

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

Minutes of Meeting 7/7/05

Lorraine Whitehurst, Mr Nielson, John and Karen Smith, Pam Porter, Bill Ensor, Ray Neal, Brenda Simpson, Jan Cufflin, Jo Johnson, Jill Macgregor, Janet Stevenson, Pam Clayfield, C Perrett, Bernard Lee, Geoff Walker, Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, M Gamble, Sandie Newton, Geoff Spencer, Sarah Morgan.

1. Apologies:

Dave Everett, Rod Evans, Chris Mellor, David Stevenson.

As there were several new members present, Nita explained about subscriptions, the bank account, which is in the process of being set up, and the constitution which the committee members have signed up to.

Subscriptions paid by Lorraine and Tony at last meeting and by Jill Macgregor at this one now totalling £15. Nita also mentioned that she spoke to David Taylor at the Picnic in the Park and that he would like to be included in our mailing list for the future minutes etc. Nita also thanked John Smith for all his work in establishing the website and the production of the newsletter.

2. Matters from previous minutes – updates:

We have a good turnout so it looks as though our **promotion** of the group has worked. We have delivered approx 1000 newsletters and there has been an article in the latest Coalville Echo as well as a mention in 'The Vision'.

The **strimming** needed at the entrance to woods at Springfield: We have learned that Killingfield have now been replaced by the parks department as being responsible for this.

Grace Dieu Woods: Dave and Nita are now on the committee of the Friends Of Grace Dieu. Bertie de Lisle owns Grace Dieu Woods and is apparently annoyed that the Grace Dieu Priory Trust has not kept him updated about what is happening with this land. Edward de Lisle is now on the Priory Trust committee. It may be useful to invite Bertie de Lisle to a future meeting.

Funding: Nita has a lot of information about funding that we can apply for and is looking for volunteers to help with this. Rowena and Sarah have said they will help.

Newsletter name: Jan suggested reviving the Thringstone Bauble. We had agreed at a previous meeting that we should have a new name but as there were no better suggestions we voted on returning to this name. This was carried.

Clark Robinson is currently on holiday so we do not know when he can arrange a start on the **flowerbeds**. The Gardening Club have agreed to help in future projects \ maintenance.

Nita is still working on a letter to send to local businesses for funding. Ruby's and the Post Office have agreed to help out already.

John explained about the **web space** which is set up on MSN. We can post messages and information. We also have an e-mail address.

3. Geoff Spencer – guest speaker.

Geoff is Strategic Business Support Officer at NWLDC. He is involved in a project to redevelop the Miners Welfare \ Homestead Recreation Ground. This needs refurbishing and developing before it gets any worse. He is looking at how the centre can be developed and is looking for a couple of interested people to champion the project. He also needs to get a management committee established to apply for funding. A consultant has produced a feasibility study which is to be used for this purpose. The actual premises are sound and will comply with the DDA and energy efficiency requirements. He is hoping that new groups may want to set up and use the premises and facilities when it is completed. The idea is to add to Thringstone and not to take anything away from The Community Centre. There are plans to make a larger meeting room for groups. If they don't start the renovation project soon then the facilities will go to waste.

Someone questioned whether there was need for any more community premises in Thringstone.

Lorraine asked who the contact was for anyone who wanted to set up a group or get involved. She also said that she sometimes has requests for rooms in the Community Centre that she cannot accommodate e.g. for band practice that she could pass on. Geoff said that at present there is no-one nominated with this responsibility so that he was happy to be the contact in the interim. His number at the Council Offices is **01530 4545602**.

A member asked how much the feasibility study was and was told that the document cost £10,000. 50% of the cost was borne by NWLDC and 50% by a regeneration trust. The study recommends that it will cost over £300,000 to bring the premises up to the required standard. This will have to be applied for from various funding sources.

It was generally thought that perhaps the Miners Welfare Centre could be more sports orientated, especially as the Community Centre doesn't have these facilities. The Miners Welfare does have changing rooms \ showers.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to try to get some ex-footballers interested.

4. Geoff Walker – guest speaker.

Geoff has set up a Thringstone website – part of The Beehive site which has various pages of interest for the community including; the Community Centre, Churches, a Pictorial Walk, Entertainments, Folk Club, Walks Diary, Speakers Club, W.I., Feedback and Guest Book. There are approx. 125 people per month looking at the website. He said that he would be happy to link us to his site and vice versa.

Geoff will liaise with John to arrange this and also with Pam C to update the Walks Diary. Nita has also been in contact with Chris Poole from the Leicestershire Villages website, who will also provide us with a link. The address is www.leicestershirevillages.com and Chris's e-mail CPoole@leics.gov.uk. He has told us that if the group want to advertise themselves we just need to register and add ourselves to the local contacts section, but we could also write an item and submit it as local news item to say that we have formed. We can also advertise any dates and events in their local events calendar. John Smith spoke to Geoff after the meeting had finished and is going to set up our website on The Beehive site too. He will include previous minutes and newsletters if possible. More information at the next meeting...

5. Bob's Close and Drury Lane.

Lorraine is champion for Bob's Close which is owned and managed by the Community Centre. Ray wants to restore and rename Drury Lane – he has proof that this is what it is called. It badly needs clearing and Ray is asking for volunteers to help with this. However, there could be a problem with insurance in the event of an accident with any electrical equipment, and Lorraine is looking into whether the Community Centre has insurance that will cover this. Pam C believes that the owner of this lane – the County Council – should be responsible for clearing it and that we should send a letter as a group requesting that it is cleared and not take over the work that should be done by them. It was

agreed that we would maintain it if they be clear it initially. Nita will write to Andrew Perry who is the Rights of Way officer for this area.

It was then debated that if Bob's Close were designated as a wildlife site then this would restrict what can be done on it. Someone else asked what other use it could be. It was suggested that it should be there for the use of the people of Thringstone to walk around when it is made accessible, but it needs to be properly managed. Lorraine is meeting with Neil Talbot of The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust shortly and will feedback to us at the next meeting.

6. Funding Issues and Newsletter Production.

We are going to need money to produce the next lot of newsletters. NWLDC charge £30 - £40 per 1000 and we need approx 2000 to be able to leaflet the whole village and the edges of Whitwick that adjoin Thringstone. Jan Cufflin will be able to do 200 as will the Community Centre. However if we have to rely too much on funds from local businesses in return for advertising, there is the danger that the newsletter will be all adverts and no text. The Post Office and Ruby's have already said they will donate.

7. Nature leaflet on Grace Dieu Woods.

This leaflet has been produced by streetscene in conjunction with the Grace Dieu Priory Trust. It promotes Springfield as the access and parking point. No public consultation was made with residents about this. This issue has supposedly been resolved before when Springfield was suggested as an access point for the woods and Sustrans trail some years ago. After residents sent a petition the Council then confirmed that they would drop plans to suggest Springfield as an access point and stated that a car park would be provided within the woods to supplement parking at The Bulls Head. It was at this point that access path was created from the pub to the Sustrans trail. This now appears to have been forgotten. Nita has drafted a letter to send to the Council raising objections and it was agreed it would be better coming from the group rather than the residents of Springfield. No-one objected to the content of the letter.

Whitbread have said that it is still alright to use The Bulls Head car park.

8. AOB

Ray has suggested an agenda item for the next meeting: there used to be an avenue of Elm trees outside the council houses on Loughborough Road. The footpath there has a camber on it also. It would be nice to be able to put back the trees, sort out the footpath and also to provide a bench as a resting point between the old peoples home and the Post Office.

Ray then had a collection toward funds to go into the bank account and £22.37 was collected.

Someone suggested having a raffle at each meeting to raise funds.

Rowena met Keith Timson whilst out delivering newsletters. He has 2 folders full of photographs of and information about Thringstone and will come and talk to us at a future meeting if we so wish.

The **next meeting** will be on 1st September at 6.45 pm at The Miners Welfare. (No bar)