

# FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

## MINUTES OF MEETING 18 January 2007

### In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Bernard Lee, Ray Neal, Margaret Smith, David & Janet Stevenson, Ann Petty, Sandie & Tony Newton, Cllr Ray Woodward, Colin Perrett, Dave Everett, John & Karon Smith, Neils Neilson, Terry Robinson, Jim Wilkinson, Claire MacRory, Rachel Foster and Geoff Wilson.

### Apologies recieved from:

Chris Mellor, Rowena Summers, Debbie & Ian Wood, Bill Ensor, Cllr Pam Clayfield, Lorraine Whitehurst, John Dickinson and Jane Wilson

### Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated

### Treasurers Report

Balance bfwd	£1197.74	
Receipts	£150.33	EMA Plants Grant
Expenditure	£500.00	Loan Repayment
	£30.00	Macmillan Nurses Donation (Funeral)
Balance cfwd	£818.07	

### Secretary's Report

No correspondence sent or received but the chairman passed on letters which she had received from the following

- **Nottingham East Midlands Airport** covering the £150.33 cheque, this being the final tranche of the grant awarded to us for environmental work.
- **Nelsons Solicitors** representing owner of s land across which the Right of way which we know as 'Drury Lane' passes alleging Trespass and other misdemeanors. This was received by Cllr Ray Woodward in December. Attached to this letter is a reply drafted by Nita and Ray and posted 19

December 2006. To date there has been no further correspondence on this matter.

- **Photographs** of the Sponsored Walk which took place on Sunday 14 January were produced. It was agreed that such items together with press cuttings and similar Publicity items should be collated to create a Record of the groups activities. NP agreed to undertake this and asked the secretary to pass back to her the cuttings which he has in his possession.
- **Press Cutting** from the Mercury (Delivered to NP anonymously) detailing problems with a pedestrian crossing in Melton which seem similar to those experienced on The Green in Thringstone.

This produced much discussion but the problem seems to be one of enforcement of the law in relation to speed, priority and parking rather than a rethink of the type of crossing provided. Nita had already spoken to the police on this issue and Leicestershire County Council Highways.

### **Web Report**

John reported that he is trying to keep the website up to date and correct. He also reported that he is still investigating a total redesign of the site.

### **Councilors Report**

Cllr Ray Woodward said that he did not have any Thringstone specific information to report as it was not within his remit. However he did inform the group of an intended litter pick by the Friends of Holly Hayes Woods and asked that we did not litter pick on the same weekend as this produced difficulties for the council who organize collection of the black bags on the Monday following as an addition to the normal work round.

It was agreed that we would finalise a date for our pick which is to be on the Woodside estate and its surroundings and that RW would inform The Friends of Holly Hayes of that date to avoid any conflict.

The date chosen was 11 February 2007 meeting in the Rangers Club car park at 10.15am.

It was further agreed that this activity should be publicised by Notices posted in the local Shops, Pubs etc

**Guest Speaker – Claire MacRory – Street Environment Manager NWLDC**  
**(e-mail: [claire.macrory@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.macrory@nwleicestershire.gov.uk))**

Clare began by outlining the role which she held and the remit to ‘Improve the street environment’ with which she and her colleagues are charged.

She then went on to explain how the objectives were to be achieved stressing that there was no easy, instant fix rather that it would be a process of gradual progress through education linked to tackling specific problems in particular areas which would raise the public’s awareness of the nature of a proper clean environment. For example she outlined a scheme to involve the pupils at Castle Rock School in a campaign under the banner ‘Your Streets – Owned’ the word ‘owned’ being a buzz word currently among the young.

The Department in which Claire works is also endeavouring to identify ‘target’ areas for special attention through liaison with various community groups, the Police, adult learning groups etc and also ensuring that businesses are fully aware of their responsibilities and liabilities in regard to the Duty of Care which they have in relation to the disposal of waste.

In addition the department will with effect from July 2007 take on responsibility for street parking and the enforcement of parking regulations. 8 enforcement officers are to be appointed.

Claire finished by saying that in the absence of Parish Councils in this area, contact with groups like ours is vital to success and that we could rest assured that we would have full cooperation and assistance from the council in our environmental work.

**Police Liaison – Rachel Foster**

Rachel reported on various minor incidents in recent times but on the specifics of the break-in at the Cricket Club she was pleased to be able to report that several arrests had been made and further arrests were imminent. These would probably lead to the setting up of ABCs (acceptable behavior contracts) with the persons involved which was the first step towards a full ASBO if they continue to create nuisance or offend.

She went on to announce a ‘Beat Surgery’ open to all to be held at the community centre Tuesday 30 January 2007 between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

One last announcement – Ian Holland is to move to a new job within the police service on 31 January 2007. No decision on who will replace him has been taken as yet, but Rachel would try to involve the new PC in visits to our group in the future.

## **Summer Event**

The date for the sub committee meeting was changed to Tuesday 30 January 2007 to coincide with the Beat Surgery date and the date for the event was narrowed to be either Saturday 23 or 30 June 2007 thus avoiding a clash with Picnic in The Park on 17 June 2007.

## **Funding Applications**

- Volunteering and Monitoring Project. We successfully got through Stage one of this application. The stage two meeting was however postponed and in view of the fact that Lorraine had a heavy commitment to the work in Bobs Closs (including the building of a board walk) it was agreed that pursuit of this funding was put on hold for a time.
- National Forest Village Name Signs. NP reported that we now had confirmation that two signs are to be erected, funded by the National Forest Company and RCC, one at the cross roads from Whitwick and the other by The Bulls Head.
- Blue Plaques We now have funding for a further ten blue plaques - the buildings have been identified and the owners consent obtained for erection by Bernard Lee in due course. These will of course form an integral part of the history walk leaflet which we are currently developing.
- Village Trail History Walk Leaflet A £1000.00 grant from RCC will fund publication of this document the body of which is now being prepared by a team led by NP. A final draft will be circulated for comment/approval prior to print. A further £500.00 is likely to be made available to us by NWLDC for general use on the history project.
- Ken Chamberlain Trust. This application is still ongoing although the decision date in December has passed and nothing has been heard.

## **Projects**

- Planting on Millbank. Work in progress. It was agreed that the group should purchase tools (rake, spade, fork etc.) to use in such work.
- History Project The taping of interviews with the older residents is ongoing but it is a slow process. We are investigating the possibility of producing a booklet to include the transcribed interviews and are in touch with the Library service in an attempt to involve them.

### **Cllr Pam Clayfield – Sponsored Walk**

The weather was kind to us for this event and a number of members and supporters turned out for a very enjoyable event. The total raised awaits finalisation.

### **CRB Checking.**

We have to date managed without having to resort to this particular procedure - however it was felt that this situation would not last forever and the cost of each application for information was considerable. It was suggested that group membership of CVS at a membership subscription of £20.00(pa?) would give us access to the relevant information free in the future. NP agreed to pursue clarification of the information.

### **Grass Verge Parking Problems**

NP reported that this problem had returned after a short period where it seemed that the offenders had taken notice of the communications on the subject. NP further reported that she had informed the Highways department and others about the recurrence of the parking.

### **Signs**

It was noted that the street signs for The Green and Heathfield had both gone missing and this has been reported to NWLDC. It was generally felt that The 'Green' sign had probably been wrongly sited in the first place as strangers to the village often enquired where The Green actually was and perhaps the council may take the opportunity to rectify this when a replacement sign is erected. It was agreed that NP would discuss this matter with the relevant officer.

### **AOB**

Terry Robinson who grew up in Thringstone joined our group as a member at this meeting and entertained the members by reading a poem which he wrote as schoolboy some twenty years ago about Thringstone, its history and inhabitants. A copy of this poem was given to the group to be used as seen fit

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 22 February 2007