/1985 'Cricket pitch form sent to Kells (MSC) but there had been no response - clerk to check. Education Dept had agreed to the removal of the remaining fence and this had been done. Both football pitches had been marked out in creosote, School goal posts had not been moved as requested but it was agreed to leave them for the time being to see if the provision of a second pitch would make any difference.'

21/10/1985 'MSC confirmed by 'phone that they will go ahead with cricket pitch. Letter received from Education Dept. advising that they will shorten school pitch. Mr Meteer asked about the possibility of a hard playing area it was agreed to consider this for the future. Egremont Junior Football club asked if they could use our field - Mr Wilson had agreed. Clerk to write to them and Thornhill club that they were welcome to use the field but that the PC may be asking for a contribution towards the upkeep when the bills start to come in.'

18/11/1985 'Letter from Sports Council asking if work had been completed on cricket square so they could give us the remainder of the grant. MSC people had had site meeting with Mr Wilson, work to start as soon as team available. Should take 6-8 weeks to complete, weather permitting. Mr Meteer asked where soil would be deposited with a view to using it to level ground for a hard play area. It was agreed to ask them to put it in the se corner of field for future use.'

16/12/1985 'MSC had started work on the cricket pitch. Letter received from Mr Hughes (secretary Thornhill football club) thanking the PC for the provision of the playing field and their support of the youth in the parish. Bill from Eskett quarries £51.49 for hardcore for cricket pitch.'

17/02/1986 'Further bill from Eskett for infill for cricket pitch (£158.48) top soil now being replaced, original soil being riddled to remove stones instead of buying new soil. It was agreed the clerk should write to the community

Programme organiser at Kells telling him that the PC was very impressed by the amount of work that the team had done, much of it being done by hand instead of getting heavy machinery in. Form received from sports council asking for details of proposed recreational facilities up to 1990. Mr Wilson Mr Meteer and Mr Gray to meet and get ideas for playing field together so that details for the form can be agreed at next meeting.'

17/03/1986 'Cost of turf is now £1.70 sq. m. instead of 80p as originally stated, but since considerable savings have been made on machinery and materials total amount should still be well within original estimate of £1500. Fence will need to be erected to keep people off finished site, old posts and wire kept in store at Mr Gray 's - this can be used. Should extra be required it was agreed that Clerk should write to MSC Kells giving authority for them to purchase extra on our behalf. Sports Council form - Mr Meteer had drawn map showing proposed site for hard playing areas or possible building for changing rooms. Mr Wilson to fill in brief details on form and send off together with copy of map. Members to consider options on map, also to consult other bodies using or living near field.'

21/04/1986 'turf now laid on cricket pitch and fenced off. Letter from county Education Dept advised that maintenance costs have increased and annual charge will now be £172.89 + VAT. It was agreed that when an invoice is received some of this cost will have to be shared amongst the organisations using the field.

Members of the Junior Cricket club will attend the Parish Meeting to discuss maintenance of the new wicket.'

19/05/1986 'Clerk to write to Mr Nann asking if the cricket club would take over maintenance of the new pitch at least until a meeting had been held to discuss management of the playing field as a whole.'

09/06/1986 'In the absence of Mr Wilson and Mr Hind, clerk had been contacted by Mr Nann who was very concerned about state of the cricket pitch. Grass had grown very long and was in danger of being a total loss as a cricket pitch unless cut and rolled quickly. Clerk had asked Mr Richards to look at the cost of mowers etc Farren's of Holmrook offered s/h cylinder mower for £70 plus a small amount for trolley to transport it, hand roller at £50 (motorised roller at least £500). Mr Nann entered meeting at this stage. He is groundsman for Calderbridge Cricket Club and has access to this equipment but would have difficulty transporting it to Thornhill. When Mr Meteer offered to transport mower he agreed to use it to do Thornhill pitch. Mr Keenan would take first cut off it this week and could provide lightweight roller. These measures would ensure pitch was kept reasonable for this season, but more permanent measures would have to be taken for the future. Meeting arranged for 14th July to form management committee for the field.'

21/07/1986 'Meeting on 14th had not been a success only two people turned up, 1 from cricket club and 1 from football club. They agreed to go away to discuss what their clubs required on the field and what they were prepared to do about it and then let PC know when they were ready to discuss it. Cricket pitch had been cut by Copeland and again by cricket club. Mr Wilson to find out when county

are next mowing field so that the fence can be removed (temporarily) to get the whole area cut. Also to ask County to let us know if any mowing equipment coming up for sale. Clerk to ask BNFL if any possibility of having a portakabin for use as changerooms (also to ask Donald Greirson (contractors charity Group).’

15/09/1986 ‘Mr Wilson had spoken to Mr Lowrey of County ground staff who had noted our request for s/h mowing equipment. He had left an old marking machine for the football club. Contractors charity group at Sellafield can’t help with portakabin . Mr Richards suggested getting an old static caravan but this would need a lot of work to convert to changerooms and make it vandal proof. Mr Richards had arranged meeting with Mr Lowrey and Mr Keenan. It was proposed and agreed that he ask them to tender for the maintenance of our cricket pitch up to the end of 1987 (by which time it should be playable). It was also proposed and agreed that clerk write to the football club saying that the PC realise that changing facilities are needed and that we may be able to make a financial contribution towards any initiative they may show towards providing this.’

20/10/1986 ‘football club replied saying that they had insufficient funds to enable them to make any serious contribution towards changing facilities.’

17/11/1986 ‘Mr Wilson and Mr Meteer had met Mr Nann of the cricket club who said that members of the club would maintain the new pitch at Thornhill provided that there was somewhere on the field to store equipment. They would like to play some of their home matches there next season so it was also important that changing facilities were provided. It was suggested that a concrete garage would be ideal for this and it would probably be possible to get a good sized building and base for £1500 or less. Mr Meteer to look into sizes and costs and also to see if members of the football Club would help to lay a concrete base for it. Mr Richards suggested heavy wooden doors which would last longer than metal ones. Clerk to see if planning permission was required. Firm decision to be made at next meeting.’

15/12/1986 Planning application for building had been put in and would hopefully be considered at the next meeting. Mr Wilson and Mr Meteer had both obtained catalogues and Mr Meteer had summarised costs and details of various buildings. It was proposed and agreed to buy a more comprehensive type of building rather than a straightforward garage type as this would not only look better but would be of more general use. Size agreed on was 28’ x 16’. Money for the purchase to be taken from the amenity fund. Mrs English had spoken to Mrs Allen and also written to Mr Wilson about the barbed wire on the boundary fence where the stiles were. She thought this was dangerous as someone’s child had scratched themselves. Mr Wilson to speak to her explaining that the PC were obliged to provide stock proof fencing round the field and that the stiles were really only there so that balls could be retrieved from the other side. He would also wrap plastic bags round the barbed wire to prevent further injury.’

19/01/1987 ' Planning application had been put in. Planners thought the building might be better nearer the gate but after site meeting when future plans were outlined, they agreed to our site. Mr Wilson had visited several OAP's living in nearby bungalows who had no objection so it was hoped that approval would be given at February planning meeting. Mr Wilson had decided that adding plastic bags to the barbed wire on the stiles would only encourage people to stand on the wire and damage the fence. It was agreed to make proper stiles which were more substantial and safer. An offer has been made of surplus chairs from Civic Hall. Agreed to ask for 24 for use in playing field changing rooms, Mr Meteer to collect.'

16/02/1987 ' Planning application for building now approved. Mr Wilson Mr Meteer and Mr Oldfield to arrange excavation and laying of base (assisted by volunteers from football club), also to work out details of window and door layout. It was proposed and agreed that Mr Wilson should place order on behalf of PC.'

16/03/1987 'Excavation for base and access track had been started now waiting formal quotation for building - payment with order requested - this was approved by members. Clerk had written to North Housing Association asking if we can run surface water into their sewers near bungalows. Their man had met Mr Meteer on site to discuss, Mr Meteer now to check levels and it is hoped they will give approval.'

13/04/1987 'still no quotation from building manufacturers - Mr Wilson to ring them again. Mr Meteer asked for agreement to the hiring of a JCB to prepare access road to site, this agreed. Mr Wilson to see football club members to explain what assistance will be required to prepare base.'

18/05/1987 ' Quotation now received from Cotswold Buildings for changerooms Cheque book with Auditors so cheques to be forwarded as soon as this returned. (cost of building £2791.05) Clerk to ask them to hold building until we tell them we want delivery. Mr Meteer and Mr Wilson checked levels for running into NHA drains these ok clerk to advise NHA and ask for formal agreement. Members of football club had agreed to help with laying of concrete base.'

15/06/1987 'cheque had been sent off with a letter asking them to hold the building ready for our delivery instruction. Mr Wilson had approached YTS/MSD people at Kells to ask if they could supply labour for laying the base. Now awaiting confirmation from them.'

13/07/1987 'Mr Meteer had had meeting with YTS/MSD people and it was hoped that work could start on the foundations this week. Members agreed that they could order materials for use in the work costing approx. £200 (Accounts would be sent to PC for payment in the usual way). Mrs Boston, who lives adjacent to the field had complained via Yvonne Wilson about the number of golf balls and cricket balls coming over into her garden. Members felt it was up to her to ask players to hit the balls in the opposite direction.'

21/09/1987 'Foundations now complete and building delivered last week . Hopefully it would be put up in the next few days. Track from gate had been laid

with hardcore, licence had now been granted from NHA so that work could start on sewer connection and legal documents were being drawn up. clerk had re-established contact with tree planting scheme now called groundwork and run from Cleator Moor. Carol Mitchell will contact Mr Wilson regarding the Park and wind break on playing field.'

19/10/1987 'building now erected, 1 ridge tile had been damaged but Mr Meter said he would find a replacement. White wood gable ends and windows to be treated with stain/preservative. Mr Wilson had made sketch plans of steel shutters for windows. It was hoped that Beckster engineering would make these for us. Work had started on digging sewer (legal docs being processed) details of inside layout to be sorted out next. Clerk to find out if planning permission required for toilet facilities also to find out cost of installing electricity and what tariffs would apply. Building insured for £4000 cover for malicious damage.'

16/11/1987 'End ridge tile on building still to be replaced. Clerk to ask suppliers for one. Shutters for windows now made by Becksters Clerk to send letter of thanks. Football club members will put them up. Sewer now laid but garden not yet tidied - complaint from NHA about this. MSC team have left but have been asked to return and tidy up. Building regulations form to be sent in to Copeland for toilet facilities. Sub committee have not yet met to discuss layout of tree planting.'

14/12/1987 'window shutters now fitted but still to be finished. Electric and toilet facilities discussed so that Mr Wilson could complete forms for Copeland and Norweb OAP garden now tidied and concrete laid after sewer works Grant of easement now ready for signature by Mr Wilson and Mr Hind.'

18/01/1988 'Clerk had written to UKAEA laboratory manager to see if surplus fittings could be made available for use in the changerooms. Reply agreeing to this Mr Wilson to identify items as they become available and Mr Richards offered to transport them to Thornhill. Football club have asked if they can start using the building for changing as the Social Club is to be refurbished. This has been agreed. Seating from the Club could be used in our building. Clerk had received invoice for replacement ridge tile £35.95 (£20 standard delivery charge) Although this is very expensive, members felt that to leave it of the roof much longer could result in weather damage to the building which could cost even more. Clerk to ask whether this may be covered by insurance, but to go ahead and order the tile anyway. Sub committee had met to discuss tree planting on the field, main requirements being hedge round perimeter and possible groups of trees in corners. Clerk to ask groundwork if they have prepared scheme yet.'

15/02/1988 'Wash basin two doors and various light fittings had been made available at Sellafield and were awaiting transport to Thornhill. 12 chairs had arrived from Social club, still waiting ridge tile.'

14/03/1988 'We have now acquired a washbasin toilet and cistern and 1 door also light fittings still be to collected from Sellafield. There were also some bench seats and misc. hooks from social club. Ridge tile still not received clerk to check with suppliers.'

18/04/1988 ' Ridge tile still not received clerk to check again. Light fittings still to be collected from Sellafield. Application to Norweb for electricity supply ready to send off.'

16/05/1988 ' Cricket Pitch - Letter received from Cricket club advising that they would be using Thornhill for some matches and would do maintenance if PC bought suitable mower for the job. Clerk suggested trading in 2 old rotary mowers at present in store to buy s/hand cylinder mower. This was agreed Mr Gray to make enquiries. Ridge tile now delivered and waiting for MSC to fit. Shutters now fitted properly so glass can go in. Mr Turner and Mr Wells have volunteered to do this, one piece broken replacement to be purchased and charged to PC. Light fittings now collected from Sellafield, payment to be made to a Mr Bragg for transport. Application form sent in to Norweb.'

20/06/1988 'Mr Gray had made enquiries about mowers -approx. £600 - £700 for 17" cylinder mower (little or no discount for old machines) Mr MacKay to ask Billy Nann if 14" would do the job. If so, Mr Gray to make further enquiries. Mr Turner and Mr Wells have now fitted ridge tile also put in glass (replacing broken pane) Mr Wilson paid them £5 for their labour. 3 more doors and 2 toilet cisterns may shortly be available from Sellafield, Mr Wilson had drawn up rough plan of proposed inside layout. It was agreed to ask Mr Turner and Mr Wells if they were interested in doing some of the work. Mr Wilson to see them and negotiate terms.

15/07/1988 'Mr Nann had agreed that a 14" mower would do to mow the pitch, Mr Gray had purchased one from Rickerbys at a cost of £233.95. Mr Wilson thought that owing to the amount of work involved the building of toilets etc should be done by professionals. It was suggested that a number of estimates be obtained and the Sports council approached to see if a grant could be made. Mr Wilson to work up some ideas and consult building inspector. Mr Wilson bought some lockable bolts for the outer doors to make them more substantial and safer.'

19/09/1988 'Mr Wilson still working on inside layout. Clerk had seen some toilet cubicle fittings in a catalogue. Mr Wilson to look at the possibility of using this type of thing.'

17/10/1988 ' Mr Gray offered another toilet and wash basin.'

19/06/1989 'Contractors at Sellafield had asked to use our pitch for tournament - 2 matches a week until end of August - and were paying £10 per match. Mr MacKay had asked Mr Nann about mowing cricket pitch and Mr Nann had asked if mower could be kept in changing rooms. Mr Nann to transport it down from Mr Gray's. County contracting now advise that cost for grass cutting on field will be £19.50 per cut and not £10.50 total £331.50 for year. Members agreed that they should carry on but Clerk to point out that we only own part of field.'

18/09/1989 'Mr Gray pointed out that having purchased a mower for the cricket pitch, it is still in store at his place not having been used at all this season. As he was hoping to move in the near future, plans would have to be made about future storage.'

20/11/1989 'Mr Wells agreed to apply preservative and do a few repairs at a cost of £15 members agreed to this.'

18/12/1989 'Mr Wilson bought some preservative which Mr Wells has now applied.'

18/06/1990 'Pitch being hired by Sellafield contractors for tournament at £10 per match, approx. 15 matches. Hinge broken on one window shutter on changerooms, Mr Wilson to ask Hewitsons to weld. Some problem with keys, one set with contractors and one set with Thornhill football club and chairman unable to get in. It was agreed that further set of keys be cut so chairman always has a set. Football team from Orgill had asked if they could use pitch next season on Sunday mornings. It was suggested that they were charged £8 per match. Mr Wilson and Mr MacKay to meet them to discuss. Chairman suggested that now that pitch was starting to make some money, it might be time to think again about putting electricity into changerooms. He would contact electricity Board. Mr MacKay to speak to Mr Smith of Sellafield contractors to see if they could help with labour on this.'

22/07/1990 '£170 received so far from contractors, still more matches to play. End door on changerooms vandalised - Mr Wilson arranged for it to be repaired. Mr Carson to make enquiries into cost of installing lights, heaters and power points. Mr Gray offered toilet and cistern for future use. Mary Dixon of Rothersyke had told Clerk she intended to make garden of bungalow on Ehen road into putting green for Thornhill when she moved in there, and asked if she could use the PC mower for this. Members agreed to this so long as the mower can be safely stored on the premises.'

17/09/1990 'More contractors matches played money still to come in. Mr Carson had written to Norweb for estimates for connection charge. Mr Wilson and Mr Gray had looked at the building and had agreed that only lighting and power sockets were needed and this could probably be installed with local help. Guttering and downspouts need attention before winter.'

15/10/1990 'Mr Carson had estimate from Norweb for connection - £215, fittings for 4 lights and 2 sockets would cost £120, he had had offers of local help to do the work. It was agreed that Mr Carson should go ahead with this starting with a survey by Norweb.'

19/11/1990 'Norweb had sent bill for £212.75 to cover connection charge - this to be paid in advance. Mr Carson would now go ahead with installation and Norweb would connect up probably in about 3 weeks.'

17/12/1990 'Electrical equipment bought by Mr Carson who hoped to install it shortly.'

21/01/1991 'Hewitsons have repaired shutters. Mr Carson had finished electrical installation (extra 12 spent on fittings) now waiting for Norweb to connect up.'

18/02/1991 'Norweb have started to connect up but have not yet finished.'

18/03/1991 'Norweb had now finished connection and Mr Carson had installed sockets and lights. Norweb had asked if they could have a key for meter reading - this was agreed. Mr Carson to have one cut and Clerk to send it to Norweb.'

15/04/1991 'Mr Carson unable to get key cut for Norweb but will try Sellafield. Mr Gray who is retiring from the PC pointed out that he still has a mower belonging to PC in his barn. If he decides to move house alternative storage will have to be found. It was agreed that this could be stored in changerooms if necessary.'

20/05/1991 'Bill for 1st quarter received from Norweb showing approx. 1900 units - actual reading 1 unit. Clerk advised them of reading and pointed out that usage is likely to be very low.'

17/06/1991 'Mr Carson was trying to find out who had the other key to the building as contractors seemed to be using it and the pitch as they liked. Football club were supposed to have one but it was not clear who had it. He said he would visit the field regularly to catch contractors there and make sure they paid for the use of it. clerk pointed out that the football club had agreed to pay £40 per season but still owed us for last season.'

19/08/1991 ' Mr Carson had meeting with football club, they agreed to pay £40 per season rent and paid 380 owing. They complained grass was not cut enough buy since extra out of season cuts would cost approx. double members agreed that football club should pay if they wanted it cut. £30 had been obtained from contractors for matches played and it was hoped more would be forthcoming. Key had been changed on building.'

21/09/1991 ' Mr Carson had collected another £10 from contractors for use of the pitch.'

14/10/1991 ' A floodlight had now been rigged up by football club for evening training. It was not thought that it would use much electricity but Mr Carson would keep a check.'

18/11/1991 ' electricity bill now received, not too high despite being left on for some time. Mr Carson will keep a check on meter.'

16/12/1991 ' Mr Carson reported there were 2 small holes in the roof of the building .He would keep a check on them and repair if necessary. Loan - members were concerned that we were paying high interest on this loan but had money sitting in a deposit account earning low interest. Clerk to write to bank asking how much capital outstanding, what interest we are paying and what procedure had to be followed if we wished to pay this off. Also to ask what interest we are receiving in deposit accounts. Clerk to find ut details of Building Society Accounts and interest.'

20/02/1992 'letter received from Thornhill football club asking for permission to fit toilets and showers at their expense. They would raise the money needed and do all the work. Clerk had checked with Copeland that building regulations would be required for the works, had also been advised by water board that it would cost approx. £600 to connect up to water main. Members agreed in principle to their idea so Clerk to write advising this and asking for plan of proposed layout and approx. cost. Bank loan - £2185 outstanding at 5th January (7½ % interest being paid) It was proposed that this be paid off - agreed unanimously. Only 1½% being paid on deposit accounts at Nat west, they offer

other account - 5% on £500-£1999, 7½% on over £2000. Barclays offer 7½% on £1000 or over. Clerk would also have less difficulty getting money into Barclays so it was agreed unanimously to change.'

16/03/1992 'Letter from football club showing rough plans for interior and giving details of estimated costs and fundraising efforts. Since improvements will benefit PC Mr Mackay suggested that PC pay bills for materials and claim VAT back so that football club can pay PC net price only. This was unanimously agreed as long as money is put up first. PC will pay running costs but may review rent later. Football club will be responsible for upkeep of fixtures and fittings. Clerk to ask insurance co. if these will be included in our policy. Contractors using facilities will have to sign liability form and pay for any damages. Clerk to write back to football club agreeing with their proposals and telling them ok to go ahead with further plans. Mr MacKay will discuss matter further with them and a joint meeting with PC will be held later. (Mr MacKay said that if Thornhill club folded there would be no problem in renting out pitch and facilities to other clubs).'

18/05/1992 'letter from football club asking permission to use playing field for Fun Day on Sat 25th July. This was agreed but Clerk to tell them that parking should be restricted to about 20 cars only so that field does not get churned up if wet. They also asked if they could repair goal mouth areas during close season - this also agreed. They said they would have money for water supply by end of June. Clerk to start making enquiries about this with water board. Mr Hogg asked if the field could be used for cricket match between Thornhill club and School in June with b-b-q afterwards. This was agreed. It was suggested and agreed that PC mower at present with Mr Gray should now be brought down to changerooms and used on field when necessary. Mr MacKay had agreed use of pitch by BNFL team last week (still waiting fee) but was agreed future matches should be ok'd by Mr Carson.'

15/06/1992 'forms received from NWW for water supply. Mr Carson and Mr Hunter have completed them for Clerk to send in. Money now available to pay for this. Clerk to ask about building regulations. Mary Dixon had asked to use field for garden party in aid of MS Fund on 16th August. This agreed. Mr Carson to see Mr Gray to see if old mower still with him.'

17/07/1992 'Estimate for £1114 +VAT received from NWW for water connection. Members felt this a lot but agreed no alternative. Football club will lay pipe from building to road.(building regulations now going through) NWW will send invoice when work complete and it was agreed to ask football club for money then. Request from football club to site portakabin next to building. Was discussed and agreed subject to planning permission, but football club must keep up appearance of portakabin to avoid complaints from nearby residents. Mr Gray said that old mower blew up. Mr Jagger now has new mower and will move to changerooms for storage.'

21/09/1992 'Planning application form and cheque had been given to Mr Huter after last meeting but this had still not been passed to Copeland for approval -

even if it went in this week Copeland advise it will not be discussed until November meeting. Clerk had pointed this out to football club but they say offer of portakabin is secure and they can site it elsewhere until planning approval given. Work still not started on laying water pipe.'

19/10/1992 'Water pipe now laid to road and waiting NWW to connect.

Planning application for portakabin now being processed but it was thought there would now be a wait for portakabin.'

21/12/1992 'planning application approved. Problems had arisen with large delivery vehicle and crane so football club had asked if they could widen road from gate by 3ft. members agreed to this. Received £40 rent from football club.'

15/02/1993 'Clerk had received letter from NWW advising quotation now out of date. Reply sent on 24/1 advising that all work this end finished and approved by their inspector. Only waiting for NWW to connect to mains. Asked for confirmation of completion date and assurance that original quote will stand. Portakabin still at Sellafield. Someone had been driving a car round and round the school pitch and made a real mess. It had been agreed to replace the gate at the Wodow road end and keep it locked with keys distributed to those who needed them. Mr Hogg had put a gate on already and Miss Threlfell would buy a padlock with several keys.'

15/03/1993 'Water now connected but stop tap in OAP bungalow. This not satisfactory so NWW asked to alter. They can't now move tap but will put additional one on our side of fence. Portakabin now on site. Lock bought and ready to put on and keys to be distributed.(17.10)'

19/04/1993 'Stop tap still to be done. Norweb have been asked if wiring capable of taking water heater for showers. If not sufficient will have to be rewired. (Portakabin placed over incoming cable may present problems)''

17/05/1993 'Norweb had confirmed existing wiring ok to take extra load for showers etc. they will connect when ready. Stop tap still not done. Football club had asked if they could hold another Fun Day on the field on 10th July - this was agreed.'

16/08/1993 ' clerk to check with NWW again re stop tap. Showers toilets heaters now installed and working with partitions built and walls tiled.'

20/09/1993 'Stop tap should now be done, NWW had told Clerk they were attending to it. further bill received from NWW for £36.90 this time mostly standing charges. It would appear that it will cost about £18 per month for water and approx. £7 per month for electricity. Members agreed that football Club should now be asked to pay water and electricity charges since they will be using larger amounts of both with the showers etc. Clerk to write to them and Mr MacKay to discuss methods of payment.'

18/10/1993 'Stop tap now done. Football club agreed to pay water and electricity bills and sent cheque for £134.75 (2 water bills and £40 for rent) Clerk to send receipt and also copies of all future bills.'

19/09/1994 'Mr Hogg said he would repair field gate in the near future. The stiles in the fence both have broken foot boards Clerk to ask Mr Wildig to repair.'

13/02/1995 'Letter from football club advising that after repeated break-ins the doors needed replacing and asking if this could be done. Mr Carson said he thought they could be repaired (estimate for repairs £45) reinforcement or stronger doors were suggested but it was thought the roof or concrete wall panels would get smashed instead. Members agreed with this and it was decided to have the doors repaired. Clerk to advise football club of this also to ask them to refrain from turning cars round on the field.'

20/03/1995 'Clerk had letter from district Valuer asking to view changerooms for rating purposes. Pointed out it had been there since 1986 and no rates demanded to date.'

24/04/1995 'doors not mended. Mr Carson still has no keys but will see club secretary about this. Rating valuation now received from Ulverston -£1100. This would mean approx. £475 to pay each year. District Valuer advised that football club as occupiers would be liable for this but would probably be able to claim rate relief as a sporting club. Clerk has advised football club of these facts but has not yet heard if they have received a bill.'

18/09/1995 'Door still not repaired, side door in even worse state. It was suggested that this be replaced with a fixed panel as it was not used. Mr Carson to discuss this with Mr Wildig on site, and get estimate for job. This to be agreed by Mr Carson and Mr Spiers rather than wait till next meeting. Rates - Rates bill for £623.03 received addressed to PC. Valuation Officer had said that football club as occupier were liable for this. It was agreed to send bill back to Copeland asking them to change to football club, also to send them a form for claiming rebate as sports club. PC would make a donation to them to enable them to pay it. Clerk to write explaining this to secretary but mentioning that they still owe us part of the electric and water charges for last year also this years rent.'

16/10/1995 'Door now fixed and panel put in end wall by Mr Wildig so all now secure for the time being. Invoice received for £45. Football club have now received rates bill, also claim for rate relief which they have yet to return to Copeland. PC have now received further letter from Valuation Officer increasing rateable value to £1600. Members were appalled at this and asked if he could be asked to come and discuss it. Clerk to ask, also pointed out that if this could be classed as a public park it would not be liable for rates.'

20/11/1995 'clerk had made enquires about other playing fields, Rugby league valued at £3400, Rugby Union valued at £4000, both with more area and facilities than us. Then spoke to Valuation Officer pointing all this out and asking for breakdown -building £600 portakabin £680 field £320. Members were not at all happy with these figures saying that the building could be knocked down rather than pay out for them every year, but even that would initially cost money. It was agreed to appeal against the valuation on the grounds that it was used only minimally by the football club and more often by the general public therefore it was a public place and not rateable. Also agreed to get members of the football club to the next meeting to discuss this and other financial matters.'

14/12/1995 Meeting held with Thornhill Football Club 'Mr Pettigrew had recently taken over from Mr Morfoot as secretary to the football club but did not seem to be aware of the financial situation with the PC. Clerk pointed out that £219.49 was owed in March for water and electricity charges, of which only £165.20 had been paid. There was also £40 field rent owing from September last. Mr Pettigrew said he had not been told about this. The rates relief form had been sent off to Copeland and they were now waiting an answer. It was confirmed that the PC would give the club a donation to pay the rates when a final figure was given. Clerk pointed out that the portakabin was heavily rated and accounted for over 40% of rateable value. Mr Pettigrew said it was not used that much and could be done away with. He would discuss this with Mr Hunter. He said that the football club members were not very enthusiastic about fund raising but it was pointed out to him that they would have to pay rent for a pitch elsewhere if this one were not provided and would therefore have some expenses anyway. Mr Pettigrew promised to see what he could do and would keep the Clerk informed.'

15/01/1996 'some of the metal shutters had been vandalised - Clerk to ask Hewitsons to check them all and repair where necessary.'

18/03/1996 'Nothing from District Valuer Mr Carson had talked to Mr Pettigrew, still no further forward with moving portakabin. Club has no money and has still not paid balance of last years account. Have now received this years rates bill £111.36, members agreed to give donation to pay rates but Clerk would be sending them a letter with this years electric and water charges so they would be even further in debt. Mr Carson to ask them to attend next meeting to discuss this matter.'

15/04/1996 'Still nothing heard from District Valuer. Letter sent to football club detailing amounts owed and Mr Pettigrew and members of the club had been invited to this meeting but no one turned up. Mr MacKay phoned Mr Pettigrew and asked him to make sure he was at our next meeting with a club plan showing how they were going to pay us the money owed. There had been complaints that dogs were being allowed to foul the field and the dog walk was not being used. Mr Carson to do leaflet reminding people about this, schoolchildren to deliver this round estate.'

20/05/1996 'Total of £304.64 now owed by football club. They explained that club had been in a bad state for the last couple of years but was now on the "up" . they were organising fundraising events and had raised £90 from a coffee morning, this amount given to clerk as part payment. It was suggested the electric and water could be temporally disconnected in close season to save money but as this was only 3 months it was not worthwhile. PC members agreed that football club could lease out pitch to other teams to help raise money for upkeep. They were still trying to get rid of portakabin but this was taking some time.'

16/09/1996 'clerk had contacted district Valuer and had several long discussions about the Playing field. Mr Lawson said he was fairly sure that the Field met all the criteria which would allow it to be shown as a public park and therefore non-rateable. The PC therefore agreed unanimously to make a statement by way of

these minutes 'THAT THORNHILL PLAYING FIELD HAD FREE AND UNRESTRICTED USE BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND THIS STATUS HAD EXISTED SINCE THE PURCHASE OF THE LAND IN 1984'

21/10/1996 'football club still owe £214.64 according to account, Clerk has sent them an account - no response yet. A further £200 approx. will be added when electric and water charges are passed to them at end March 97. Mr Carson said that at audit seminar they were told that debts should be cleared by end of financial year or written off. After some discussion it was decided that clerk should write to football club pointing out that this situation cannot continue as pressure is being put on us by auditors etc. If they have not cleared their debt by end of March 97 then their use of the football facilities will have to be terminated to avoid creating further debts.'

16/12/1996 '£100 received tonight, this makes balance £114.64 still to pay.'

17/03/1997 'dog walk fence had been cut to enable people to get through to field without walking round. Mr Caddy to repair.'

19/05/1997 'dog walk fence has been cut again, Mr Hogg to try and repair.'

22/09/1997 'Playing field fence is falling off due onto path - Mr Carson to attend to this. Stile on far end of field needs replacing - Mr Caddy to ask Mr Smailes if he can repair.'

20/10/1997 'Mr Carson said the fence was too big a job for him, Mr Smailes to be asked to do it.'

16/02/1998 'football club still £150.52 outstanding to 21st January last.'

16/03/1998 'further £25 received from football club. Rates -notice of appeal hearing given for 7th May. Clerk has been told we will probably be contacted by District Valuer and offered a "deal". Very few appeals ever get to a hearing.'

20/04/1998 'Residents of Thorntrees Drive asked about people playing golf on the field. They had no objection to people playing down the length of the field but they were getting golf ball shit into their gardens, some hitting the houses at roof height, one window had been broken. They felt it was only a matter of time before a person was hit by one of these balls. Chairman explained that field was open to public use for recreational purposes, and it was generally agreed that most people played responsibly. There were however a few who played dangerously and this was really vandalism with the aid of golf balls. There is apparently a by-law stating 'no golf in public places' but this would be very difficult to enforce. Councillors agreed that the best course of action would be to put some notices up on the field warning people to play down the length of the field only and also to put a leaflet round the estate explaining this position.'

20/04/1998 'football club statement of account sent to Mr Hunter, they had paid £230 over the last year and this year's electric and water charges plus rent they now had to pay £385.52 in next financial year. Rates - clerk had spoken to Mr Lawson (district valuer) who said playing field met all criteria for a public park and would be exempt from rates as would the changerooms. (paperwork to follow confirming this) Portakabin would be rateable but this owned by football club and they would pay this. Past rates would be repaid in due course.'

18/05/1998 'Notices put round estate about dangerous golf play also notices put on field. Mr Brown was not happy with this and said if it was illegal to play golf in public places the PC should not condone it and could be liable for compensation for any damage. Clerk to find out legal position and get copy of by-law. Rates - Form received from District Valuer and signed by Clerk and football club. Rateable value now reduced to £300 this covers portakabin only the rest exempt. As club own this building they will pay rates in future. Refund of majority of past rates paid should be forthcoming.'

15/06/1998 'both Copeland Leisure dept and Legal dept said there was no by-law to prevent golf playing. They said that notices could only be advisory and were not enforceable. Insurance company said if notices had been put up they were happy that PC had taken all reasonable precautions. Mr Carson to make sure permanent notice put up. Rates- neither clerk nor Copeland have received anything in writing about new rateable value - clerk to check with District Valuer.'

27/07/1998 'confirmation of amended rateable value from district Valuer. Clerk to ask football club if rebate received.'

21/12/1998 'Letter received from Mr Jackson on behalf of football club asking if something could be done about the changerooms roof as it was asbestos and was leaking badly. Mr caddy to get 2 estimates for removal of asbestos and replacement roof.'

15/02/1999 'football club has paid £360 since April last year only £25.52 outstanding at present. Mr Brown still thought we should have formal agreement with them but it was pointed out that this would cost money for a solicitor and they were keeping up quite well at present.'

21/06/1999 'Mr caddy had got quote for £900 to replace changerooms roof with concrete sheeting and remove asbestos. He will get another quote for next meeting, also to ask football club if they can contribute.'

18/10/1999 'football club can contribute £1050 towards new roof. Mr Caddy had 2 verbal quotes for £775 and £900. Asked to get written quotes to clerk. When received can give go ahead to cheaper one.'

20/12/1999 'Written quote from Mr Stamper £780 received further quote to come but Mr Caddy to ask Mr Stamper to go ahead.'

17/01/2000 'Resident on Thorntrees had asked who is responsible for cutting the hedge adjacent to their property. Clerk confirmed that County Education Dept owned that part of field and would therefore be responsible.'

17/04/2000 'Thornhill Football club had written that someone was proposing a Saturday league football team and this together with the usual team and a new under 16 team would mean 3 games each weekend. They did not think pitch would stand this much use and there would also be problem of splitting expenses. Clerk to reply saying their comments had been noted and if a request came from a new team then this would be considered at the time.'

19/06/2000 'Changerooms roof now fixed Invoice £780 received.'

21/07/2000 'Request asking if an extra team could use football pitch for Saturday fixtures. After some discussion it was decided to refuse this request as in bad weather pitch would not stand extra use. Clerk to write adding that if ever Thornhill team disbanded than PC would be open to application from other teams to hire pitch.'

20/11/2000 'Playing Field dyke needs gap mended opposite Harpur Place.'

18/12/2000 'Harpur Place gap passed on to building Design dept. Thorntrees dyke gap - Mr Coward is having trouble with vandals and would like to block up the gap in the dyke leading to Thorntrees Drive - no objections. Changerooms roof, Football club had agreed to contribute to this but nothing forthcoming. Mr Caddy to ask about this.'

15/01/2001 'before the meeting started there was a short discussion about blocking Thorntrees dyke gap to the Playing field. 6 residents including Mr Coward were present. The others were objecting to this on the grounds that this was now a right of way as they had used it for 25 years. Clerk did not think it was this long as PC had not owned the field for that many years and before that it was grazing land. Mr Coward said police had suggested this to make it easier to catch vandals causing problems at his house. It was agreed to do a survey of Thorntrees residents to get majority feeling, also to ask police for their advice in writing. Clerk to find out how long PC had owned field (1984) and when the gap was made by Mr and Mrs Dixon (1992) dog walk 1993) Gap to remain blocked for the moment but barbed wire to be removed. Football club have agreed to give £150 in the near future for roof repair to changerooms.'

19/02/2001 'Gap at Harpur Place still not mended. Thorntrees Gap, - fence across gap had been removed during night by persons unknown. 52 questionnaires put out by Mr Hargreaves, only 14 returned. 1 favoured blocking gap, 8 wanted it open and 5 didn't mind either way. It was therefore agreed to leave gap open but to reinstate paved step. Mr Coward had had one further visit from vandals since then but had said he was no longer wanting to block gap.'

26/03/2001 'Harpur Place gap now temporarily blocked for Foot and Mouth precautions. No money yet from football club. Saturday league football team have made further request to play on Thornhill pitch as own Egremont pitch closed due to F&M. Thornhill football club are not keen on this but remainder of season probably cancelled now as so many teams have problems with pitches.'

23/04/2001 'Clerk asked football club for roof money and received cheque for £150.'

18/06/2001 'Playing field fence PC is responsible for fence and will arrange repairs.'

20/08/2001 '2 quotes to be obtained by next meeting. Suggestion of breast fence on field side to prevent cattle knocking new fence. Dog walk now cut approx. cost £30. Changerooms broken into and PC mower stolen. Not covered under insurance. Letter from Thornhill Football Club (TFC) explaining plans for next year received, clerk to reply.'

15/10/2001 'New fence -no further progress. Complaints received about playing golf on the field -players to be asked to play in other direction.'

18/12/2001 'Quotes received for new fence. Mike Dowling accepted, Clerk to arrange also to request cutting dog walk.'

21/01/2002 'Fence now up invoice received £1095.10.'

15/04/2002 'TFC have suggested they knock down the portakabin and the PC arrange for removal -rejected It was felt TFC should organise removal of waste.'