

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 22 February 2007

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Lorraine Whitehurst, Alan Burgess, Rod Evans, Jan Cufflin, Bernard Lee, Margaret Smith, Ann Petty, Sandie & Tony Newton, Cllr Ray Woodward, Colin Perrett, John & Karon Smith and Geoff Wilson.

Apologies recieved from:

Chris Mellor, Rowena Summers, Bill Newton, Ella Roberts, David & Janet Stevenson, Geoff Walker, Ray Neal, Cllr Pam Clayfield, John Dickinson and Jane Wilson

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated

Treasurers Report

Balance bfwd	£818.07		
Receipts	£1440.35	RCC Grant	
	£197.00	Sponsored Walk receipts	
	£500.00	NWLDC Grant	
Expenditure	£20.00	NWLDC stall PIP	(013)
	£411.25	Coalville Signs	(014)
	£217.50	J Dickinson mats - Summer Event	(015)
	£70.94	B Lee Gardening Tools	(016)
	£100.00	B Lee to erect signs	(017)
	£81.26	J Dickinson	(018)
	£100.00	Event Insurance Services	(019)
	£21.00	NWLDC Event Licence fee	(020)
Balance cfwd	£1933.47		

Secretary's Report

No correspondence sent or received but the chairman passed on letters which had been received from the following:-

- NWLDC Event licence and covering correspondence for the Summer Event

The secretary regretted that he had not had time to put together all the press cuttings. Nita reported that she also hadn't had time to get a book to put them into.

Web Report

John reported that the new website is now up and running, up to date and correct. It is now more interactive than before but further improvements may be possible with development, which he will pursue

Councillors' Report

Rod Evans reported as follows:-

- The path by the side of St. Andrews Churchyard was cleared a couple of months ago and since that time other paths in the area have been cleared. All the pathways around the Church and the play area at Hensons Lane have now received attention. There remains the dispute over the wall by the church which has been vandalized as ownership is proving difficult to establish. Rev Alan Burgess said that if repairs were carried out, the church, whilst not accepting ownership, would be willing to help fund.
- There is poor wheelchair access to the Bull's Head as the pathway is restricted by overgrown verges. Rod undertook to investigate this situation with the council.
- Cars continue to park illegally on the grass verge in Loughborough Road and whilst the council is fully aware of the situation, officers have written to all concerned in an effort to stop the nuisance and site visits are being carried out.
- We have had permission from Clark Robinson to 'tidy and beautify' the parcels of land at the end of Brook Lane and next to 181 Main St.
- Discussion took place over safety concerns regarding the traffic calming measures in place adjacent to 111 Loughborough Road in view of the recent housing development in the area. Ray Woodward pointed out that this was a matter for County Highways and undertook to discuss it with them.
- Bernard Lee drew to Rod's attention the fact that the Council workmen had recently been spraying liquid tar on the pavement opposite 95 Swallowdale

but had in fact missed part and he wondered why. Rod undertook to investigate.

- It was reported by a number of members that damage had been caused to the green amenity area in Springfield when a tow truck was needed to recover a vehicle which became immobile whilst 'Joy-riding' along the Sustrans track. This will need to be flattened in time but the thought was expressed that it might be possible to widen the pathway across this area to make access easier, particularly for powered wheelchairs and the like.

Guest Speaker – Rev. Alan Burgess Vicar of St Andrews, Thringstone and St Georges Swannington.

Alan began by taking us through his early life in Lincolnshire, which brought him after leaving school to Leicester to take up an engineering apprenticeship.

This did not suit him well and so he joined the Community Service Volunteers working with the Disabled whilst he was unemployed which led to him eventually working for the DSS in supplementary benefits.

A further change of tack took him into Overseas Insurance Broking where he stayed for ten years until a friend who was in the same church and worked in a firm that published Christian books and literature invited him to join him in that firm where he rose to the position of National Sales Manager.

The job paid well but he found that it was very disruptive to his family life taking him away from his wife and children for longer than he was happy with, and so another change ensued this time to prepare as part of a funded fixed short-term project to research and prepare an education and social special needs handbook for Leicestershire County Council.

Throughout all this time he had been involved in the Church playing in a Christian folk music group and playing an active role in whichever church was local to him and therefore it was a logical progression for him to investigate and follow through into Ordination as his next step. There followed Curacies at Glenfield and Donisthorpe and finally to our Parish which drew him because he detected a strong feeling of 'community' in the area.

He then went on to outline the challenges which face the Church today and the need for change to adapt the structure and timings to allow for the pattern of life in the 21st century. This will, he feels, lead to greater cooperation with other groups and denominations so that we achieve a cohesive society in which to live.

Summer Event

The date for the next sub committee meeting was announced as 6.45pm, Tuesday 6 March at Thringstone Primary School. There has been no response to date from the library with regard to printing into book form the transcripts of the recordings made of

people's memories of village life in days gone by. A set of minutes of the last summer event meeting were made available to interested parties, and Nita reinforced the fact that this is not a history sub-group meeting, but an event meeting for the village event. All are welcome.

Funding Applications

- National Forest Village Name Signs. NP reported that we may have problem with the timing of this signage since it seems unlikely that we can get the signs in place and invoiced in the current budget year and carry over into the next year seems not to be an option. However NP and our contact with the National Forest Company are hopeful that a solution will be found
- Blue Plaques In Addition to the buildings already identified it is possible that we may be able to put a plaque on the Community Centre. The appearance of the plaques has lead other people to suggesting further locations for them which are currently under review.
- Village Trail History Walk Leaflet This has now gone to proof.
- Ken Chamberlain Trust. This application is still ongoing

Projects

- Planting on Millbank. This work is now drawing to a close although we do still need a few more plants to complete the job. Colin, Bernard and Ray will be moving on to tackle the work in Brook Lane and then to 181 Main Street

Security Clearance Checking.

We have not had a response from CVS on this matter. NP will chase

Signs

The missing signs have been reported to NWLDC with the addition of the sign at the Grace Dieu Road end of Brook Lane which also seems to have gone missing. Whilst the council are happy to look to providing replacements, this may not be in the current financial year.

AOB

Police

The replacement for Ian Holland as our Beat Bobby is PC 2005 Dwight Barker. Ian Holland has expressed a wish to remain in touch with our group.

Picnic In the Park

This event will soon be upon us so we are asked to remember the plant requirement for the day. Discussions took place on whether the group should have a van to take all the plants down to the site in one go. Pam Porter agreed to talk to one of her friends about using their vehicle, for which we could possibly publicise their business.

T shirts were also discussed, as it was suggested that a corporate approach on the day might be a good idea.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 22 March 2007.

Copies of the last minutes from the Miners' Welfare Trust meeting were available for interested parties to read, as were copies of the committee meeting notes from Friends of Gracedieu held in January.