

# **FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING 22 March 2007**

### **In Attendance:**

Cllr Ray Woodward, Pam Porter, Lorraine Whitehurst, Jan Cufflin, Bernard Lee, Margaret Smith, Ann Petty, Sandie & Tony Newton, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Neal, Chris Mellor, Rachel Forster, Dave Everitt, Colin Porcher, Jo Johnson and Geoff Wilson.

### **Apologies recieved from:**

Nita Pearson, Rowena Summers, Geoff Walker, Cllr Pam Clayfield, John and Karon Smith, Lena Ashton (Guest Speaker) and Jane Wilson

### **Minutes of last meeting:**

Accepted as circulated

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance b/wd	£1933.47		
Receipts	none		
Expenditure	£50.00	Litter-pick sticks	(021)
	£1040.00	Pukka Publishing	(022)

The litter-pick sticks were obtained at a special price for the group by Margaret Smith. The group applauded and thanked her for her efforts.

Balance c/wd           £843.47

### **Secretary's Report**

No correspondence sent or received

## **Councillors' Report**

Cllr Ray Woodward reported that he had, as requested, raised the traffic calming concerns previously discussed by us in the appropriate quarter and is now awaiting a reply. It is hoped that a site meeting can be arranged in the near future so that interested parties can outline concerns in the real environment.

The local officer has expressed the view that as everything was approved and reviewed on at least two previous occasions this is not a matter requiring urgent attention.

We will continue to pursue this matter.

Rumour has been circulating regarding the future of The Fox public house along the lines that permission has been sought for demolition and residential development. This was last requested on an official basis in 2001 and was not approved. However last month 'Pre-application advice' was sought on the same subject but as yet we have been unable to ascertain the advice given but no formal application for consent has been filed.

There was a general consensus among members that any further development, particularly high density residential development, was unsustainable in terms of the utilities, water and drainage services.

Pam Clayfield continues to make progress and the group asked Ray to convey our good wishes to her.

## **Guest Speaker – Lena Ashton, AboutMyArea website**

Unfortunately Lena was indisposed and sent her apologies. We anticipate that her talk will be rescheduled at a later date.

## **Funding Applications**

- National Forest Village Name Signs. The invoice for the total installation and supply has been given to Pam. We are being paid the money from the National Forest next week, at which time Pam can then pay the total cost. We are still hopeful that the signage will be up by 6<sup>th</sup> April to agree with the grant we have received.
- Village Trail History Walk Leaflet These are now available for circulation
- Ken Chamberlain Trust. This application is still ongoing

## **Projects**

- Planting on Millbank. This work is now completed. Thanks to Colin, Bernard and Ray who have now moved on to tackle the work in Brook Lane and then on to 181 Main Street. Bernard has £50.00 to purchase Dogwood and Broom shrubs for the Brook Lane site, but will probably require more funds to complete planting, as it is a large area.

## **Summer Event 30<sup>th</sup> June from 11am – 4pm.**

- Minutes of the last meeting were available for anybody to see. We now have Penny Royal Garland dancers booked for 2 slots, 2 slots of County Dancing from Thringstone Primary School, 2 slots from Punch and Judy Man. There will also be demonstrations of mosaic work from the school, various history demonstrations, a PowerPoint demonstration by the scouts, and stalls will be Jan Cufflin, WI, history/archaeology group, scouts and AboutMyArea. There will be an ice-cream van there all the time, and Lorraine is doing food, the bread for which is being sponsored by Smithard's Bakery in Ashby, thanks to Geoff Walker's help. People are invited to come to the next meeting to see what is being organised for the village this will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre.

Sponsorship – We are already being sponsored for entertainment by Ruby's fish shop. Nita has written to Ken Beniston and also to Spurling and Sheffield for sponsorship without success so far. Lena from Aboutmyarea will be running a raffle, and has managed to get sponsorship from several local companies. Pam Porter said that she would have a word with Spurling and Sheffield direct about sponsorship of the Penny Royal dancers (£80) and also undertook to speak to Pete Gough (George & Dragon) on the general issue of sponsorship.

## **Blue plaque installation**

Only one plaque remains to be erected and that is at the George and Dragon. This will be done in about 3 weeks' time when they open. They are planning a huge press thing, and want the blue plaque to be central to their press coverage. NWLDC have also agreed to fund another 2 plaques. Nita has been to Coalville signs with wordage for The Old Forge, and for the Community Centre. NWLDC will refund FOT direct, and we must pay Coalville Signs. Pam has invoice to do this. Bernard will need to arrange with the people at The Old Forge and the Community Centre to put the signs up when ready, but Nita will liaise with Bernard on this.

## **Press cutting book**

Not done this yet.

### **Signage in the village**

Nita has reported to the council that signs were needed for The Green, for Brook Lane (Gracedieu Road end) and Heathfield. The latter sign fell down, and is now back up. The other two are to be considered in the next financial year.

### **Plants for Picnic in the Parks**

Nita has arranged for the stand this year to be in the main circle to attract more interest. We need plants for the events. Janet Stevenson is helping, as is Chris Dowel in Springfield, but we need as many people donating plants as possible, since last year we had Marshall and Mandy Tattersall helping with supply of plants, and they are moving abroad and won't be helping this year. Simon Smith has agreed to help with the transport of the plants to the event and if we need to purchase plants for the stand indicated that he can obtain supplies at 'trade prices'.

### **Tee-shirts for Events**

At the Summer event meeting, we discussed having Tee-shirts for the three events in the summer, our Summer Event, Gracedieu's event at which we are standing, and Picnic in the Parks. Sandie has been to get some t shirts and will be giving these to Ray Neal at the meeting. Ray's son has agreed to put our event logo on the t shirts for £30 which has been agreed. This needs rubber stamping by everyone at the meeting. We are having 12 t shirts. This was agreed.

### **Gracedieu event**

This will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and is ranged around a medieval theme. Nita has been told that stallholders are expected to pay £15, but since we are giving the Gracedieu people a free stall at our event, are expecting the same from them. Sandie has agreed to man the stall for the day, but could do with some help. We will be handing out posters which John Smith will design for us (hopefully) to publicise our own event the following week, and dishing out walks brochures parts 1 and 2.

### **Litter**

There is still a lot of litter at the back of the football pitch where it joins on to the Sustrans track. It was agreed that we should have a litter-pick on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April meeting in the usual place. A further litter-pick will be arranged on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to coincide with a council initiative on the Melrose Estate which is in effect a rubbish 'Amnesty' for the residents.

We have acquired some sticks, and Pam Porter issued these to those members who wished to have them to use both independently of a main litter pick, and on larger

group picks. We will, however, still need the help and support of NWLDC on large litter picks.

### **AOB**

Centre Stage event at Community Centre 19<sup>th</sup> April and FOT raffle - Lorraine has agreed that the raffle at the event on 19<sup>th</sup> April will be for FOT. Janet Stevenson has agreed to sell tickets, but needs prizes. Nita has donated a bottle of wine, but Janet needs to have prizes as soon as possible so that she knows what she is selling tickets for. Please help.

### **George and Dragon update**

- The George and Dragon is changing hands in about 3 weeks, as mentioned earlier. They are keen to get people from the village back to use it as a pub. They will still be doing meals, but will also be looking to put back together 2 football teams, and possibly also other teams. They are going to be putting on themed nights (like a Frank Sinatra night) etc., and hope for the support of the whole village in their new enterprise. Keep an eye on the papers for the events.

### **Neighbourhood music event at CC 28<sup>th</sup> April**

- NWLDC are running an event at Thringstone Community centre which is targeted at getting some of the young people of the village into the centre to get information on various agencies and services. This is obviously quite a boring theme and is unlikely to excite much interest so the day is going to be about music.  
There will be drum, guitar, street dancing and sound and light workshops as well as having displays etc by the different agencies, such as Connexions and the police. If anyone would like to participate or has any ideas they can contact Claire MacRory or Rachel Forster who has been involved in the organisation.  
Also, they are hoping to do an environmental action day on June 4th on the Melrose road estate. NWLDC will get information to us about that at the next meeting but it doesn't want to be advertised widely.

### **Ownership of property within the village**

- The husband of the owner of property at Drury Lane has spoken with Whitwick Historical Society, and had passed, through them, to us, various paperwork regarding ownership of property, mainly based on wills from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. All this information has been copied twice for its interest, and a copy given to Ray Woodward to give to Leicestershire County Council.

### **Parking on grass verges**

- We have been told by NWLDC that a visit was made to some tenants on Loughborough Road last week because of parking in an illegal driveway. The tenants suggested the problem stemmed from visits to the property by gas contractors, but the tenant has in any event received verbal and written warning about parking in front of their property and using the grass verge and pavement as access points.

### **Jan Cufflin – Raffle**

Jan is organizing a raffle and is still looking for suitable additional prizes to be donated. These can be delivered either to Jan or Sandie.

### **Bulls Head**

- This will close for 8 weeks in June for a refurb and is likely to become something like the Quorndon Fox in its interior. Contrary to rumour, the property adjacent, formerly occupied by Mrs. Fletcher, is not being pulled down. This property, owned by Squire De Lisle, dates from 1853 and is being improved by a building company.

### **Thringstone Born & Bred**

- Copies of part two of this publication were available for the members to purchase which meant that the question of the availability of part one became an issue to the newer residents of the village. This is being investigated.

### **Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

- This event was announced with the information that all proceeds would be used to support local Charities.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 26 April 2007.