



# The Friends of Thringstone

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Ray Neal, Pam Porter, Pam Clayfield, Ray Woodward, Tam Bream, Janet Stevenson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Tracy Foulds, Bernard Lee, Roy Hill, Jim Wilkinson, Geoff Walker, Colin Perritt, Dave Everitt, John and Karon Smith, Steve Badcock, Ann Petty, CSO Jim Sorrell

**Apologies:** Geoff and Jane Wilson, Sandie and Tony Newton, Rowena Summers, John and Helen Dickinson, Maggie Smith, Julie Everitt, Brenda Simpson, David Stevenson

David Taylor MP

Nita spoke to the meeting about the death of David Taylor MP, and detailed his help and support to Friends of Thringstone from its outset in 2005. David had regularly attended events and came along to meetings when he could, often asking searching questions of guest speakers, helped with our bulb planting in the autumn, and even took part in litter picks, the final time being a part of the team of 7 who turned up to the litter pick in November 2009. David was a man of the people and will be missed. A moment's silence was held.

Nita then asked whether, as David had been a former Thringstone councillor, the meeting considered it a good idea to have some form of plaque or memorial to David at the Community Centre. There was much discussion about this and several ideas were put forward. It was thought it needed to be something which would not need maintenance to avoid it becoming neglected. A living tribute in the form of a tree was thought to be a good idea but location would need to be carefully considered and there was danger of vandalism. The precedent of memorials also needed to be considered for the future and the idea of a Memorial wood was suggested. The idea of a piece of granite suitably engraved was well received and Ray Woodward was asked to investigate further.

Ray Woodward said that as a councillor, he acknowledged that there may be other people who gave to the village and who may merit remembering in some way, and anybody who felt this applied to them, as in the case of Pam Spence's dad, should be encouraged to contact the group to discuss this further.

### Reports

Chairman's monthly report

#### Letters received:

- Voluntary Action Leicester Training Programme for winter 2010. Hard copy available.
- EMIB winter newsletter available to read.

### **Emails received:**

- Various from Steve Badcock regarding history input on website and TLC event at G&D.
- From Amanda Hanton regarding youth art work in the village and meetings held to discuss this
- From NWLDC regarding tenants association dates etc.
- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire about a training course on youth issues in Oadby in February. Subsequently booked Pam Clayfield in to go for the group.
- From local resident complaining that nothing appears to be happening to stop people parking on grass verges on Loughborough Road. Forwarded email, with comments, to district and county councillors and to Snr. Housing Officer at NWLDC for comment.
- Reply from Snr. Housing Officer at NWLDC following on from above. Various suggestions put forward to consideration, but no decisions made.
- From Chris Brown of the Police on their successes during the year for NWL area. Have asked for stats from them for Thringstone, given that we did not have any information passed to us for the November or December meetings
- From one of our members asking if anybody has a rotavator they can borrow sent to all members on email
- Email from NWLDC's Housing Department on estate inspections during January 2010.
- From Alan Burgess of St Andrew's about a Sunday afternoon tea event at Swannington Village Hall. Details available.

### **Emails sent:**

- Various to committee and membership regarding e-bulletins, events taking place in the village etc.
- To all members on email regarding David Taylor and measures put in place at NWLDC
- To various agencies for copy to go into the next edition of The Bauble
- Ordered 15 copies each of Memories 1 and Memories 2 and collected for stock
- To school asking about CRB checks since Government guidelines changed. No reply received
- To BSHF regarding letter supposedly sent in November giving us permission to go onto the land on Grace Dieu Road. No reply received. See under other below.
- To NWLDC's sustainability team asking if we can become part of the Green Footprints Community Network and take part in meetings, and to the same team with Pam's report (shortened version given below) detailing how our smart meter loan scheme has gone, since it is 12 months since we got the funding.
- Continuing to try to find out who owns The Pinfold/who keeps fencing it off

### **Promotion:**

- Details of FoT involvement in NWLDC's Wellbeing Week advertised internally to all Council employees with Dec wage slips

### **Other:**

- Thanks to all who supported the carols round the tree event in the run up to Christmas. £70 was collected for Christian Aid.
- Phone call regarding letter expected to allow history arm of FoT access to Grace Dieu Road site to search for artefacts with Witan Archeology. Email sent to Ann Petty about this.
- Been trying to get guest speakers organised for 2010 without much success at present. If any member has an idea of someone who would make an interesting speaker, please contact Nita direct.

## Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream

Final Year end figures for 2009 are:

Balance - £1507.58 almost exactly £50 less than the half year figure – this was explained at the last meeting recording various large purchases.

This is a very good position when we have lost significant income through non sale of the Christmas Cards, and we have lost a few of the brochures at a couple of the sales venues which has meant that almost any profit margin would be minimised.

It is clear to see (although these records have only been kept by me for the last 6 months) that the income is clearly derived from the efforts of those people doing the events ( £368.82), the Publications (£289.40) which maybe somewhat misleading as it is showing a gross income when of course some may have been paid for by the group outright. This includes £150 worth of Christmas card income and £108.81 worth of income collected through the walks done around the area.

By my reckoning over the last 6 months we have had an income of £1100 against an expenditure of £1080.46. This is no mean task by the few that consistently endeavour to “sell” FOT at every opportunity.

My questions about going forward are simple:

1. Do we continue with events?
2. Do we continue with publications despite the losses we have incurred? If the answer is yes – how can we improve on them?
3. If the answer is no –where are we going to get funding from and what are we going to do with the surplus?

These questions were discussed at length and it was agreed that the group needed a yearly agreement on what they were seeking funding for, tied to an annual budget.

Nita had produced a list of items to be purchased and things to be achieved during 2010 and beyond, some with cost detailed, and some not. Figures for income were necessarily vague at this time, but it is evident that the events planned will not raise sufficient funds to cover the whole of the ‘Wish list’, production of the Bauble and seasonal planting. The sale of publications and income from walks are an essential area for fundraising.

One of the main objectives for FoT was seen to be promotion of the village. Steve Badcock spoke about the many historical impacts on national life of people connected with the village, such as the grave of the man who established old age pensions (Charles Booth) and the birthplace of the first man to be killed on home soil in WWI (Theophilus Jones).

Geoff Walker offered to produce a promotional CD for the village and the group, which could then be copied and sold, and this was eagerly accepted.

Steve Badcock said that Thringstone is a very unique place, and it was noticeable by the amount of people present at the meeting, in what was terrible weather, that others realised this and wished to protect and promote it for the future.

### **Publications and Christmas card report**

This is Nita's last report covering publications, as Roy Hill has agreed to take over from this meeting.

There have been no brochure sales since the December report, but a copy each of Born and Bred 1 and 2 were taken from the George and Dragon. This is the second theft of brochures we have had, the first being stock to the value of around £50 from the Community Centre last summer.

The Born and Bred's required by the George and Dragon have been replaced out of stock.

300 Christmas cards were sold leaving 200 left unsold. Money raised in Christmas card sales was £150. The full compliment of 500 cards cost £220 and there was a mark up of 6p per card. That means that, next time the cards are offered, which will be Christmas 2010, we only need to sell 14 packs of cards to draw even, the remaining 6 packs then being pure profit.

The brochure stock overview to the end of the year is as below:

## Stock Overview 10.11.09-31.12.09

31.12..09	Com Cen	G & D	Nita	Stock	Total	Value £
B&B 1	3	6	6	0	15	67.50
B&B 2	3	6	6	38	53	238.50
Mem 1	5	6	6	13	30	105.00
Mem 2	5	6	6	21	38	133.00
VT 1	5	6	6	8	25	62.50
VT2	5	6	6	4	21	52.50
VT3	5	6	6	2	19	47.50
	99.50	141.00	141.00	325.00		<b>706.50</b>

The Committee do not feel the need at present to reorder copies of Born and Bred 1, as any replacement stock needed as a result of sales can be taken out of Nita's own stock and sales of this brochure are slow anyway.

On putting together a list for Roy of booklets sold from information given previously, and checking this against the treasurer's records, there is a £30 difference between what money has been paid in and what brochures have been recorded as sold. There is no way of reconciling where this happened.

Tam Bream said that the sales of Christmas cards, whilst low, had served to give a lesson for the future.

Tam Bream suggested that we talk to venues who sell our brochures and ask if there is any way we can make it easier for them to sell these in safety, so they don't get stolen.

Roy agreed to talk to Ann Petty to see where the Grace Dieu group's brochures are sold, to see if there are other venues that could potentially take our own.

### **Web report and emails– John Smith**

John said that the website was up to date and he had posted various photographs to the site. John agreed to put details of Hermitage FM on the website.

### **Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield**

- Pam has arranged for Hermitage FM (99.2) to talk on the radio with Thringstone Primary on their successes with the big switch off, the country run competition, with environmental work and their community garden, and about their submission to the 2010 Green Footprints Awards.
- Jon Sketchley from Hermitage FM is always keen to hear about local activities and welcomed anyone willing to talk about their groups and the radio station has secured a regular slot in the Vision.
- Nita has already put in the Bauble that Hermitage FM are offering a buy one get one free offer on hot drinks at the moment. Taking the newsletter to the coffee shop at the station will qualify people for this discount until the end of February.
- The Bauble is ready for collection and Pam Porter gave out some to people at the meeting for delivery.
- Pam C reported that the Ray Sutton lectures on Art and literature in a social context were being very well supported. Everyone is welcome on Wednesdays at 2pm in the Community Centre
- Pam C is hoping to organise an outing with Cresswell Coaches to William Morris's House at Kemscott in Gloucestershire on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Anyone interested should contact Pam on 224804. The cost is likely to be about £26.

## History – Ann Petty

- Mark Gregory, who owns the Mill Field, has been in touch and seems quite keen for us to carry on with the archeology search that we would like to do. I have subsequently received a copy of a reply from Witan Archeology confirming that it is hoped to complete a number of trial trenches before 25<sup>th</sup> March and carry out some fieldwalking in the interim. The intention is to assess the extent and condition of any archeological features, rather than conduct a large area excavation.
- I have got a copy of a report by Witan Archeology about the Star, which he had published in the Fieldworker magazine.
- I thought that it would be an interesting project to interview some of the Scottish miners and their families who came to Thringstone in the 60s. I think Thringstone is pretty unique in having a whole estate built for them. I have already asked Ina Dakin and she said she wouldn't mind talking to us and can give me some names of others.
- I have received information from John MacDonald of the Coleorton Heritage group on their progress. They are currently researching Rotten Row.

## Councillor's 5 minute report – Ray Woodward

- Following on from the last meeting, I have spoken to the gentleman on Grace Dieu Road who had concerns over issues to do with flooding as a result of our putting bark on the flowerbeds on Brook Lane, and allayed his fears.
- I am still in negotiation with Midland Quarry products and the gardening team and Lorraine about starting the work to the patio at the centre in January.
- I went along to the meeting at the Miner's Welfare to discuss the new housing project and the refurbishment to the clubhouse. This went well, despite some objections.
- I will be attending the Residents and Tenants of Woodside Estate meeting that NWLDC are putting together on 24<sup>th</sup> February and will report back.
- I am still trying to find out what we can do about The Fox site, and will report anything that comes to light
- I have been in contact with County about the continuing parking on grass verges on Loughborough Road, also the bollards on Loughborough Road, and am hopeful that something may be sorted.
- I have been dealing with various continuing housing maintenance issues which connect to the 6 year maintenance programme
- The Post Office have put in planning for new shop frontage
- I am planning to set up a councillors' surgery on 20<sup>th</sup> February between 11.am and 1 pm at the Thringstone Members Club on a Saturday morning. Details of this will be placed in The Bauble.
- I am aware that there has been a gas leak on Grace Dieu Road by the bridge, and am endeavouring to find out if this leak is connected to any movement of the bridge, which I have already pointed out to Highways is in poor repair.
- I understand that lights have been seen in the Rose and Crown on the top floor which is the only floor not to have been boarded up. Nita has asked Pete Gough to tell Punch and I intend to have a look to see if any entry has been gained to the property and report again to the police. CSO Jim Sorrell who was present at the meeting said he would also investigate, but thinks the building is secure.
- Dave and I will be going on the inspections of Henson Lane and Melrose Road properties with the housing department from NWLDC on 26<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010

## Police report

CSO Jim Sorrell explained that our beat bobby, Donna Winters, has been off sick for several weeks following damage to her eardrums from standing close to the cannon at the Remembrance parade in November. She was getting back to work slowly and is on light duties.

There will be a beat surgery in Whitwick on 11<sup>th</sup> January from 10am – 11am at The Wheel. They do not get many people attending. He told the meeting that the best way to contact him personally was to ring 0116 222 2222 2 and wait for the instructions to be put through to him on 6672 and leave a voice mail message. He was sure to pick this up. Emails were not so certain and those to another person were not accessible by him. The local police have an agreement that voicemail messages are answered within 16 hours (normally 24 nationally). If messages are not picked up, for example the police person is on leave, the call goes through to the desk sergeant who will ring the person who has left a message and explain that the officer will get back to them when back on duty.

Tam Bream asked him about liaison with Kegworth as offences committed by Thringstone youths in the woods or on Bream's land were falling between the two areas. Jim said that he was in regular contact with the Kegworth officers but admitted that he had been unaware that the bird hide on Bream's farm had been torched over the New Year period.

There had been a break-in at Thringstone members club in December, and two young girls were apprehended.

Other offences for the last 30 days to 6<sup>th</sup> January were 9 reported crimes

3 non dwelling burglaries eg. Sheds or out buildings 1 person charged for two of these

1 dwelling burglary

3 assaults and/or harassment- one complaint withdrawn

2 damage one person charged

### **From previous minutes**

- Update on situation regarding mural on Henson's Lane recreation area

A meeting will be held next week between various agencies to discuss the mural. Dave Everitt will attend, possibly with Nita.

- Smart meters – Pam Porter

We bought 7 meters as a result of the successful funding bid to NWLDC. 1 have 5 in stock and 2 are loaned out.

They have been loaned out 12 times (this includes the 2 that are still out) but only 6 booklets have been completed. Comments have been positive where made.

3 people returned the meters within 2 days. One person phoned up and enquired from Ibstock and was referred back to the Council. A fuller version of this report has been prepared and sent by email to NWLDC.

Roy Hill agreed to help people with the completion of the paperwork part of the smart meter project if they needed any help.

- Gardening update

Ray Neal has managed to secure some top soil from a resident in Brook Lane and received the agreement of Armstrong's to clear the weeds from the outside of their wall and lay a small flower/shrub bed in its place. Anybody wanting to help Ray with this work should contact Ray. Once the work has been done, some planting will take place, but this is dependent upon the weather and whether Ray Armstrong wishes to contribute to any planting done.

- Junior FoT/meadow project etc

There is nothing to report other than what Pam Clayfield has already brought up in her report. We are not sure when the wetland meadow project is starting. It has been left to the school to liaise with Lorraine direct on this. Nita will try to find out the current position from the school.

- Grannie's recipes

Nothing further has been heard about this, but Nita has spoken with a contact at her work regarding this and seen a book of recipes from the war years, produced nationally. Tam reported that his grandmother had produced a book of recipes and agreed to provide these. Discussions will continue to take place on this issue.

- CRB checks

Following on from the government's change of stance on CRB checks for volunteers which came the day after our last meeting, Nita has contacted the school to ask if they feel that it is necessary for our gardening team to be CRB checked, given that the stance now is that these are not

necessary for people who only see the same group of children once a month. She has not received a reply, but will continue to discuss things with the school and report back.

- Event planning for 2010

As already mentioned, Nita and Ray Woodward are having a stand at NWLDC's Wellbeing week to promote volunteering as part of achieving work/life balance.

We have already agreed to commit ourselves to attending Picnic in the Parks on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (if this still goes ahead) and the Grace Dieu event on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Roy Hill has agreed to help organise the Grace Dieu event, and we need to start to organise plants etc. for both events. This will be mentioned again next month and followed through. Nita asked if anyone would be willing to be the organiser for the Picnic in the Parks Event on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Pam Porter felt that as long as we had a core of about 4 people with help to set up and take down the stall there was no need for a rota, as it could be sorted out between the team.

A couple of members have agreed to help with storage of bric a brac and other items.

We need to start collecting items now and provision of plants needs to be looked into in February. Nita has a lot of small and large children's toys which can either be sold, or used as prizes for any games organised. Sandie is checking these. Nita also has the collection of bottles and carriers for a wine and water stand but will need to buy lemonade and wine if we run with these at any events.

The Thringstone Live Event is taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> August, at the George and Dragon. We will have a stall there during the day and are working with the organisers to turn the daytime part of the event into a more family oriented event than just a music event. Ray Woodward put his name forward as being able to help out if necessary.

We will probably take part in the school summer and Christmas fetes, but have no idea whether there will be an event at Snibston this year or if so, when this will be.

It was agreed, given there is a need for a person agreeing to organise Picnic in the Parks to know exactly what is involved with table acquisition, centralising things for transport etc., for this item to be early in the agenda for the next meeting and thrashed out at that stage. Tam Bream mentioned that he could potentially help out with transport using trailers etc.

- History slot on the website

Steve Badcock explained about the Thringstone On Line site being set up as part of a millennium project, and that he was happy for its content to go onto the Friends of Thringstone website. He will be liaising with John Smith on this in the fullness of time.

## **AOB**

- Newsletters

It would be appreciated if members who help with deliveries could do those before the end of this month because there is an editorial placed by NWLDC regarding the tea dancing at the Community Centre starting during the first week in February.

The newsletters are now available for collection.

In the event that a volunteer is unable to collect from Nita, please can this be made clear and Nita will then try to take them to the volunteer herself.

- David Taylor's funeral took place at Heather on 9<sup>th</sup> January
- Tony Whatnall's funeral is at St Andrew's on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 9.15am
- Rev Alan Burgess from St Andrew's is currently seeking volunteer part time admin help.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre**