

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 14 September 2006

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Sandie and Tony Newton, Jim Wilkinson, Dave Everitt, Alan Burgess. Mick and Freda Gallagher, Chris Mellors, Bernard Lee, Lorraine Harrison, , Ray Neal, Geoff Walker, Geoff Wilson, James Toal (Connect Coalville)

Apologies recieved from:

Margaret Smith, Rowena Summers, John & Karon Smith, John Dickinson, Cllr Pam Clayfield, Cllr Rod Evans, Janet Stevenson, Ray Woodward, David Stevenson and Jane Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated without amendment.

Treasurers Report

Balance bfwd	£671.50	
Receipts	£110.00	EMA plants
	£ 75.00	NWLDC contrib. to sign cost
Expenditure	£125.00	Grass seed & Signage
	£ 87.29	NWLDC Newsletter leaflet printing
Balance cfwd	£644.21	

It was reported that in addition to the above balance the treasurer was in possession of £15.00 in cash (subs received and raffle proceeds) and a cheque for £25.00 being highly commended in the Glorious Garden Competition.

Website

In John's absence NP informed the meeting of progress: John is working on a new website which will have a new web address. The telephone numbers which appear to be inaccurate will be corrected and updated.

Councilors Report

NP reported information provided by Cllr Pam Clayfield as follows:

Consideration being given to:-

- The provision of speed-activated electronic signage to slow traffic in the village.
- Footpaths in the area of the farm in Talbot Lane.

Three dates have been given for the commencement of the work to 'build out' the pedestrian crossing on The Green all of which have now passed. However assurance is given that the work will start soon.

NP showed the meeting the carved Oak sign to mark Drury Lane which the council have part funded. It will be erected in the agreed place very soon. All present thought that it was a very tasteful sign and 'fit for purpose'.

Guests Speaker – James Toal - Connect Coalville

James introduced himself to the meeting informing us that he ran a website, Connect Coalville (www.connectcoalville.org.uk), as a local resource centre for the town and its surrounding villages.

Its use is free to the consumer and local 'not for profit organisations' like ourselves, councillors and schools to list and research local services, events and the like. Businesses which wish to use the site to promote their services pay for the privilege and James then publicises the existence the website and its of the facilities.

In addition to advertising and information provided by organisations like ours, the site also carries local news culled from the press and has an interactive section or forum for people to feed back on or discuss the issues which concern them.

The involvement of the schools is important because for the first time all the participating schools are, by way of links, able to share information as opposed to each going their own way on individual websites. This cross linking also applies to organisations like our own in that all named groups are available from the Connect Coalville site by clicking on the appropriate link.

Dates

The meeting dates for the year 2007 were agreed as follows:-

January	18	July	26
February	22	August	No meeting
March	21	September	6
April	26	October	11
May	24	November	15
June	28	December	6

Miners Welfare

The Trustees or Management Committee, consisting of members of the organisations currently making use of the facilities, *ie* The Football Club and the Play Group, are seeking funding to expand the use to which the buildings can be put.

They hope to extend the existing building to this end but are at pains to assure everyone that this development will not impact on the use of the Community Centre but add to the facilities available in the village. It is hoped that at the public meeting to be held on 12th October, at which the architect will be available to discuss plans, people will give support to the project, as it could facilitate a positive futures group, various classes and learning opportunities etc., and be a worthwhile addition to the village and give youngsters and others extra things to feed into. NP urged members to go to the open meeting if possible.

O₂ Funding

NP showed the members a leaflet issued by the telecom company O₂ detailing monies (up to £1000.00) which can be applied for by groups like ours to carry out environmental projects without apparently any strings attached. It was agreed that NP should apply on our behalf. NP also agreed to get a copy of the details to Lorraine so that the community centre could look to obtain equipment which would be available to help with the upkeep of Bob's Closs, especially at hay rake time.

Signage

The Drury Lane sign has been covered elsewhere

It was agreed that the group would meet the cost of a Sign for Bauble Yard at a figure of £35.00 plus VAT. This will take the form of a 'Blue Plaque' bearing the words 'Bauble Yard site of cottage-industry mid 1800s'

The issue of signs announcing Thringstone as a gateway village to The National Forrest is still ongoing. NP and Pam Clayfield have met with an officer from NWLDC to discuss funding possibilities, locations, costs etc and we are still investigating to what extent Whitwick was helped in this funding by the council as the cost quoted of £600.00 per sign seemed prohibitive.

History Project

NP was pleased to announce that discussions on this subject with John Dickinson lead her to believe that he may help with this project.

The priority now is to define a list of people who we can interview on tape and draw up a programme for those interviews thus securing the information which they have. NP had written a letter to Thringstone County Primary asking whether they wished to work with the group on this as part of a history project, but had not received a reply.

NP is looking at the production of a history leaflet and proposed the development of 2 walks, one in the village itself and the other in Grace Dieu Woods. The grant application already submitted will be looked at by the Council during January, and a decision made at that time. The route of the walk within the village had already been agreed, and NP was hopeful that again John Dickinson, or a member of the archeology group in the village, will help with that. John Dickinson has already started to look at the history leaflet NP has written to add and alter as necessary.

An examination of the leaflet produced by the Council regarding Gracedieu Woods led the members to the conclusion that it was poorly thought out in that the suggested parking does not really exist in Springfield and the 'diagram' (not to scale) of the paths around the new planting did no justice to the real beauty of the amenity and would in no way encourage visitors to explore. This of course will ensure that the lack of parking in Springfield is not a problem! NP had already asked the council if they could put more information onto the leaflet in future, by way of details on flora, fauna and also adding information about the viaduct, but had been told this would not happen.

Licence to cultivate

NP reported that the county council had said they wanted £100 per application for the planting of shrubs and trees on three areas of land previously visited with Andy Plummer from their office. NP asked members how they wished to proceed on this. Tony Newton said, given the cost of these applications, the amount of work involved in putting an application together, the amount of vandalism on Drury Lane, and the scope of the proposed planting, maybe this is something that should be shelved for the time being. All were in agreement that £100 per application was prohibitive. NP had already intimated to the County Council that this sort of cost was not likely to be approved by members, given that we are a voluntary group raising our own funds for this.

Planning Matters

Ray Woodward said that planning approval has been granted on the proposed development of several houses following the demolition of the existing bungalow at 67 Henson's Lane, and understood there was a tree preservation requirement.

It was felt by many of those present that this type of development (4/5 for 1) needs to be carefully monitored if local amenities and services are not to be stretched to breaking point.

It was noted that the former Newsagents and latterly Equestrian shop on Main Street is shortly to open as a ladies Hairdressing Salon in October. Concern was expressed on parking for that business.

Social event

All is in place for the meal at the Bulls Head on 21 September 7.30 for 8.00. 35 people have arranged to attend.

It is proposed that we meet for a Christmas meal and gathering in December. Sandie will coordinate and arrange.

Cllr Pam Clayfield – Proposed Sponsored Walk

It was agreed that we would support this proposal. NP agreed to ask Pam Clayfield to provide details of the walk as soon as possible.

Glorious Gardens Competition 2006

NP informed the members that she had come straight from an event at Conkers where the winners of this competition were announced and the prizes distributed. As noted in the Treasurers report we achieved a highly commended in the environmental section, winning £25.00 to add to our coffers. Pictures of the winners, including NP, had been taken, for publicity within the council, in their Vision newspaper, and by the local media.

It was noted that The Meadows' Memorial Garden won the joint first in the environmental section of the competition and the our chairman had in fact been instrumental in that being an entry as she supplied them with the entry form

AOB

- Lorraine thanked everyone who helped with the annual Hayrake which is an important element in the management of the space and the preservation of the wild flora which is currently to found there. Without it, the grasses would in fact simply overrun the other less aggressive plants and the diversity would be lost.
- Tony Newton informed the members that he had just heard that the cricket pitch adjacent to Springfield and the Bulls Head, which currently has two years remaining on a leisure use covenant, is likely to be put up for sale. NP agreed to see if she could find out any more information on this, and possibly talk to the council about funding, if this was a problem to the club, and was leading to their thinking of selling up.
- NP informed us that the date for the next meeting of the Friends of Grace Dieu is yet to be agreed, but had available for distribution copies of their previous minutes.
- Calendar – Geoff Walker had left a copy of the 2007 Friends of Thringstone calendar for perusal. Members were delighted with the production of this, and orders were taken to the maximum agreed of 25. Some members said that they might like a calendar if orders exceeding the agreed number could be produced. Monies were collected.
- Various discussions with NWLDC's housing department regarding continued parking on grass verges by council tenants were noted. NWLDC are dealing with this issue.

- NP had written to the ombudsman for post office closures following the last meeting, but had received no reply.
- NP had information from Leicestershire Rural Partnership available for inspection by anybody interested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at Thringstone Community Centre on 19 October at 18.45. Rev Alan Burgess, vicar of St Andrew's in Thringstone is the guest speaker.