



The Friends of Thringstone

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2010 at Thringstone Community Centre.

Present : Nita Pearson, Brenda Simpson, Geoff Walker, Lorraine Whitehurst, Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Pat Elderfield, John Smith, Karon Smith, Ron Crook, Ray Woodward, Ray Neal, David Stevenson, Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty, Tam Bream, Dave Everitt, Pam Clayfield

Apologies: Roy Hill, Colin Perrit, Rowena Summers, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Sue Rowbottom, Julie Everitt, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Chris Mellor, John Dickinson, Ron Hill, Lindsay Weaver, Tony Gillard, Niels Nielson, Bill Newton.

Voting in of new Committee

The nominations were proposed en bloc by Pat Elderfield and seconded by Ray Woodward. The meeting voted them in unanimously as follows:

Chairman –Nita Pearson, **Vice Chairman** –Tam Bream, **Treasurer** – none, but Tam has offered to continue until a replacement is found, **Minute secretary** – Janet Stevenson, **Environment** – Pam Porter, **Gardening** – Ray Neal, **Arts & Community** – Pam Clayfield, **Secretary and Events** – no nominations, both posts are open for anyone willing to offer their services.

Roy Hill has agreed to continue to do Publications Reports etc. outside the committee structure and David Stevenson has agreed to take over memberships outside the committee structure.

Reports

Chairman's Yearly Report attached

Chairman's Monthly Report

Letters:

- Invitation to talk to Environment Sustainability Working Party of councillors at NWLDC on 19th May about the group and its environmental work in the village. Accepted and carried out. Most interesting. We were seen as an example of the government's Big Society work.
- Voluntary Action Leics. Newsletter April/May 2010
- Marlene Reid Centre Spring Summer Newsletter 2010
- From RCC enclosing a few copies of their diary of village events and guided walks in which our group and FOGDP are featured
- Letter from Snibston asking us to be part of Miner's Gala on 11th Sept 2010 and join in the parade again. Accepted.
- Enable Summer newsletter – available
- Letter from County Council as part of volunteer week congratulating the group on the work they do in the village

The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Partnerships and Community Group Awards 2009

Stepping out for a greener district

Emails received:

- From Alan Burgess about Charles Booth's grave - information available
- From NWLDC about Thringstone Nature site and removal of trees by E-on now taken place.
- From Voluntary Action Leics. about ISA and Vetting and Barring system – replaces CRB checks in November. Information passed to Pam P to discuss with others re. school.
- From Thringstone Primary following query on whether they were doing a walk to school week event. They weren't as they do a star walker thing every month.
- From Police regarding theft of plants from by the church wall
- From County about Drury Lane. Meeting being arranged.
- From NWLDC about motorbikes in Grace Dieu woods

Emails sent:

- Updates to committee and members on email on a variety of subjects
- Contact to EM Airport about changing planting slightly from what was in the funding bid (reply suggested this was all right)
- To Dr Andrew Reeves, climate change officer for RCC, asking him to be a speaker at a future meeting. Reply received that he will help us with questions but cannot be a speaker as he is working with 10 specific groups already.
- To Police, landowner and other agencies regarding anti-social behaviour and arson in Grace Dieu woodland and to and from landowner about graffiti removal on viaduct
- To EMOHA about the migration stories project asking for update – will be nothing further heard until July.

Promotion:

- May 9th walk promoted by tourism officer for NWLDC on Hermitage FM
- Details of work done on raised flowerbed on The Green and involvement of local scout for his Queen's Award to local media and to NWLDC who have put it on their Green Footprints Network site. Article in CV Times 28th May.
- Details to local media on litter pick on 12th June printed in CV Times of 4th June. Pam has already put up posters around the village

Other:

- Attended inaugural meeting of Green Footprints Network. Most useful for the future. Pam P will probably also go to the next one in Castle Donington in September.
- Guided walk to Cademan and Swannymote as part of National Forest Walk Festival – attracted 7 adults, 6 children and raised £20 for the group. Thanks to Ann Petty for helping with this again and for doing the walk on 30th May which attracted 11 people and raised £22 for the group.
- Phone call from judge involved in RCC Community and Cleaner/Greener awards which we have entered. Trying to arrange a meeting to discuss things as part of the judging process.

Treasurers Report

Tam has been moving house this week and has been unable to produce a report. The inspection of accounts will take place later. Nita provided a copy of the accounts as she knows it for circulation.

The balance at the end of April - £2,149.97

Income in May --£99 from walks, membership fees and publications

Expenditure in May -£194.14 for litter pick items, which will be reimbursed by £200 from NWLDCs Funding pot, £200 for plants for The Green and £125.23 for sleepers for the planting area.

Nita stated that the current balance agreed with Tam (who was setting up the BBQ) is now £1729.60, but the bank statement would not give all the expenditure items above as these would probably not have cleared. Nita circulated a copy of the above details and a full copy of her petty cash accounts for the membership year, showing a current balance of £4.74.

David Stevenson asked when the financial year finished and was told that it went from AGM to AGM. He then suggested that the accounts were closed an agreed period of time prior to the AGM so that they could be finalised, independently examined and copies produced for all members. This was agreed for next year.

Publications Report

One copy of each of Village Trail 1 and 3 and one copy each of Memories 1 and 2 has been sold at the Community Centre in the last month. £12 will be banked. This report also sets out the annual sales showing the sales at each venue over the last year and the spread of sales over each month. The latter records have only been kept by me since February this year and therefore I am unable to attribute the sales prior to that date accurately.

Sales 1st June 2009 until May 30th 2010

	Born and Bred 1	Born and Bred 2	Mem 1	Mem 2	VT 1	VT 2	VT 3
>31.12.09	0	0	18	12	11	9	13
2.2.10	4	1	2	1	2	2	0
2.3.10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2.4.10	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.5.10	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
2.6.10	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Annual Total	6	2	24	15	15	12	15
Total Stock at 30.5.10	37	51	24	31	43	41	40

Location of Sales

Community Centre	24
George and Dragon	16
Nita	0
Other	49
	<u>89</u>

Note: The category 'other' relates to sales made prior to February 2010 which I am unable to allocate to specific sales points

Nita thanked the Community Centre and the George and Dragon for helping with sales of publications.

Web report

John Smith reported that he had had some difficulties with access to the website and was working on the idea of changing servers. He was asked if this would change the web address and said that he could change the links so that users would not be affected.

Arts and Community

Pam Clayfield reported that the Centre Stage evening with Maalstrom had been much enjoyed by those who went. It would have been better to have a few more in the audience but the performers had been excellent.

She also gave a report on the meeting of the School Council which she had attended. The minutes were given for filing. She said that she had encouraged junior involvement and caused some amusement by calling

young members Junior Fotters. Year 6 are organising a School Fete on Friday 2nd July and asked FoT to provide 3 judges for their 'Thringstone's Got Talent' competition. Pam Clayfield, Ray Woodward and Dave Everitt agreed to do this.

Nita asked if anyone was willing to do a stall. She was unable to do it on a Friday. Nobody volunteered, so Nita agreed to write to the school saying we would not have a stall.

History Report

Ann Petty said there was nothing new to report, but she had brought a folder of the Village Appraisal which had been conducted in the year 2000. Nita wished to have her thanks to Ann recorded. She helped with Nita's walks by bringing historical photos and cutting in folders which she has compiled. She also helped by leading a walk recently when Nita was unable to due to ill health.

District Councillors Report - Ray Woodward

Someone is interested in the purchase of The Fox site for use as an Indian Restaurant. Don't know whether or not this will happen but have given contact details of Citrus Group to the enquirer.

Planning applications in the pipeline are for the post office to renovate the front of the building and to improve the upstairs rooms.

An application to build 13 houses on the Waldram coal yard (Gracedieu Road) has been submitted this week.

No further news on the Homestead Road site, (18 houses & rebuild the clubhouse).Financial details to sort out.

Yet another meeting with C Councillor to try to find out what has happened to outstanding highway jobs, footpath jobs and some more serious outstanding works at the community centre.

The police and community safety dept (NWLDC) are trying to tackle the motorbike problem that abounds in the woods and I have made enquiries of the area commander as to whether Grace Dieu woods can be patrolled by the Whitwick/Thringstone beat officers.

I am not getting reports at the moment of any more anti-social behaviour, but if any member of FOT knows of any, please let me know.

Ray Neal has reported theft of lead from the roof of the R&C and also flytipping in the pub car park, but these incidences must be reported to the police and an incident number obtained.

Normal case work continues. This includes assisting tenants to get repairs done and to try to maintain the housing stock in good condition, plus any other assistance that can be given to all residents of the ward, where the problems are council related.

Ray Woodward had a conversation with County Councillor Tony Gillard. This is as follows:

- Bollards on Loughbro Road - putting these in was delayed as the supplies came in to county and the contracts manager wasn't told. As a result, they are hopefully putting these in by the end of June
- Tony is sorting out the legalities of the patio in the Closs and the problems with the footpath and access across it for electrical works
- The lift at the community centre is at a standstill at present, and county have said they will probably not be able to fund a chair lift either.

Police Report

Theft from motor vehicle x 1

Burglary other than dwelling x 4

Theft of cycle x 1 with suspect

Burglary to dwelling x 2 - 1 with suspect

Assault x 1 with charged person

Damage x 1 with suspect

Theft x 1

The theft of bushes by the church wall which were planted by FoT has been investigated, and whilst it is certain that they have been taken and replanted elsewhere, nobody is willing to make a statement, so nothing can be done on this.

PC Donna Winters is still on light duties, and it has now been agreed that a temporary police constable can be allocated to the beat, as Jim Sorrell has had no regular PC with him for 7 months.

PCSO Jim Sorrell invites you to a beat 24 surgery at The Green, Thringstone from 10am to 11am on 11th June 2010. Come to talk about local policing problems. All are welcome.

Nita reported that various agencies had been told about the recent arson to a bench in Grace Dieu woods and regular contact was being maintained with the de Lisle family and agencies over the graffiti on the

From Previous Minutes

- Gardening update – The raised bed on The Green was now planted up by Ray Neal and helpers. Ray added that the planting was only temporary for the summer and more permanent planting would be done in the autumn. Thanks was given to all involved. Tony Dandy has offered to sponsor grass to finish off the area. Delivery of this is awaited.
- Litter pick 12th June – Karon Smith said that 10 Geocachers had signed up. She confirmed routes with Pam Porter and numbers and timing for catering with Janet Stevenson and asked Pam to provide maps for her if possible
- Other events: Picnic in the Park -27th June. Location of the stall site and vehicle access was not yet received. Janet Stevenson asked for help with transporting tables and the bric a brac and plants for the stall. Ray Woodward agreed to liaise with Lorraine and deliver tables to the site. Bernard, Ray Neal and Ray W would deliver and put up the Gazebo and banner early on the morning. Pam Porter, Pat Elderfield, Janet & David Stevenson would deliver the bric a brac and plants. Anyone else willing to take a few boxes in their car early on 27th please contact Janet.

Grace Dieu –July 4th - Roy Hill has liaised with Janet for bric a brac and plants left over from PiP. Other organisation will be done by Roy when he returns from holiday, but Nita asked if anybody was willing to help man the stall. Volunteers were Nita, Ray N, Janet, and Bernard. Ray W will be unable to help on the day, and Nita agreed to tell Roy that he needs to liaise with Ray W in advance of the day regarding the gazebo and tables etc.

Thringstone Live for Charity – nobody from the group had turned up to discuss this. Nita will write to them again.

Snibston Miner's Gala – 11th Sept. Nita has accepted the chance of a stall, has asked we be next to Grace Dieu again, will be doing wine and water, and will be helped by Janet Stevenson and Ray Woodward during the day. Bernard and Ray N and possibly others may carry our banner in the procession.

Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are now due. David Stevenson will follow up unpaid subs when he returns from holiday and after a meeting with Nita and Tam to discuss the way forward.

Tam raised the issue of attracting and retaining new members and wondered whether money should be spent on a leaflet drop in the form of an advert for members. Ray W said that the recent NWLDC Green Footprints Networking meeting attended by him and Nita had produced some interesting ideas such as group discounts as incentives. Nita also said she had been asked to use the newsletter as a consultation document to ask villagers what they wanted from the group. Tam thought this should be done separately from the newsletter. He was reminded that the millennium appraisal had produced a 25% response and had led to the setting up of FoT and that Nita had over a period of time worked through the issues raised in that appraisal and looked at progress made. It was agreed that ten years on a new consultation could be valuable.

AOB

Geoff Walker has made a very good start on the promotional video and showed what he had done to the meeting. He had followed the year through starting with the winter snow and progressing to the spring and the bluebell woods, showing the various FoT environmental projects. He emphasised that it was a 'work in progress' and asked for constructive criticism. The meeting was very impressed by the quality of the work and made several suggestions as to what else could be included. It was suggested that it could be organised in chapters with FoT activities and the History separated out from General Views of 'The year in Thringstone'. John Smith suggested that it could eventually be put on the website and also could be shared with EMOHA.

It being a lovely summer's evening members then adjourned to Bob's Closs for a BBQ which had been organised by Tam and his wife Vicky. They were joined later by the new MP for NW Leicestershire, Andrew Bridgen, and his wife and son.

Date of next meeting: July 1st, 6.45pm Thringstone Community Centre