



# The Friends of Thringstone

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Brenda Simpson, Lorraine Whitehurst,, Jim Wilkinson, Pam Porter, John and Karon Smith, Janet Stevenson, Ron Hill, David Taylor, Ray Neal, Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Simon Jaggs, Geoff Wilson, Tam Bream

**Apologies:** Sandie and Tony Newton, Pat Elderfield, Margaret Smith, Pam Clayfield, Colin Perritt, Tracey Foulds, Ian and Deb Woods, Ann Petty, Rowena Summers, Chris Mellor, Dave Everitt, Jane Wilson, Jim Sorrel and Donna Winters (police)

### Reports

#### Chair's report

Nita started her report talking about meeting etiquette. She said 'This is a Friends Group, and we want people to be able to talk and debate issues that affect them and in which they have an interest. However, in order for the minute secretary to ensure she writes down what people say accurately, we can't have situations where people are all speaking at the same time. Many people don't feel happy with the formalised set-up mentioned at the last meeting, so all I will ask is that, if people feel happy to do so, when they have a point to raise, they raise their hands until I have acknowledged them, and when the conversation then allows, I will go to them to ask for their point. There is no need to ask for permission to speak 'through the chair' but we can't allow situations where everybody is talking together, or where people are talking in groups across others who are speaking.

People who don't come to the meetings have told me that they enjoy the wide variety of information contained in the minutes, and others have said they want to be able to join in discussions freely and easily and feel unhappy with formalities, so for ease of recording conversations, I need your help during the meeting.

Thank you. '

#### Letters received

- From Local Works group (campaigns to implement the Sustainable Communities Act) seeking MP support on issues. Email sent to David Taylor and letter received that he will always strongly support anything for sustainable communities.
- From Community Centre asking us to fill in regular users' registration. Done

- From NWL third sector forum inviting us to a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 10am. Declined. From Voluntary Action Leicester inviting us to a conference on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct in Leicester during the day. Declined. From NWLDC asking if we wanted a free market stall on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Declined.
- Letter and package from CSV Make A Difference Day Team to use at our Heritage Event (linked with this day) on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Available to look at.
- From Voluntary Action Leicester indicating the services they can offer to us as a group. Copy available.
- Resignation of Jan Cufflin. *A letter had been received from Jan complimenting Nita and the group on the work they were doing in the village but saying that she no longer felt able to be part of the group, but would help out with anything if needed .*

#### Emails received

- From Luke Barley regarding smart driver training and explaining that the training is in a daytime and not over 3 consecutive days (discuss in meeting)  
*There were three venues and dates for this training but 8 people per day were needed for it to be viable, across a selection of community groups. At the moment, from Friends of Thringstone, only 2 were able to go during the day to Kegworth on Nov 2nd and one to West Bridgford on 3rd and none for Nottingham City Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> November. **Anyone else interested please contact Nita as soon as possible.***
- From Arts and Museum Service regarding funding day in Leicester aimed at groups with historical sections passed to Ann Petty and John Dickinson
- From Ray Woodward agreeing to pursue the possible funding of hanging basket poles and brackets via local quarry and to report back, following discussions with NWLDC about the ones elsewhere in the district indicating that they were funded by sponsors not NWLDC themselves.
- From Community Centre regarding ensuring all electrical equipment is PAT tested.
- From residents involved with ASB. Also had several phone calls. Information passed to ASB person at NWLDC and our councillors
- From lady in Loughborough enquiring about walks locally and our walk programme for 2010 – replied.
- From webmaster regarding setting up a paypal system (not viable) and regarding changing email address from chair with copies of everything received going to other committee. (see webmasters report)

#### Emails sent

- Emails to committee regarding ongoing issues and organisational matters, plus copies of various circular newsletters from organisations with whom we have links
- To Youth Council asking them to be our speakers in October and subsequent email saying they can't now come. It is hoped they may be able to come and speak to the group in January
- To Ann Petty and John Dickinson regarding LCC history project mentioned in Leics. Matters.
- To WI to ask for help getting together some recipes for a possible new booklet of photos in days gone by combined with granny's recipes – agreed and discussed at their meeting with positive results
- Internal discussion with committee and gardening group over bulb supplies as part of wish list discussions last meeting
- To housing dept and others at NWLDC plus police regarding vandalism to fencing on Sustrans track, about flytipping in the woods and motorbike issues. Nobody as yet seems sure who is responsible for putting back the fencing which was broken
- To Voluntary Action Leicester enquiring about CRB and ISA checks (see AOB)
- To members on email with ongoing news etc.

## Promotion

• Emails to media regarding EMIB success, to councillors and officers at NWLDC. Nita showed the group the certificate and letter that had been received. The group congratulated the gardening group and everyone who had contributed to making the village look clean and attractive on the day of the inspection, including the litter pickers.

- Continued promotion of heritage event on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – invited WI to come along to promote village life – media promotion to be done nearer the time but all websites already covered. Article will be in RCC newsletter of 12<sup>th</sup> October
- Article on our EMIB success in Coalville Times of 16<sup>th</sup> Sept and Loughborough Echo of 18<sup>th</sup> Sept and Leicester Mercury but not sure when. Article and photo on bowls success in Coalville Times of 25<sup>th</sup> September.
- Article on next heritage event in St Andrew's newsletter – thank you Geoff

## Other

- Nita had lead two walks to Cademan and Swannymote woods – first one on 27<sup>th</sup> September was part of the Leics. Walking Festival and attracted 15 walkers and raised £31 plus £2.50 for a brochure. Second walk was 4<sup>th</sup> October and attracted 5 walkers and raised £10.
- Meeting with Goff Lewis at NWLDC to discuss heritage issues and blue plaques. Possible further meeting to take place.
- Viewed Ray's cabinet and discussed arrangements to have this repaired and placed at Community Centre
- Ordered Christmas cards and arranged delivery and payment. One pack of 10 already sold. *These were shown to the group and offered for sale at £5 for 10*
- Phone call from member wishing to submit Granny's recipe for bread pudding
- Meeting with Amanda Hanlon of LCC to discuss youth issues – report available in hard copy. Further meetings planned and email contact continuing.
- Obtained some coasters for the group advertising the Big Switch Off 12-18 Oct, . 50 bio-degradable carrier bags for the group from Leicestershire Library Service for use on individual litter picks and some bags and cigarette butt pouches from NWLDC's Street Scene Manager. Tam enquired where more supplies of the coasters could be obtained and suggested that they should be more widely distributed. Nita agreed to find out for next year, but did not hold out much hope, as they are sent from a centralised source to businesses and local authorities, not to community groups *The carrier bags were given to Pam Porter for distribution to anyone who wanted one and other things distributed amongst the members.*
- Attended Whitwick Action Group Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Hard copy report available
- Attended Eco day (Roy Hill also went) at Yew Lodge, Kegworth to see smart driver trainer and talk to NWLDC Street Scene Manager – hard copy of report available
- Phone call from lady in Leicester asking for advice on how to transform an area of land in someone else's ownership, but leased to yet another party to get this into a fit state to apply for an EMIB neighbourhood award. Explained the real need to ensure that they had something in writing giving them permission to transform this area.
- Roy Hill has been to Eco Conference at Walkers' Stadium 8/10 – report to be given by Roy

Roy said that this conference had been aimed mainly at large corporations, not individuals, but he had picked up some useful leaflets etc. which were available to the group. He also had a Power Down device, low energy light bulbs and information about Green Cones which would be passed to the school. The bulbs were given to Lorraine for use in the Community Centre. This provoked some discussion about use of such bulbs throughout the centre as there are no energy saving bulbs being used at present. Lorraine agreed to look into this.

- **Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream**

Tam had not brought a full report but was able to give details from the latest bank statement.

These showed as follows:

Starting balance £1,736.28

Outgoings £330.00

Incomings £129.56

Current balance £1535.84

Nita's petty cash holding is currently £13.55 as some paper has been bought out of the raffle money raised at the last meeting.

- **Publications report - Geoff Wilson**

**Brochure stock and sales report 07.10.2009**

Geoff had prepared tables showing current holdings of stock and his analysis of sales since 22 August 2009 by location. These are available in hard copy to any member wishing to see them.

Please note the following:-

Regarding the brochures/booklets which went missing during the refurbishment of the facility, one appears to have been returned.

Sales noted for the period ended 7 October from the CC raised £7.50 not the theoretical figure of £8.50

Nobody was available to carry out a stock check at the George & Dragon until 12 October.

A Village Trail brochure was stolen at the Snibston event so, although it appears as a sale in the figures, the actual revenue was reduced by £2.50.

The stock overview shows that our stocks remain adequate for our seasonal demand.

sales have been 1 x Memories 1, 1 x Village Trail 1, 2 x Village Trail 2 (includes the one stolen) and 1 x Memories 1.

Roy Hill asked whether any efforts had been made to sell brochures from the Renault Garage on the A512. Geoff Wilson agreed to investigate this possibility.

Nita explained that an evaluation of sales figures from January to date showed a continued interest in books on the history of the village and people's memories. From this, it was agreed that the proposed booklet of photos and recipes being put together will have a good target audience, and could potentially sell well.

**Web report and emails– John Smith**

John reported that the website was up to date with pictures of recent events, and he had taken out a further 2 years term for the site.

The Christmas cards for sale was yet to be added. He had been adjusting the site to make it more search engine friendly.

There was some discussion about an email address accessible by more than one person. It was agreed that a group email address would be a good idea, so that in the event of illness or unavailability of the chairman others would be able to pick up issues for attention, but the practicalities needed further discussion with the webmaster.

**Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield** (read in Pam's absence by Janet Stevenson)

- I am sorry I am unable to be at the meeting, but I have a prior engagement
- Loose Women is no longer running due to lack of support
- The film club continues to run but needs more support than it is receiving.
- Ray Sutton's talks are also continuing on Wednesday afternoons. For details of the subjects being covered, contact the centre.
- I am continuing to work with Hermitage FM to promote their local radio station. Jon Sketchley from the station is the guest speaker at the November meeting.
- I am holding a fund raising event this coming Saturday for LRI Oncology Unit, and The Cellar Bar Blues, are coming along. £5 tickets are still on sale through Lorraine at the

centre. If you can't come along, please just give a donation if you want to support the event.

- The community centre continues to have a variety of classes available to attend. For more details on what is available, and groups that meet here in which you might like to join, talk to Lorraine.
- The next event at the centre is on 14<sup>th</sup> November when the Tom McConville Trio are playing. Details have been advertised in the newsletter, and it all starts at 7.45pm with tickets at £8, concessions £7. Tom has won awards for his music, and a good night is guaranteed.
- I am going to be working with Nita on the Youth issues with which she is dealing.
- I have established that the footpath by Millhouse Estate is now open and passable, and that work has been completed on the footpath by The Glebe.
- I am working with Nita on putting together two or three footpath walks round the village and surrounding areas next year to go into the RCC brochure and be promoted locally and on the website, to compliment the history walks
- Charles Hanson from BBC Antiques Roadshow and Bargain Hunt is coming to St Andrews on 17<sup>th</sup> October and will be available to value any antiques or collectables people wish to bring along. There is a £3 cost for valuations which will be given to the church to help with their improvements.

### **History – Ann Petty (read in Ann's absence by Janet Stevenson)**

- Ann has found out through talking to Ibstock Historical Group at the Miner's Gala that Leicestershire County Council got rid of their stock of Deeds, Abstracts of Title, etc concerning re-development land. Steve Saunders from Witan Archeology said we should ask Whitwick Historical Group to see if they had any relating to Thringstone. Ann has asked Doreen, who is in charge of recording everything they have, and they have quite a few documents that relate to us and she said she would ask at the next committee meeting if we can either have the documents or have copies of them. We have not heard from her yet but will follow this up.
- Ann has e-mailed Stephen Butt about the Victoria County History project, mentioned in the Leicestershire Matters magazine, but has not had any reply yet. Ann has printed off an example of a village in Rutland, which is in Volume 5 of the VCH and it is extremely detailed. It might be too much for us, but we will see. Ann understands that Squire de Lisle is Chairman of the new committee.
- Ann sent an e-mail to Bob Trubshaw at Heart of Albion Press, about the "Council Stone" on Main Street which Ray Neal mentioned at the last meeting, but again got no reply. Ann was going to ask Fran Skinner if she had his phone number to ring him, but Nita has done this for her in her absence..
- Ann thought about trying to put together a folder about Thringstone soldiers, being as it's the 70th anniversary of the 2nd world war starting, with newspaper cuttings and photographs. Could anyone who has any wartime photos or stories that we could use contact us on this please? Thanks to local historian Ron Goacher we have a list of soldiers, and some details of the Thringstone soldiers of the 1st world war.

### **Councillor's 5 minute report Ray Woodward**

- Along with Nita, I have contacted the Citrus Group about the state of the Fox site, but had no reply. I am now in consultation with the planning department about issuing an untidy land notice, or if this is not possible, have asked for advice on how to improve the site so that it is no longer subject to vandalism, arson and general neglect.
- I reported to the group that there is a lot of litter on the Woodside estate, and Pam and Bernard are now dealing with this.

- I am still trying to find out if and when we are likely to get a notice from BSHF regarding permission to go onto the land on Grace Dieu Road.
- I have had an email from Chris Waterfield, the team manager (structures North) at Leicestershire County Council regarding the bridge parapets over the tunnel on Grace Dieu Road, and about the fly-tipping, and understand that the responsibility for the bridge belongs with British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd. It is hoped that they will programme remedial works in due course. We are still unsure what state the tunnel underneath is in.
- The tenant of the party house was taken to court recently, and their tenancy is now insecure, meaning if further problems arise, the council can return to court and ask for eviction.
- I have become aware of several issues of anti-social behaviour in the village recently, both on the council estates, and on private estates, and am in discussion with the police and the council officers to try to stop this escalating and deal with the people causing the problems.
- Queens Head Licence Application. Ray said Dave Everitt was the person on the planning committee, but he understood that the application was only so that the owners, Admiral Taverns, could sell the premises with a licence. There had been 8 objections presented to the Council Meeting and it was likely to be granted with reduced hours from those originally proposed.  
Ray pointed out that any resident can apply for a review of the licence should trouble occur.
- Council house repairs – contractors are in place and repairs are scheduled to go ahead shortly where necessary across the district. I am trying to get a time frame from the Director of Housing as to when these will start in Thringstone.
- I have a meeting with Whitwick Quarry Liaison group on 15<sup>th</sup> October and intend to ask if there is a possibility of any funding coming to the group which would allow us to buy some of the hanging basket furniture you might have seen around the district, especially around Greenhill area.
- I have been involved this month in dealing with a lot of residents who have issues regarding private rentals.

### **Dave Everitt**

Dave had said that if he was able to get to the meeting later he would talk ad hoc about the planning meeting at the council on 5<sup>th</sup> October at which the Asda proposals were thrown out, the Tesco proposals approved (against officer's suggestions) and the resultant delays that will occur. Unfortunately he was unable to come. Members had seen reports in the press.

### **Police report**

Jim Sorrell and Donna Winters both sent apologies as a day off and a day shift meant they were unable to attend, they sent a report as follows;

**The next beat meeting is at 10.15am on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at The Green**

#### Motorbikes

One notice has been issued this month to a motobike rider who were driving in an inconsiderate manner.

9 anti Social Behaviour letters have been sent to local youths. Their parents have been fully informed about their behaviour.

#### Crime statistics of October 09

6 x criminal damage; 2 x assaults; 1 x drugs offence; 3 x thefts; 0 x stolen vehicles or burglaries.

Total 12 crimes for which 7 offenders/suspects have been located and dealt with by the police

**Guest Speakers:** Jessica Murtagh and members of the Youth Council were unable to come. It is hoped they may be able to come in January

### From previous minutes

- **Gardening group:** Bernard reported that the bulb planting at Millbank with 40 children from the school had been a great success.  
The next bulb planting will be by the church wall on October 17<sup>th</sup>. People were asked to come with their own tools. It was pointed out that this clashed with the visit of Charles Hanson at the church for the Antiques Roadshow. It was suggested that he should be asked to plant a bulb for a publicity photo opportunity if possible. Nita will follow this up.
- **Litter pick update**  
Pam porter reported that dog walkers were taking bags and keeping the litter situation more under control. However she asked that anyone seeing an area which needed attention should let her know, especially at the next meeting, so that a more concerted effort could be directed there. Ray Woodward referred to an article in the Mercury about dog walkers picking up recyclables and taking them home for their boxes.  
Tam agreed to speak to MacDonaldis and KFC about the unacceptable amount of their packaging which is being discarded on the A512  
Bernard Lee commented that the bins in the village were not large enough and not emptied frequently. Could this be taken up with the Council? Ray Woodward agreed to follow this up.  
David Taylor asked to be informed of the dates of litter picks for publicity pictures.  
Pam said that the next one would be on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am from The Green. All are welcome.
- Land on Grace Dieu Road if not covered elsewhere See councillor's report above)
- Smart Driver Training (see emails received above)
- Miner's Gala report from 12<sup>th</sup> September – one membership taken and £47 in wine and water. Nita said that the stall had gone well and the banner had been a success. Ray Neal asked if the EMIB Award could be added to the banner. A stick on addition was suggested. David Taylor reported that Snibston had been very pleased with the success of the event and attendances had been 30% up on last year.
- Christmas card order (see Chairs report above). Christmas Cards are now on sale at £5 for 10. Geoff Wilson will see if he can get these to our usual outlets, but in the meantime, Nita has some and Geoff also has some and people can contact them if they wish to purchase any.
- Bowls match report  
FoT had won this by 47 points to 21. The idea of an annual Challenge Match was being explored. Those people who were in the bowls team were thanked.
- Heritage Event on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct update. Leaflets and posters were given out for this event and members asked to promote it
- Smart Meter report  
Pam said that she had some meters to loan and asked that anyone who took one should make an effort to fill in the feedback forms
- Junior FoT: this name had been approved by the school and they will be submitting questions and being more involved from now on. Ray had mentioned getting the school involved in conservation work on the wetland meadow part of Bob's Closs, and Pam Porter has already asked the school if they are interested. Lorraine has details of a potential speaker that could speak to the students about wild flowers etc. Pam Porter agreed to follow this up with Lorraine and pass any details on to the school.
- Youth issues/lantern workshop  
There will be workshops at the Community Centre during half term week 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Oct to make Spooky decorations for the Spooky Family Disco on 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
The Lantern Workshop for the Christmas procession would take place at a later date.

- Big Switch Off 12-18<sup>th</sup> October. Comment was made that this had not been well publicised, other than in the Vision.
- Meeting dates for 2010 – These will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month for 2010 and it was agreed to include a meeting in August
- Christmas tree and singalong. Ray Woodward will donate a tree. The Choir has been arranged. Tam suggested that there should be more lights on the Centre to make it more noticeable as a central point in the village. He said that LED lights were not expensive and the group had plenty of money. There was some discussion about the power sources and the 'outdoor team' in the group were asked to investigate possibilities. Bernard, Ray and Ray will get together to discuss what can be done.
- Cabinet for the Community Centre. Ray Woodward had donated a china cabinet to use for artefacts and for the Friends of Thringstone awards, but this had not been considered suitable as the glass has to be very sturdy. Nita has written to other groups to see if anybody knows how to get hold of a museum quality cabinet, but does not hold out much hope.

## **AOB**

- School Sponsored Walk 16<sup>th</sup> October. Anyone willing to sponsor Sandie for this please contact her, and she is also collecting Morrison's vouchers for the school if anybody wishes to donate to her.
- Quiz night at Community Centre 24<sup>th</sup> October. A team will be entered but we have one spare place if anybody else wants to come along. Friends of Thringstone came second last year and hope to improve on their place in 2009.
- Best kept garden – Fran Skinner offered shield if anybody want to organise it. No interest was shown in this.
- Events further afield in 2010. It was felt that we were a local group and that energy and efforts should be concentrated on events in the village or immediate area and we should not be involved in working in other areas.
- Pubs : Fox site/Queens Head, (see Councillor's report above). The Bull's Head has now reopened as a carvery, and seems to be doing excellent trade.
- CRB and ISA. The ISA's were replacing the CRB certificates. They were transferable and lifetime valid. They would become free on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010 but there is a transition period from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. It was agreed that we had sufficient coverage with valid CRB's until then and would review the situation next year.

**Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> November, 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre.  
Speaker - Jon Sketchley. Hermitage FM. 99.2FM [www.hermitagefm.com](http://www.hermitagefm.com)**