

Minutes for Friends of Thringstone AGM to be held at Thringstone Community Centre, The Green, Thringstone on Thursday 28th June 2007 at 6.45pm

Present: Nita Pearson, Trish and Paul Banham, Jim Wilkinson, Dave Everitt, Ron Hill, Ray Woodward, John and Karon Smith, Chris Mellor, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Brenda Simpson, John Carr, Peter and Jennie Walker, Sandie and Tony Newton, Jan Cufflin, Tracey Foulds, Rowena Summers, Lorraine Whitehurst, Mike Statham, Rod Evans

Apologies: Geoff Walker, Janet and David Stevenson, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Margaret Smith, Bill Ensor, John Dickinson, Bill Newton, Tam Beam, Colin Perrett, Pam Clayfield, Alan Burgess.

Treasurer's Report. Following sales of plants and donations for books at the Gracedieu Event, the school fete and Picnic in the Parks, we now have a bank balance of £263.44. We are not expecting to make any payments out, and with the subscriptions taken this evening, the bank balance will be healthy.

Secretary Report – We have received considerable publicity this week for our event, and also a picture of Sandie and Tony Newton taken at Picnic in the Parks has been printed.

Web report – The website has been revised completely, now has soundbites and all minutes on. Nita offered to give a prize to anybody who can tell where the picture that forms the backdrop of each page was taken from. John Smith was thanked for his work on the web.

Councillors' 5 minutes – Dave Everitt said he was still learning about systems at NWLDC, but was surprised that more press didn't turn up to full council meetings. At a recent meeting, changing the times of meetings was discussed, and it was agreed to keep the time of meetings at 6.30pm, as it allowed everybody to attend who wanted to. He has been to a grant meeting which may allow FOT to apply for further funding and has also attended a planning meeting where the building proposed next to the Jet Garage in Whitwick was turned down. 24 units are being built on the site of the former Eveden factory. The grassed area opposite has been done by NWLDC, and the landowner will have to pay the cost of clearing and planting this. It was reported that there were 11 vehicles parked on the pavement and blocking the cycle path by 111 Lbro Road recently, and this is an accident waiting to happen. Nita has previously reported this to the police, and will do again. Nita has also tried to find out what is happening with the new signs for Brook Lane and The Green.

Planting Updates – Planting of the area by 181 Main Street is continuing.

Summer Event – This is to be held this coming Saturday, and all are welcome to attend. The event is free. Copies of minutes of the events meetings are available to look at for those who haven't attended or received minutes by email. Posters have been prepared and delivered, as have leaflets. Roadside adverts and other posters are done. Artists have been booked, and stall holders acquired. The School have recently

informed us that there will probably be no school dancers, as parents haven't given their permission, thinking that our event and the school event were one and the same, and not realising the need to keep themselves free on 30th June. Nita has spent the day trying to find an alternative but has not been successful thus far. It is proposed to either hold a pub-type quiz at that time, or conversely Nita will lead people in an easy line dance (or both will take place). Squire de Lisle is opening the event. It starts at 11 am and finishes at 4pm. Volunteers still needed to man the day and ensure success.

School Fete 16th June – total sales and report_ We made £31 in book sales. It was a useful exercise, as we realised we needed children's activities for our own fete, had little to offer them, and also saw that the children dance to music from a tape, not a CD, so had to order a tape player as well as a CD player, and PA system from Chameleon.

Picnic in the Parks 17th June – total sales and report._ This was a good day with sales totalling £210, mostly plants. A photo of Sandie and Tony and the stall was taken by The Echo and appeared in this week's paper. Whilst our stand was in the main arena this time, we were near a bottleneck area, and this may have deterred people from stopping and buying plants.

Gracedieu Event 23rd June – total sales and report._ We took nearly £70 with most sales being plants. The rain kept off, and it was good to raise our profile. Lots of leaflets were handed out about our own event, and we put up the banner on the walk through the woods, so everyone who attended saw that we have our own fete.

Calendar for 2008 – Geoff Walker has made enquiries about a calendar for 2008 to be commercially printed at a guide price of £3.50 if we order 35-40. Discussion took place, and it was agreed to ask Geoff to see if we could get discounts on larger orders, as Ruby's chip shop had shown interest in helping sell these.

T shirts – These didn't turn out as expected, but were provided free of cost by the printer. All who need them for the event have been given them.

Church Wall Update – Rod Evans was former chair of Woodside Tenants Association, which had been inactive for some time. In an attempt to close their account, it was discovered there was £300 still left in the bank, so this has been paid to the Parochial Church Council in order to facilitate the repairs to the church wall. Work is expected to commence on Monday 2nd July. Rod was thanked for his help in this matter, and he in turn thanked the church for arranging the stonemason.

Litter Pick Update – 11 bags were collected by the small group who did the litter pick in early June. We concentrated our efforts on The Green, Brook Lane, Main Street, Lbro Rd, and the Sustrans Trail. Thanks to those who helped out on the day.

AOB – Mike Statham said that he would be pleased to help with artwork, signs and posters if these were required, and would also be available to help with a village mural which could get other groups involved, if a suitable site could be suggested.

Nita said that there had been discussions about a possible Christmas fayre as an event for the group and a nearly new sale. These will be discussed with the events person in due course.

It was confirmed that we have another Christmas party as last year at our last meeting, and people could bring food along again.

The Bulls Head reopens next week, and they are having a series of training days, and have issued invitations to people to attend. Nita dished these out to the meeting.

Election of new officers for 2007/8

A copy of a list was circulated detailing all the successes of FOT since its inception. This is now being put on the website for newcomers to see.

John and Karon Smith have stood down, as has Chris Mellor. Our constitution states that the committee must comprise Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 7 other members, of which one needs also to be voted as Vice-Chair. That means we can have up to 10 committee members in total. In year one, we ran with 9 and this year we have run with 8.

Up for re-election are: Nita Pearson, Geoff Wilson, Pam Porter, Sandie Newton, Ray Neal. We have received indication from Ray Woodward, Rowena Summers and Tony Newton that they are interested in standing for committee.

Nita was voted in as Chair

Vice Chair is Tony Newton

Secretary is Geoff Wilson

Treasurer is Pam Porter

Events officer is Ray Woodward

Other committee members are

Rowena Summer (history lead member)

Sandie Newton (assistant on events)

Ray Neal (environment and community)

The next meeting will be held at Thringstone Community Centre on 26th July. The guest speaker will be Colin Hyde from East Midlands Oral History Archive.