

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 26 April 2007

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Cllr Pam Clayfield, Lorraine Whitehurst, Jan Cufflin, Bernard Lee, Margaret Smith, Ann Petty, Geoff Walker, John and Karon Smith, Sandie and Tony Newton, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Neal, Colin Porcher, Jo Johnson, Colin Perritt, Cllr Rod Evans, Ron Hill, PC Dwight Barker, Clare MacRory. Tam Bream, Neils Neilson and Geoff Wilson.

Apologies recieved from:

Rowena Summers, Cllr Ray Woodward, Chris Mellor, Debbie and Ian Wood, John Dickinson, Alan Burgess, Janet Stevenson and Jane Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated

Treasurer's Report

Balance bfwd	£843.47		
Receipts	£630.00	Nat. Forest Grant	
	£82.25	NWLDC (Cost of 2 Blue Plaques)	
Expenditure	£30.00	T-shirt printing	(023)
	£82.25	Coalville Signs (Plaques)	(024)
	£1069.40	LCC Nat. Forest signs	(025)
	£88.67	B Lee	(026)
	£65.46	NWLDC leaflets	(027)
Balance cfwd	£219.94		

Secretary's Report

No correspondence sent or received.

The Secretary received from NP the front page from the Coalville Echo (18 April 2007) with lead article announcing the Summer Event and outlining the work and achievements of FOT thus far.

Web Report

John announced that the new web site was now up and running incorporating various additional features but reminding us that this is a 'live' situation in constant need of attention and updating.

Councillors' Report

Cllr Pam Clayfield announced the following:-

- A new style 30MPH warning sign has been erected on Talbot Lane approaching the village which the members agreed seemed to be effective.
- Centre Stage is showing the Movie 'Miss Potter' in the community centre on 27 April.
- The raffle held in conjunction with the Cartoon event at the Community Centre raised £40 for FOT.
- The Church wall is an ongoing problem which she had raised with Officers at NWLDC (see Cllr Rod Evans comments) as is general vandalism in the village. However the off-licence closing time change (now 9.00pm) seems to have had a beneficial effect in this problem.

Cllr Rod Evans announced the following:-

- As he is standing down at the time of the election on 3 May 2007 he is making strenuous efforts to tie up loose ends.
- He has been driving for better maintenance on the Melrose estate and other parts where there are pot-hole problems etc and reminded us that we must continue to pursue these matters.
- On the matter of the Church wall he feels that some monies may be available from a Coalville 'Special Needs Fund' but it would need to be presented as a Community Project via FOT. It was mentioned at this stage that Alan Burgess had indeed obtained an estimate for the urgent repair work totaling £550.00 (a greatly discounted price). This was greeted with scepticism by some members but it was agreed that Jan Cufflin raise the issue at the church's AGM that week and see whether the church could half fund, and NP agreed to approach NWLDC for top-up funding as outlined above.
- Parking on grass verges remains a problem that the council and the Police are pursuing but with little apparent effect. It was generally felt that tenants of council properties who are parking in this way must be in breach of their tenancy agreements and should therefore be brought to book.

- There has been no progress on the Loughborough Road traffic calming issues raised by the group. NP is trying to find out when a meeting will be held, but has been told that previous meetings in 2004 and 2006 have shown there to be no problem with the traffic calming. Ron Hill raised concerns over the pollution aspects of traffic calming measures, and said that he is continuously troubled by exhaust fumes from vehicles as a result of having to slow down for the traffic humps. He felt this was affecting his quality of life.

Community Announcements

Claire MacRory gave notice of an Interactive Music Weekend for young people at the Community Centre on 28/29 April 2007 to give participants the opportunity to play various instruments, use up-to-date electronic equipment and gain hands-on experience. The aim is to perhaps in this way channel their energies into more constructive avenues. (See previous minutes for detail)

She also announced that there is to be an Environmental Action day around the Melrose Estate on 3 June 2007. FOT are having a litter-pick in the area on 4 June to assist and coincide with this initiative. Claire asked that we all give consideration to how best to maximize the impact of this event.

Members raised with Claire and our new PC, Dwight Barker, the issue of unlicensed and illegal use of motorcycles and other motorized vehicles in the woods and on the roads surrounding leading to both danger and nuisance to the public at large. These comments were noted by Dwight who requested that we should continue to monitor and report incidents, which would enable the police to replicate the success they had last year when a number of motorcycles were in fact confiscated and crushed. It was also mentioned that there is an increasing traffic problem because of builders vans parked outside what was 111 Lbro Road. Builders park on the pavement and thus block the cycle lane and also pedestrian access, and it is often the case the cars and other vehicles have to wait past the Springfield entrance to let other vehicles through, because of the builders parking. NP said she would email Dwight with particulars.

Guest Speaker – Tam Bream Grace Dieu Cricket Club

Tam was introduced to the members by NP, reminding us that Tam's family has been associated with the village for some considerable time living at and working Bream's Farm, which forms part of the Gracedieu estate. However his subject for this meeting was to be Gracedieu Park Cricket Club and its history.

Tam began by informing the group that Charles Booth, the Victorian businessman and social activist who is credited with proposing the concept of an old age pension for all, came to Gracedieu Manor in 1886, fell in love with and bought it in that year. The following year (1887) he founded Gracedieu Park Cricket Club as an Estate club and from this beginning the club developed over time to have within its facilities a swimming pool and running track thus widening the activities but remaining basically an Estate club.

Gracedieu Manor remained Booth's country home until his death in 1916 and his widow, Mary, lived at the Manor until her death in 1939.

During this time the club evolved becoming much more a local club and concentrating on the cricketing activities losing eventually both the swimming and the running facilities but retaining the traditional social activities of a club house and bar,

and eventually it moved to its present site around 1900. People from the manor still used to access the club on foot, and the archway under the railway line was their primary means of access. Originally the club house used to be in the bottom corner. In recent years a number of difficulties have arisen associated with falling numbers, issues over access connected with Health and Safety legislation and CRB checks for people working with juveniles. There are now only two senior teams due to the fact that after education, young people no longer necessarily find employment in their native environment, whereas there used to be 3 teams. However 2007 sees the first team playing in Division 2 in the local league, the highest level in 23 years.

There are also teams playing at junior level under 17, 15 and 13, unfortunately there is a tendency for the better players at this level to move on and play for larger clubs who are involved with the game at higher levels if the senior Gracedieu club teams are not performing well producing a downward spiral. This may eventually dictate that the club merges with another, possibly Shepshed, in order to survive.

A clubhouse exists but revenue would benefit greatly if more use could be found for the facilities there, in the way of meetings and functions.

Discussions have been taking place at committee level to determine a way forward and make best use of the assets of the club, which are considerable as the club owns its own land and rents on long lease some adjacent parcels.

This could lead to the provision of a new clubhouse and pavilion facility that would overcome some of the H&S and access problems. The club would be very grateful if in organizing future events we were to bear in mind the facilities on our doorstep and make use of them if possible.

Membership is available to all at an annual subscription of £5 for individuals and £10 for families.

Sandie asked if they had a women's team. They don't, and they could have problems with changing facilities. There are also problems with regard to disability access, as disabled people presently have to come into the club from the back.

Discussions about advertising their fixtures took place, and Tam said that they had been the target for vandalism, and the board advertising fixtures had been one of these targets, as had the grounds maintenance machinery. As a result, there is no fixture board. They were going to have CCTV, but the cost is prohibitive. Sandie explained that she kept a look out from her home to report and vandalism, but the problems last summer seemed to have stopped. Tam said that the culprits have now moved over the stream onto Bream land!

Tam said that there had been talk about Squire de Lisle giving them extra land, now the grassed area by the side of the access to the Sustrans track, but this would mean the dismantling of the wall currently there, and the cost would be prohibitive.

Rod Evans said that he had talked to officers at NWLDC about officer time to put together funding applications to help the club, and urged Tam to contact them to discuss this further.

Tam thanked the group for affording him the opportunity of addressing them on a subject dear to his heart, with which he has been actively involved for a number of years and sees the club as a village amenity that we should not ignore and thus loose.

Funding Applications

- National Forest Village Name Signs. These are now in place

- Blue Plaques. Many thanks to Bernard who has now installed all the blue plaques in their allotted positions except the one for the George & Dragon.. The plaque which is to be attached to the George and Dragon Pub, which has recently changed ownership and is undergoing refurbishment, will, we are assured, figure prominently in the re-opening publicity.
- Village Trail History Walk Leaflet No2 This is now in preparation with the printer and should be available by the end of April. It covers a walk from Gracedieu wood past the viaduct and includes Charnwood Railway and the old Canal, as well as Gracedieu Priory. Work has commenced on Walk No 3. Thanks to all who made these possible RCC, NWLDC and others.
- The re-print of part one of Thringstone Born & Bred has been ordered from the printer at a cost of £150.00
- Ken Chamberlain Trust. This application is still ongoing

Projects

- Planting on Brook Lane. This work is now completed. Thanks to Colin, Bernard and Ray. Thanks to Simon Smith for the gift of bark chip mulch to complement the Brook Lane planting. 181 Main Street tidying will start shortly.
- The Litter-pick that took place on 21 April removed about a dozen black sack of rubbish from various locations including Loughborough Road, areas of the Melrose Estate, the Sustrans trail and Main Street. Some tyres were gathered together and NP had informed Claire MacRory of the location so that she could arrange for proper disposal. A further litter-pick will be arranged on June 3rd to coincide with a council initiative on the Melrose Estate which is in effect a rubbish 'Amnesty' for the residents

Summer Event 30th June from 11am – 4pm.

- Minutes of the last meeting were available for inspection. Sponsorship is being firmed up but is generally coming in very nicely. The list of attractions is as detailed in the last minutes. However we are still unsure about the face painting but it has been confirmed that an ice cream vendor will attend. The next event meeting will be on 10 May 2007 usual time and place. Squire De Lisle has confirmed his acceptance of our invitation to open this event

Press cutting book

Not done this yet.

Plants for Picnic in the Parks

It was noted once again of the importance of members being aware of the need to produce stock for our stand at PIP on 17 June 2007 in the absence of Marshall and

Mandy. We were reminded of the offer of stock of this type at trade prices made by Simon Smith but hopefully we shall not have to resort to purchase.

Tee-shirts for Events

These will be available by the end of May.

AOB

Jan Cufflin requested bottles of wine for her wine and water stall at the event in June. She has lots of water but little wine!

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 6.45pm at Gracedieu Park Cricket Club on Thursday 17 May 2007.