

Friends of Thringstone

Minutes of Meeting 9/6/05

Dave Everett, Chris Mellor, Sarah Morgan, Ray Neal, Sandie Newton. Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, John and Karen Smith, Rowena Summers.

Apologies from Pam Clayfield.

1. Constitution and Committee

Nita distributed the proposed constitution which was read by all – there were no objections.

The subscription was proposed to be £1. Someone suggested a discretionary payment if a member did not want to pay but were an active member, but a vote on this issue was unanimous in favour of the £1 charge. With the monies raised the Treasurer will be able to open a bank account.

Ray N suggested that the group include an element of historical interest like the Grace Dieu group, but it was agreed that our purpose was environmental, but there was nothing to stop us having guest speakers.

The following members of the group were elected:

Chairperson: Nita Pearson

Secretary: Sarah Morgan

Treasurer: Pam Porter with Rowena Summers as assistant. (It was agreed that the role of the treasurer could potentially involve a lot more than just running a bank account, for example, funding applications which were time consuming)

Committee: Dave Everett, Chris Mellor, Ray Neal, Sandie Newton, John and Karen Smith.

Subscriptions totalling £12 were collected from those already mentioned plus Ray Woodward and Jo Johnson.

2. Names for Newsletter

Those already suggested:

Thringstone and Whitwick Matters

Groundswell

Community Focus

After much discussion John suggested that we call the first issue Friends of Thringstone News and include within it a competition to name future issues with a £5 prize. All agreed to this. It will be distributed around all of Thringstone and some of Whitwick. Nita said that Pam C is working on the distribution of the newsletter.

3. Newsletter Production

John Smith very kindly offered to produce the graphics for the newsletter. We are aiming to get this ready for handing out at the Flower Festival on the 25th June. We are also going to find out if we can use the Community Centre logo in the newsletter. The newsletter needs to detail:

Who we are \ What we do \ What we've done \ Current and future projects \ Contact details \ Come and join us \ Competition for name \ Next meeting date.

It was suggested that PC Ian Holland may want to contribute an article to a future newsletter and we could hopefully publish his telephone number.

Nita suggested that we put an article in the next 'Vision' about what we are doing. We should also invite the Coalville Times, Leicester Mercury and the free papers to our next meeting.

4. Planting and Bulbs

Nita showed us a letter that she had received from Keith Fairbrother – Manager of Technical and Contracting Support at N.W.L.D.C. In it he said that he would support the proposal to improve Thringstone and would provide what assistance he could within the resources available. He believes that if the local community is involved with the provision and maintenance of the proposed flower bed, then it is less likely to be vandalised. He has said he would provide labour and plant for this from within the existing budget. However he has requested that the group be prepared to seek sponsorship for the provision of shrubs and plants, which could then be recognised with a plaque in the flower bed. Planting to be done jointly between our members and parks staff and weeding, watering etc to be done by the group with shrub maintenance carried out by parks staff.

Nita has asked Lorraine W if the garden club would consider helping with planting and possibly maintenance. We are hoping to start in late summer with plants and shrubs and therefore need to start right away with raising funds and donations.

Ray N suggested that we hold a plant sale to raise profits and plants. The scouts used to do this and Ray is going to find out where the scouts used to get their plants from. Nita suggested asking the new plant shop in Whitwick Market Place if they could donate any and she will approach Beesleys and the nursery next to the Man Within Compass for donations with the promise of an advert in a future newsletter. Any gardeners in the group may also want to grow some plants to donate.

5. Latch onto your Patch

Pam C wanted us to discuss the Latch onto your Patch leaflet drop and Nita suggested that we put this in the newsletter.

AOB

We need to establish how to go about reporting fly-tipping and publish the telephone number (0845 9333111)

It was established that if anyone wants to report an eyesore in our area then it must be done in writing and cannot be done anonymously. On that subject, the land by the side of The Bulls Head is looking a lot better as the residents have cleaned it up considerably. Progress is also being made on the house on The Green – currently the windows are being replaced with help from council grants as it is a Grade Two listed building.

Rowena mentioned the entrance to the woods at Springfield. Killingwood are responsible for maintaining this but have cut the grass but not cleared the actual entrance which is very overgrown.

Chris asked about the viaduct and who was responsible for this. Nita thought that it was Squire de Lisle. It has recently been repointed. Grace Dieu Priory Trust is responsible for maintaining the area around the ruins.

Litter is starting to build up again and it was suggested that we arrange another litter pick at the next meeting. Also is Severn Trent responsible for keeping the brook clear?

After we have produced the first newsletter we need to put together a letter to send to all local businesses asking for donations, again with promise of an ad in the newsletter.

Ray N wants a guest speaker from the County Council who can clarify the areas that they are responsible for and those that the District Council are responsible for.

Nita is to put some text together for the newsletter.

Lorraine came in and told us that the Community Centre are donating £100 to the group for plants and will get this to the treasurer asap.

Ray W to ask Clark Robinson if he can come and talk to us again.

Next Meeting

7th July at 6.30 pm at The Rangers Club.