

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE. MINUTES OF MEETING 20\10\05

Present: John and Karon Smith, Sandie and Tony Newton, Rowena Summers, Rod Evans, Jan Cufflin, Bernard Lee, Ann and Maurice Jiggins, Jo Johnson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Ray Neal, Jim Wilkinson, Colin Perrett, Mr Nielsen, Pam Porter, Nita Pearson, Geoff Walker, Sarah Morgan.

1. **Apologies:** Pam Clayfield, John Carr, Bill Ensor, Geoff Swann, Chris Mellor. Ray Woodward.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** No problems with these.
3. **Membership year \ sub due date \ members list \ AGM\ deputy chair.** Nita said that we should have previously minuted the membership year. She has suggested 1st July to help with the accounting. The sub due date is therefore 1st July 2006. Anyone who wants to pay a submission to be a member should pay Pam ASAP. 1st July will also be the date for the AGM. We haven't yet voted for a deputy chair. Nita suggested the treasurer or secretary, neither of whom were keen to take on this role, so it was thrown open and Rowena has volunteered.
4. **E-mail contact.** John Smith has suggested that we have e-mail addresses for all of our members so that we can easily share breaking news. The secretary has written to everyone who has attended a meeting in the past for this information, but as yet has received very few replies.
5. **Sub-committees.** Some new people present at the meeting are keen to form a residents committee. Nita suggested we have sub-committees for different people to concentrate on: Funding, Anti Social Behaviour and Horticulture \ Environment (including litter) and wondered if the Residents Committee wanted to come under our banner as the anti-social behaviour sub-committee. Nita wanted to head the funding sub-committee as she needs to sign the applications. Everyone thought that Ray Neal would be the ideal candidate for head of the horticulture \ environment sub-committee and he duly volunteered! We need a volunteer to head the sub-committee for anti-social behaviour. Ray suggested P.C. Holland. Maurice suggested John Carr.

Maurice said that they have a database and a lot of interest in the Residents Association. Anyone with a crime number can log on and report an incident. Someone suggested that we should be reporting nuisances and logging them instead of moaning about them amongst ourselves: the fast cars, motorbikes in the wood etc. Rowena said that she had been reporting the motorbikes but that nothing had happened. Maurice said that we need to log every incident and put them onto the website in order to gather enough evidence to submit to the police in an effort to get more police presence in the village. Rod said that a policeman did follow a lad on a motorbike to his house and booked him and that now if he gets caught again, his bike can be taken off him. Someone suggested getting digital photographs of the offenders but Sandie thought that this might be an infringement of the Data Protection Act. Rod said that whilst we may not be able to use this evidence in court, we could show it to PC Holland. Maurice said that a high definition video camera is what is needed. Nita said we also need to report nuisances concerned with licensed premises to the council if we want anything to be done.

6. **Up dates: Thringstone Members Club.** Nita read out a letter from the Senior Licensing Officer concerning the application for variation of premises licence. Margaret Bell is staying on there until someone else can be found to take on the franchise. Local people are being encouraged to become members. They have some events coming up. Ann Jiggins said that she has been told by the council that the club does not have a public entertainment licence. However, members can rent a room out for entertainment. Various entertainments have already been going on apparently. Rod will check this as he is on the council licensing committee. Pam Clayfield is already looking into this. Rod will let Nita know and she will pass this on to Ann and Maurice. **Bulls Head.** Only staying open late Christmas Eve, New Years Eve and Boxing Day. **Residents Committee.** (A lot of which covered already) Set up by John Carr, Maurice Jiggins, Geoff Swann and his wife and Bob and Val Grant. They had come up with a list of 60 people who had objections to the TMC licence changes. They are going to have a meeting to elect a committee and register. They will pay for the website themselves and then hopefully raise funds to collect and collate data. The information will be logged as concrete evidence to present to the police. They also aim to get people together to help each other – especially those who

live alone, and to promote peace and quiet and protection of property etc. Rod Evans said that we do not warrant a Community Support Officer as we don't have enough crime. Maurice thinks that if we get enough incident numbers then the area will have to be policed properly. Nita asked if those residents who had concerns about the TMC could have a meeting with Westbourne Leisure even though the licence has already been granted. Rod said that a meeting would be a good idea and they should get in touch with Margaret to arrange this. It was suggested that the meeting be held on mutual ground. Ray suggested that maybe the majority of the village might want the club to be open this late. Nita said that they have a Northern Soul Night called 'No More Doggin'' to which people travel from all over the country and who could cause problems as it isn't their village. Another member present thought that they were more interested in dancing than fighting and had heard no reports of trouble.

Drury Lane. Nita passed on the thanks of everyone to Ray for all of his hard work, and also to Colin and Bernard for coming out on a terrible day. Also thanks to Adele Toon for providing a skip at a reduced rate and to Cuckoo Gap for providing a digger free of charge.

The Green. The flowerbed has now been done; provided by Clark Robinson from the council. The council would now like us to be responsible for maintaining this area. Someone suggested that it might be a project for Ray!

Newsletter. Nita has been working on this John has already produced a 'work in progress' version of The Bauble. It will probably be ready by the end of November. Rod said that Graham Knight at Moira Replan has offered to do some printing cheaply. Jan Cufflin is going to be delivering Christmas Cards to everyone in the parish and so can help with delivery.

Website. John has put the website together. If anyone wants to use MSN messenger they can use this to get to our site. He is continually updating the site with minutes and breaking news.

Friends of Grace Dieu. They are now doing digs at the ruins if anyone wants to go and watch. They are looking at running costs of £1500 per year from subs – including corporate ones. They are looking at putting a bridge over the stream by the rusty statue and having a weed kill in the spring. They are going to be sending newsletters to The Bulls Head, so we are going to do the same.

Funding. Nita and Sandie have done a funding application to NEMA

for £696.07 to buy plants, grass seed, hard core and a bench for Drury Lane. Sandie thanked Nita for all her hard work with this.

- 7. Meeting of The Residents Committee.** To be held on 24\11\05 at 6.45 at The Community Centre. This is solely to discuss crime, disorder, nuisance and vandalism. PC Holland will be present, as will Kate Richards and Miss Terry from NWLDC. Apparently there are some children on the 'Scotch Estate' who have unacceptable behaviour orders – their family was transferred into the area from Beaumont Leys. Petty vandalism has apparently increased since they came into the area. It is suggested that if anyone has any concerns then they should go to the meeting. Nita thought that only 20 people had returned forms to say that they were interested in the Residents Group, so was surprised to hear Maurice mention a figure of 60. Ray asked who places these problem families. Rod thought that it was a mistake to put them on the estate and Tony said that whilst everyone deserved a chance, it would be a mistake to have a concentration of these families on such an estate. Rod said that it was annoying after all the effort to get the new play areas, for them to be damaged. He said that whilst everyone who is homeless has got to be housed, we have got to fight our corner. We don't want Thringstone seen as a soft touch and estates are notoriously a breeding ground. He is going to follow this up.
- 8. Planning Applications.** Permission has been given for 4 bungalows to be built adjacent to 111 Loughborough Road. The house next door is also for sale with lapsed planning consent. There are also plans to demolish 67 Hensons Lane and build 5 units. Nita asked if anyone knew about the application for the café on Main Street. Ray has heard that it has been turned down, but that there is now an application for an internet café.
- 9. Volunteers.** Nita asked for volunteers to plant daffodil bulbs on October 23rd around the entrance to Grace Dieu woods and the Sustrans Trail. Ann Juggins volunteered. Nita also asked for suggestions for other areas to plant that will be missed by the council mower.
- 10. A.O.B.**

Nita has given Lorraine a funding application for from the Leics Rural Partnership for Conservation \ Landscaping.

Lorraine wants help putting stakes in.

Nita was involved in reporting dumping at Ashby Lodge next to the Bulls Head. This was a result: 2 skips were provided to clear the area and no more dumping is to be done here.

A member asked what the position was re the house on The Green.

Money has been granted for this as it is a Grade 2 Listed building. It looks as though work has now stopped and only one new window has been completed. Rod says that it will probably have to go to court again. Pam Clayfield - who had come in later – spoke about the possibility of getting traffic calming built up by the pedestrian crossing outside The Queens Head that most motorists ignore. She is also looking into traffic calming for Talbot Lane.

Rod and Nita had a conversation about litter bins – looking at placements for The Green and 2 play areas. Rod said it is a struggle to get bins.

There is a new law about litter and Rod is looking into it. If the group feel that they want bins then they need to be specific about where they want them and send this request to the council. Someone suggested chaining bins to the street lights. Rod suggested we put this to the council addressed to Keith Fairbrother \ Dai Male.

Rod also wanted people to let him know if they felt that the state of the pavements were not up to scratch.

Date of next meeting. Community Centre 1ST December 6.45 pm.

ADDENDUM.

After Maurice and Ann Jiggins had left the meeting, it was raised by a member that publishing village crime statistics on the Residents Committee website could have an adverse affect on property prices in the area which goes against what we are trying to achieve as a group.

NEXT LITTER PICK: Sunday 8th January. Meet on The Green at 10.00 am.