

**MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE  
MEETING HELD AT MINERS WELFARE ON 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Chris Mellor, Jan Cufflin, Bill Ensor, Bernard Lee, Ray Neal, Rod Evans, John Carr, Karon Smith, John Smith, Pam Porter, C Perrett, N. Nielsen

**Apologies:** Ray Woodward, Pam Clayfield, Brenda Simpson, Sandy Newton, Sarah Morgan, Elaine Stevenson, Colin Porter, Lorraine Whitehurst, Jo Johnson.

Minutes of last meeting were taken to be accurate with the exception of the telephone number for Geoff Spencer at NWLDC whose number should have read 454602.

Keith Timson, a local historian with considerable information on the history of Thringstone asked if he could talk to the group at a future date and discuss what he had collected. It was agreed that he be contacted on 459546 with the date of the next meeting.

**Matters from previous minutes/Updates**

- Drury Lane/Bobs Closs. Nita thanked Ray Neal for the work he had done to clear Drury Lane, and also the volunteers involved in the haymaking in Bob's Closs. Ray Neal explained in detail the work that he had done to clear the area of Drury Lane, and the work that had been done by the volunteers clearing Bob's Closs of grass and hay. He would like to get Drury Lane back to its original footpath, but said that there was rubbish to be moved by wheelbarrows, and he asked for volunteers to help him who could come along with forks and rakes. There also needs to be litter cleared, metal and wood removed.
- Discussion took place on burning rubbish, but as the group have an environmental bias, this was felt to be inappropriate. Mr Neilson expressed an interest in helping remove the hay and any other materials which could be recycled.
- Nita explained that she would pay for a skip, as she had an agreement from Andrew Perry of the Rights of Way section that they would reimburse her for this. Pam Porter will try to get a skip from Adele Toon, or maybe 2 skips and report back. **ACTION: PAM PORTER**
- John Dickinson will also be involved as he wants to look at any soil moved to see if there is any archaeology there. **ACTION: NP TO LIAISE WITH HIM ON DATE**
- The top soil to be removed will be used by the scouts and the community centre, and Ray Neal has a person who for a small charge will bring in a tractor to clear the remainder more easily. The idea is then to plant trees and shrubs along the boundary and brighten up the area.
- Rod Evans reported that originally Bob's Closs was to be considered for a BMX track, but this had now been abandoned as there were rare plants on site which needed to be conserved for the benefit of all. There is also a wetland area near the brook at the bottom of the field. Lorraine from the Community Centre is dealing with this area.

- Some people said they hadn't been to Drury Lane/Bob's Closs for some time, and it was agreed that those interested meet on the car park at the Community Centre at 6.15pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

#### Disabled Access to Grace Dieu Woods/Thringstone generally

- Rod Evans explained that disabled access was needed. There was considerable discussions about this, whether people should be asked to park at The Bulls Head or elsewhere. It was agreed that the best access point for disabled is Springfield, as the drop from the gate on Melrose Rose is prohibitive, the access from the football pitch is uneven (due to motorbikes and general use) and the access from Turlough Road is too narrow. Rod Evans said that the granting of the sustrans track etc. had been given on the agreement that the area would be accessible for all, and this must be taken into account. Nita Pearson said that she knew this matter would be discussed by the Grace Dieu Priory Trust management group and Friends of Grace Dieu, and also that Squire De Lisle's brother, Bertie De Lisle, had shown an interest in discussing access points. General discussion took place on other access points for the Priory and Nita said again this was being discussed by the De Lisle family, as the land in question was, mostly, theirs.
- General discussion on motorbikes in the woods took place, with various points discussed, including gates to prevent access, most of which have been discussed at previous meetings. Rod Evans offered to ask Ian Holland to come to talk about the police stance, but it was agreed that, as he had been before, and things hadn't changed, this offer would not be taken up. Rod Evans indicated that trail repairs are being looked into by the relevant bodies concerned. Rod Evans further agreed to look into seeing if there is any land available in the vicinity for motorbikes to use. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**
- General discussion took place on the surface of pavements in the village and the effect of this on disabled people. Rod Evans said that the pavement is very uneven in places, in others (like on the corner opposite the Methodist Church) the pavement is too narrow to support wheelchairs, and when he goes up to the Post Office, he always crosses over to use the service road by the council houses. Discussion took place on the provision of trees at this point, especially where the service road is, and Rod Evans agreed to find out if there were firstly any plans to improve the footpaths in Thringstone, and whether there was a chance of any trees, if funded, being planted near to the council houses. In the meantime, it was agreed that the discussions on planting of any trees be contained to the grass area near Springfield, as other bushes were already there, and the area was wide enough to accommodate such items. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**

#### Funding/provision of planting in the village

- Rowena Summers had been given listings of possible funding opportunities and told the meeting that there were several that she would investigate further, viz. Leicestershire County Council Shires Grants, Allotment Regeneration Initiative, B & Q awards and Volunteer England.
- Rod Evans said that the group should also approach Audrey Brown from the National Forest and agreed to get back to the group with her contact details. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**

- Comments were made about the flight path from Nottingham East Midlands airport having altered. Nita Pearson said that she understood funding from them had been given to Belton Parish Council for planting as a gesture of goodwill from the airport. **ACTION: NITA PEARSON WILL FIND CONTACT DETAILS AND PASS TO ROWENA SUMMERS**

#### Newsletter production

- Thanks were given to The Fox public house on Main Street for the £51 cheque presented to the group at the meeting. This, together with subscription money, money collected at the last meeting and the £12 donated by walkers who took part in a walk Nita Pearson did at Oaks in Charnwood would enable newsletters to be considered.
- General discussion took place on this point, and it was agreed that the next newsletter should be considered for November time, by which time the group might have some successes to report viz. the planting of shrubs etc. on The Green, and the clearance of Drury Lane. Rod Evans asked how many newsletters were needed, and it was suggested around 1500. He said he might be able to get a price for newsletters which undercut other quotations received.. It was pointed out that Janet Stevenson had promised at a previous meeting to run off 200 newsletters not Jan Cufflin. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**

#### Flowerbeds on The Green

- Nita Pearson reported a conversation which had taken place with Clark Robinson from NWLDC regarding the flower beds. The area near the Booth statue was to be tidied in Sept/October, and some of the bushes could be removed and put into the new bed previously discussed near the telephone box. At the same time the other new bed would be provided, and the group were advised to look to finding some planting for this area. Clark had been asked to put this in writing, but so far this had not happened, and was not expected.

#### Miners' Welfare

- Thanks were given to the Miners' Welfare for the provision of their room for the meeting, and the opening of the bar. Anybody interested in booking the room again should contact John Warriner rather than Geoff Spencer. John's number is 07966 198070. Nobody present felt able to put themselves forward for the Miners' Welfare committee to champion the building and help with funding in the future.

#### Website

- John Smith reported that he had considered changing the website to beehive, but since the quality of pictures on such a site would suffer, the best plan was to stick with what had already been set up.
- An email had been received from a Sharon and Calvin Dandy (copy attached), and it was agreed that they would be invited to the next meeting. Their points were discussed and would be open to further discussion at another meeting when they were present.
- However, it was agreed that more rubbish bins were needed in the village, and there might be a case for inadequate signage such as 'old people crossing' near The Meadows, some signage warning of the pedestrian crossing on The

Green, which motorists often ignore and dog fouling bins. Rod Evans said he could investigate these issues. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**

- Nita Pearson reported that a photograph taken by Geoff Walker, which was on his Thringstone site under Friends of Thringstone, was also now on Charnwood Borough Council's website. Geoff has links to our website, and we are reciprocating.

#### Nature trail leaflet on Grace Dieu Woods

- Nita Pearson reported a conversation, again not confirmed in writing, with Clark Robinson of NWLDC. Clark had agreed that the advice to motorists to park on Springfield had not been taken following a public discussion, and as such any mention would be removed from future reprints of the leaflet. 7000 have been printed, and it is expected these will last one year, so it will be some time before a reprint is ordered.

#### School travel plan for Thringstone County Primary

- Nita Pearson read out the contents of an email from Pam Clayfield asking for volunteers to work with the walking to school plans being discussed with Thringstone County Primary. Since Pam was not available for questions, and Rod Evans felt there was more to the subject than was presented in the email, it was agreed that anybody interested in helping contact Pam direct.

#### Clean neighbourhood and Environment Act

- Pam Porter had provided the meeting with copies of the new act to come into force, as attached. This was discussed, and since it was not clear whether the onus was being put on businesses to clear the rubbish from in front of their premises or not, Rod Evans agreed to find out and report back. **ACTION: ROD EVANS**

#### The Rangers Club

- Nita Pearson reported that the Rangers Club was now the Thringstone Members' Club, and that the present manager, Margaret Bell, would be leaving in 3 weeks time and moving to The Plough at Normanton. New managers had been appointed, and would be coming to the premises mid September. In the meantime, opening hours had been changed, and the premises would be open every lunchtime and also all day at weekends.
- John Carr reported that there had been a licensing application made by Westbourne Leisure Ltd. of Coleshill, Warks. to extend the licensing hours so that the club could stay open, and play music/have live bands, to midnight in the week and to 2.30am at weekends. A petition had been completed by people who were opposed to this, and many signatures obtained. Other people had filled in a protest form of their own. It became apparent that some people at the meeting had not known of this extension application, and it was now too late for them to also write in with their opposition to this. A meeting would be held at the Council offices on 20<sup>th</sup> September to which those who had opposed the new licence had been invited (or their representatives) and in the meantime a meeting with Westbourne Leisure Ltd had been mentioned, as it was felt by them to be a good idea to discuss people's objections before the Council's licensing committee met. Considerable discussion took place with Rod Evans on this issue, since he usually sits on the licensing committee, and it was felt

he should attend the committee meeting as local councillor to support the residents and acknowledge their fears. After some time, it was agreed that John Carr report to Nita Pearson, for onward transmission, details of the meeting with Westbourne Leisure so that interested parties could attend. General concerns were those of noise, who to complain to about noise in the early mornings, drunken loutish behaviour which could ensue, the safety of people's cars and properties in the village, and possible vandalism of the cricket club area and the Bowls club's facilities. Rod Evans felt that many fears would be unfounded. **ACTION: JOHN CARR**

#### Bank Account

- A bank account had now been opened with Nat West. The relevant paperwork and paying in books had been sent to The Community Centre.
- Pam Porter took charge of the money so far collected, plus the raffle money from the night, and Jan Cufflin agreed to get the post from the Community Centre and give it to Pam Porter.

#### Any other business

- Rod Evans made available to the group copies of correspondence from the owner of Forest House on The Green and NWLDC regarding the protracted building works to improve the overall appearance of the building and to make it habitable. This matter appears to be dragging on and could prove to be a lengthy process.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6.45pm at The Community Centre (to be confirmed)

### **ADDENDUM**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Sandy and Tony Newton, Bernard Lee, Colin Porter, Jo Johnson, Ray Neal, John Dickinson, Jan Cufflin, Chris Mellor and Mr Neilson went along to look at the work required in Drury Lane and to take a walk round Bob's Closs. It was confirmed that any work on Bob's Closs needed to take place with the agreement of, and working with, Lorraine Whitehurst and the Community Centre, as it is their land, and there are discussions about turning this area into a wildlife site. Ideally it would be good to remove the hay, but the amount is prohibitive for a person with a car or trailer, and this needs to be discussed with Lorraine.

It was agreed that Jo Johnson be given £4 to get a land registry copy of the boundaries to Drury Lane, to establish who owns the land at the rear of the Rose and Crown where the stables used to be and where the cottages once stood. If established that this is common land, this area could also be tidied up.

Those present agreed, when they could, to help remove rubbish.

John Dickinson said he would supply the group with chemicals to kill off the roots of the nettles. Nita Pearson agreed to collect this from John on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and pass it to Ray Neal so that this could be done as soon as possible.

Ray Neal will ask his friend when his tractor is available, and once we have confirmation from Pam Porter on the issue of the skip(s), work would begin to clear Drury Lane. First aiders will be available on that day, as will also John Dickinson. The agreement is to level the lane, possibly take it back to its original base if possible,

remove all rubbish and allow grass to grow, thus allowing the County Council's men access with their mowers to the full length of the lane.

Nita Pearson agreed to find out if it would be possible to have a sign saying Drury Lane and to report to all present and other interested parties when the big clear up was to take place. **ACTION: NITA PEARSON**