

YOUTH CLUB BUILDING

17/06/1985 'Mr Pickthall had maintained the building for the last 5 years but this would end on 30th June. The Church could not afford to keep the building going on their own so there was doubt about the future of it. Youth club had been negotiating with them for the past 6 months about taking it over, but the Methodists had now requested a meeting with the PC to see if we were interested in taking it on. There was a feeling that the Youth Club would be the right body to do it but Mr Gray pointed out that a Village Hall Committee would be eligible for more grants than either the Youth Club or the PC. It was agreed that a meeting should take place with the Methodists Clerk to ask District Valuer to give us a valuation on the building and surrounding land.'

15/07/1985 'District Valuer had inspected and given value of building and land as £4000. Members had met representative of the church to discuss the situation. Church has three options: to sell to the highest bidder, to lease, or to find a new caretaker. Now waiting for them to tell us what they are going to do. Even when sold the existing building would have certain restrictions on use - no gambling, no alcohol and no religious or political meetings. Clerk to ask District Valuer the value taking these restrictions into consideration, also some figures if we were to buy the building and lease the land. Mr Meter said he would like to see a feasibility study done on a completely new community centre on the Park. There followed a long discussion on whether the PC should become involved with the church building or leave it to the Youth Club, also whether there was a need for a community centre on Thornhill, taking into consideration existing facilities and public demand. It was agreed to leave the matter until we had more information from the church and members could sound out local opinion on the need for a centre.'

16/09/1985 ' District Valuer replied that he did not consider the building viable with the restrictions on it, considering the age of the building it would only have a nominal value and unless we could tell him what was to be done with the land he could not give us a figure for a lease. Mr Wilson said considering the existing facilities there was not really a call for a new community centre on Thornhill. Mr Hind said that the church wanted to know if the community wanted to keep the building going for community use, if not, they would sell it to the highest bidder. (Youth club are still interested and have a bid in). after a long discussion it was agreed that Mr Wilson would ask the community committee if they were interested, if so a meeting would be arranged with the church the PC the present users and the community committee.'

21/10/1985 ' community committee not interested on taking on responsibility. Public meeting to be held to see if any general interest.'

18/11/1985 ' Public meeting held on 12th November, 8 people had expressed interest in forming a management committee. Further meeting to be held with these people, also representatives of bodies using the building. It was agreed by

members (3 votes to 1) that an independent member of the PC should also attend. Mr Gray was appointed.'

20/01/1986 'Mr Wilson said that when the management committee had inspected the building, they had found the emergency fire doors most unsatisfactory. Only 1 door opened and this with difficulty the other door was nailed up. A new mechanism was needed but the committee did not have the funds to purchase this and he suggested that the PC might make a donation towards the cost. Mr Meteer objected to Mr Wilson bringing up this subject as Mr Wilson was also a member of the management committee. Mr Meteer said he thought this request should have come as a written request direct from the committee. Mr Gray then said as he was the elected PC rep on that committee, then he would make the request. It was proposed that a grant of £25 be given to the committee, but Mr Meteer still objected to the manner in which the item was brought up, so the whole thing was held over to the next meeting. In the meantime clerk to write to CALC to ask for clarification of the rules.'

17/02/1986 'CALC advised that any request for a donation must come in writing from the organisation concerned. Fire door being attended to and if extra funds are required then a written request will be tendered.'

21/04/1986 'Copy of NALC leaflet on declaration of interests circulated to all members. Mr Meteer was still not satisfied that the matter had been cleared up. It was agreed that all requests for financial assistance be accompanied by a written request from the organisation concerned, and that any interest should be declared by councillors. However it was still not clear whether a person should vote on an issue when he had a private or personal interest (leaflet only mentioned pecuniary interests) Clerk to ask Roy Todd what Copeland's ruling is on this point.'

19/05/1986 'Roy Todd advised that there is voluntary code of practice in Copeland where councillors who have non pecuniary interests take no part in any discussions or voting on the matter - he recommended that PC should adopt this practice. Letter received from Mrs Barton-Rossall (secretary Friends of Thornhill Youth Centre) asking for financial assistance towards upkeep of building - agreed to give donation of £25.'

17/10/1988 'Mr Wilson had received letter from the Methodist council advising that the Youth Centre building is to be put up for sale as not used since February. No other organisations used the building and members felt that there was no point in trying to restart the youth club as there was little interest. They agreed that the best thing was for the building to be sold and removed from site.'

16/10/1989 'Mr Hind reported that the building had now been sold'