

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE MEETING 2ND FEB 2006

Present: John and Karon Smith, Pam Clayfield, Margaret Smith, Sandie and Tony Newton, Rowena Summers, Pam Porter, Chris Mellor, Nita Pearson, Jo Johnson. Jan Cufflin, Janet Stevenson, Geoff Walker, Ray Neal, Bernard Lee, Sarah Morgan.

Apologies: Colin Perrett, Pam Spencer,

- **Minutes of last Meeting:** No issues
- **Treasurers Report:**

Income:	Donations and Subscriptions	£49.40
	Raffle	£9.50
	Donation from The Fox Inn	£51.00
	From Leics. County Council for skip hire	£60.00
	Raffle	£12.00
	Donation from Thringstone Community Centre	£100.00
	Grant from NEMA (part of £700)	£250.00
	TOTAL	£531.90

Expenditure:	Toons Skip Hire	£60.00
		£471.90

Total on most recent statement: **£221.90** (£250 not yet showing)

- **Web Report:**

We have received a couple of e-mails. Nita has received positive comments from people, including Goff Lewis, who have said that they are impressed with the site. **(Thanks John.)**

- **Publicity Update:**

We have been featured with a photograph in 'Inner Vision' which is the NWLDC internal monthly leaflet. There is going to be an article about us in the March edition of 'Vision' and also the Spring edition of 'Village Voice'. Nita has done an interview with Janet Slattery for the Leicester Mercury. All of our meetings are now featured in 'Whats On' in the Mercury too. Nita also has a contact who works on Central News and she is working on that. **(Thanks Nita)**

- **Litter Pick:**

This was very successful, resulting in the collection of: 23 bags of litter \ a broken computer \ 2 broken bicycles \ 8 tyres and a heap of scrap metal which had been fly-tipped down Drury Lane. These were kindly collected by the council.

- **Friends of Grace Dieu:**

Had to alter the date of their meeting and are also having theirs tonight. Nita has sent an e-mail to David Whitby who is the chairperson, with some suggestions to take to the meeting:

- A mass at the opening of the Priory – a suggestion by Pam Spencer. Apparently, this is something that has been done in the past and it is thought that it could attract a lot of publicity.
- Marriages. Would the Priory like to get itself licensed?
- Access from The Bulls Head car park. The fence to Mrs Fletcher's property has been removed by vandals. This should really be replaced to shield the view of her back yard.

- **Guest Speakers**

Andy Vaughan, the council's new Director of Environment is invited to our next meeting on 9th March. Suggestions for future meetings were invited. Janet Slattery from The Leicester Mercury is being invited to the next meeting to do a report. Ray suggested someone from Whitwick Historical society and he and Rowena volunteered to visit this Saturday to see what info. they have on Thringstone to add to 'Ray's Ramblings'.

- **Dates of next meetings**

Will be posted on the website and are: March 9th, April 13th, May 18th, June 22nd, August 3rd, September 14th, October 19th, and December 7th.

- **Housing Issues**

Margaret Bell from The Rangers Club is getting very proactive for the village and has made several suggestions. She is not happy about the boarded up properties on Melrose Road and Nita has been in touch with the council about this. There are also issues around parking cars on grass verges – this needs reporting to county highways. The tenant of 130 Loughborough Road has been driving across the grass to the property and this has been reported to Deborah Terny at the council. The house on The Green looks like it will have to go to court again.

- **Drury Lane**

Things have been happening! The main issue is around ownership of part of the area. The Rose and Crown suggested that they might own some but it transpires that they don't. Pam Porter found out that someone had tried to get planning permission for Drury Lane in 1972 which was turned down. The owner has been traced and now wants to find out if a future application for planning would be successful. Ray Woodward will look into this. Ray Neal and Nita have had 6 meetings at Drury Lane to discuss these issues, including one with Goff Lewis. They talked about various possibilities including bat and bird boxes \ rebuilding an old cottage \ heritage lottery funding \ nature rambles for schools \ history projects \ wildflower meadow etc. Goff is not going to speak at our meeting until the Drury Lane issues have been resolved.

Nita has taken several digital photographs of the area. Pam Clayfield has copies of old maps showing the footpath so we know what our rights are regarding widths etc. The first part of the lane is in fact a bridle

path and must be between 2-5 metres. As the lane turns the corner it should be 4 meters wide. Down Bobs Close it becomes an ordinary footpath (O.28), leading to the spring.

Ray Neal has been working very hard and sorting out stuff from the site. Anything that may be of historical interest is being looked at by John Dickinson.

John asked about any protected wildlife that may be on the site, but apparently the newts are in Bobs Close, not the part owned by the lady. Once the excess soil has been removed Sarah, Rowena, Nita and Ray are going to collect the plants from Staunton Harold that we have bought with the money donated by NEMA.

We are within our rights to plant along the path, but the grant of £700 was given for the whole area and we don't really want to have to give it back. This would mean we need to change the use from what the grant was originally intended for. There is a possibility we could do some work on the footpath which leads off Glebe Road, if we can get permission from Andy Perry. Nita has e-mailed him about this.

- **Membership Cards:**

Nita has proposed we introduce these to those who have paid their subscriptions. Nita has asked John to come up with a template to put on the cards. There were no objections.

- **AOB**

Leicestershire Rural Partnership is running a 'Search for the Best Village' and 'Help for Community Groups'. When we receive the criteria we may want to work toward this.

Next Grace Dieu Priory Trust meeting is 2nd March.

Sandie asked about putting a gate at the back end of the football pitch where it joins the Sustrans Trail.

It was mentioned that the Sustrans Trail does not allow wheelchair access.

Ray Woodward joined the meeting later on. He mentioned that planning regulations have changed significantly enough since 1972, to warrant another planning application for the area down Drury Lane and that it could well be successful, especially as the road layout there has now been changed.

He also said that he will ask the lady in question to prove ownership of the Drury Lane land by showing him the deeds. If she cannot then we are back to square one.

Nita believes that if we can improve the Drury Lane \ Bobs Close area, then people are more likely to stop and spend money in the village, possibly en route between the Abbey and Priory, rather than just going straight to The Bulls Head.

Pam Porter is going to check whether Ray W and Pam C have paid their subs as they couldn't remember.

Pam Spencer and Margaret Smith have paid their subscriptions.

