

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 19 October 2006

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Jim Wilkinson, Dave Everitt, Chris Mellors, Bernard Lee, Lorraine Whitehurst, Ray Neal, Geoff Walker, Jan Cufflin, Ian Holland, Margaret Smith, Jo Johnson, Cllr Rod Evans, Janet & David Stevenson, Ann Petty, Jenny & Mark Martindale, Ray Woodward, Cllr Pam Clayfield, John & Karen Smith, Geoff Wilson.

Apologies recieved from:

Rowena Summers, John Dickinson, Sandie & Tony Newton, Pam Spence, Neil McMinn, John Carr and Jane Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated with one amendment. Lorraine Whitehurst's surname was wrongly reported as Harrison and this was duly noted and corrected.

Treasurers Report

Balance bfwd	£644.21	
Receipts	£25.00	Glorious Gardens Prize Money
	£100.00	100 Days Clean Up Grant
	£46.25	Profit from sale of Calendars
Expenditure	£41.13	Bauble Yard Sign
Balance cfwd	£744.33	

It was further reported that the above mentioned sign was now in place and that the treasurer was not aware of any large planned expenditure.

Website

In John's absence NP informed the meeting that John continues to work on the new Website as reported at the last meeting and updated the existing one. John was asked to produce in time for the next meeting Sponsorship forms to support Cllr Pam Clayfield's sponsored walk event and up dated membership cards for Pam Porter to issue cards to honorary members.

Councillors' Report

Cllr Rod Evans reported as follows:

- Cars are no longer being parked on the verge in Loughborough Road thanks to a joint effort involving several parties.
- Work to 'build out' the pedestrian crossing on The Green is now in progress and will be completed soon. Some adjustments to the position of the beacons were deemed necessary following on from the work to the footpaths and roadway.
- The council has already erected new notice boards in the area.

He also touched briefly on the meeting at the Miner's Welfare to discuss the future of that body and its premises. This matter was discussed under its own head later in the meeting.

Cllr Pam Clayfield reported as follows:

- The path that runs alongside the Pinfold towards the site of the Watermill is hopefully to be cleared to ease access in two weeks time by the County Council.
- Simon Scarborough of the Positive Future organisation has indicated that they may be able to provide "Youth Help" in the future to assist with environmental projects.
- A very good evening was had by all who attended a performance of the play 'The Allotment' presented at the community centre, the raffle prizes being particularly appropriate, ie. fruit and vegetables!!

Guests Speaker – The Rev Alan Burgess – Vicar of St Andrews.

The speaker did not arrive so this matter was deferred to a later time to be arranged.

Miner's Welfare

The open meeting called at the Miner's Welfare to discuss the funding bid and the future of the building was well attended and ran for about two hours. The intention is to raise funds through grant aid in the main to allow the extension of the facilities by approximately one third to include new Home and Away sports changing rooms and an extended bar and function room with a view to tapping into the wedding and event market. Plans for the proposed extension were circulated.

It was noted once again that this development whilst generally welcomed should not in any way impact on the activities and more particularly the revenue of the community centre. The community centre could not ever provide the sports facilities envisaged at the Miner's Welfare and it was therefore seen that both could and should co-exist. However it was further noted that the Play and Pantomime presentations

were a vital part of the revenue generating potential of the Centre and must not therefore come under attack from this new proposal.

In order to keep this matter in focus it was agreed that some effort should be made to 'Diplomatically' offer the services and support of FOT as a guardian of this principle by sitting with the Management committee of the Miners' Welfare in a more formal way than currently enjoyed by Ray Woodward. As an aside it was noted that the Chair of FOT should exercise the right that we have to attend Community Centre Management meetings to contribute our input to that organisation. NP will progress this.

Room Hire

Under the current arrangements we do not as an organisation pay for the use of the room at the Community Centre for our meetings. Under the rules the Centre cannot charge for the use of the room since it is still technically a bar open to all as a public facility.

This was not felt to be fair in light of the financial state of the Centre. It was therefore agreed that we should make a donation to Centre funds each time we use the facility equivalent to a sum that we might expect to pay for the private use of such a room. NP is to liaise with Lorraine.

Village Post Office

Recent national events have once again highlighted this particular aspect of village life. **USE IT OR LOSE IT.**

Funding

NP reported as follows:

O₂ Funding application form has been completed and sent covering the Blue Plaque project.

Wendy Jones at NWLDC has applied for funding to cover the cost of the National Forest signs.

Further potential funding sources have been identified:-

- Bridging the Gap
- Breathing Places
- Community Roots
- Ken Chamberlain Fund
- Awards for All

NP will investigate all of these to establish suitability, and apply if appropriate.

Potential events that require funding include a summer event to celebrate 40th anniversary of the School, our history project, Summer BBQ to publicise FOT and the Community Centre, and our History Trail development. NP has met with Lynda Bough from Rural CC to discuss this, and is hopeful that something may be forthcoming. NP has also written to the school about their anniversary, and this is being followed up by Cllr. Pam Clayfield.

Signage and Planting

As noted earlier the Bauble Yard sign is now in place.

A Blue Plaque site has been identified at the former a wheelwright's house now occupied by Linda Baugh. This sign is now on order.

Planting of bulbs has been arranged at Millhouse Estate and a letter sent to County regarding further sites for planting of appropriate bulbs, seeds and shrubs at various other sites in the village, in lieu of a license to cultivate. FOT are hopeful of a positive response.

NP reported that Pam Spence was going to fund a bag of daffodil bulbs to be planted on Millhouse Estate in memory of her father, former Thringstone Councillor Benjamin Walter Johnson.

FOT have monies still to claim from the airport fund. NP is liaising with Ray Neal on this.

History Project

The mass taping on 17 October was well supported and much enjoyed. Rowena Summers has undertaken to index and catalogue what we have currently and to keep up to date with what we find in future. There is a mass of relevant material in the Community Centre Archive that Rowena will investigate for us, and contact has been made with East Midlands Oral History Archive who also has a large resource that may be of interest. The names of people already taped by them were read out. John Smith may well, in due course, also carry details of the indexes of archive material on our website.

Social event

It was agreed that the proposed Christmas meal outing should be replaced by converting our next meeting into a part business/part social event by having a buffet meal provided by members. Sandie will co-ordinate the provision of food to avoid having 1001 mince pies

Cllr Pam Clayfield – Proposed Sponsored Walk

It was agreed that we would support this proposal at the last meeting. Date proposed Sunday 14 January 2007. Anyone interested in supporting Pam by walking with her should contact her directly. As noted earlier John will produce in time for the next meeting relevant sponsorship forms.

AOB

The FOG newsletter was circulated for information. The AGM of that organisation will take place at the Thringstone Members Club on 23 October. The minutes of their last meeting were briefly read, and were available for inspection.

Also on 23 October there will be a Police Surgery attended among others by PC Ian Holland and CSO Rachel Forster.

It was suggested that the provision of a Christmas Tree with lights on The Green would be a welcome addition to the village festivities but in general it was felt that under current Health & Safety legislation and taking all other possibilities into account that this would not be a viable project for us to support. NP agreed to talk to staff at NWLDC to see if this is a possibility for them to support, and would report back.

NP thanked Geoff Walker for the wonderful job he had done on the calendar for FOT.

NP gave Geoff Wilson copies of publicity received by the group since the last meeting.

NP, SN, RN and Bernard Lee have been invited to a formal reception on 31st October, at County Hall for members of voluntary groups.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at TCC on Thursday 7th December 2006 at 6.45pm.