

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 26 July 2007

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Ray Woodward, Cllr Pam Clayfield, Rowena Summers, Pam Porter, Jan Cufflin, Margaret Smith, Ann Petty, Sandie and Tony Newton, Ray Neal, Jo Johnson, Colin Perritt, Tracy Foulds, Brenda Simpson, Neils Neilson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Heather Francis, Janet Stevenson, Geoff Walker, John and Karon Smith, Dwight Barker, Colin Hyde, Mike Statham, Nicola Burrell and Geoff Wilson plus 6 guests.

Nicola Burrell and guests attended specifically to discuss with the group the proposals regarding the planning and licence applications relating to the Jet Service Station on Talbot Street in Whitwick.

Apologies recieved from:

Alan Burgess, Bernard Lee, David Stevenson, Tam Bream, Mark Boulger, Pam Spence, William Newton, Chris Mellor, John Dickinson, Dave Everitt and Jane Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated. No Matters arising.

Treasurer's Report

Balance bfwd	219.94	26.04.77
Receipts	188.50	PIP
	775.21	Summer event receipts
Expenditure	145.00	Born and Bred leaflets
Balance cfwd	1038.65	

The treasurer reported that she was holding cash (subs and other small receipts) pending banking.

Cllr Pam Clayfield gave her thanks to Nita and all those members who were involved in the organisation and running of the summer event which was a resounding success both financially and from a publicity aspect. Nita in turn thanked the membership for the flowers, and Pay Clayfield for the plant, and Lorraine for the card.

Secretary's Report

No correspondence sent or received.

The secretary received from NP a scrapbook for the collation of press cuttings etc..

Web Report

John Smith reported that the website is now up to date and now includes reference to local weather forecast information.

Janet Stevenson drew the member's attention to an alternative search engine to Google called www.everyclick.com. This site generates cash for a charity of choice on each and every occasion it is used and must therefore be worthy of consideration.

Councillor's Report

Cllr Pam Clayfield reported as follows:-

1. The bid for support funding for the proposed improvement project at the Thringstone Miners Welfare is gaining momentum and seems likely to succeed
2. The local authority is refurbishing the pavements on Thornborough Road.
3. Details of the group have been passed on to Malcolm Pegg at Mantle Arts who are interested in possibly setting up an art link with the local school. Nita has emailed Ella Roberts in this connection and will see whether FOT are able to facilitate something positive for this.
4. The application for an "Off Sales licence" to allow the sale of alcohol by the Jet Service Station in Whitwick seems to be generating considerable local opposition.
5. A recently erected fence has blocked the footpath, leading to the site of the Old Mill from the Millhouse Estate, following concern from the owner of the land as to their liability if someone was injured by falling branches or other such circumstances. As this is an officially designated footpath the matter has been reported to Andrew Perry of the Leicestershire County Council. FOT will continue to monitor the situation.
6. NWLDC has now recruited Parking Control Officers who are beginning to patrol and enforce the parking regulations in the area.

Guest Speaker - Colin Hyde – East Midlands Oral History Archive.

Colin began by telling the meeting that the Archive, which is attached to the University in Leicester and actually has a remit covering Leicestershire and Rutland,

is charged with the task of archiving, gathering, collating, cataloging and 'burning to CD' for storage pre-existing and new material recording local history., which includes over 200 recordings made in NWLDC's area, previously stored at The Springboard Centre. The catalogue for the archives can be found on the internet.

The recordings consist in the main of recorded interviews with older residents relating their everyday life as they grew up living and eventually working in the area.

This recording work, which is still going on, is important due to the fact that it records not only the facts about those times but also the local dialects and accents associated with the villages and towns in the area in a way that is not possible in any other medium.

There exists a veritable treasure trove of this type of information in recordings made for broadcast transmission on local radio in the past and indeed recordings of the programs themselves when the original intention was not this type of history archive but simply reporting on local events. There are more than 2000 recordings made by Radio Leicester in this way dating back to 1967 but regrettably no funding to do anything with these except to store them in the best possible conditions in the hope that they will survive and thus be available should funding become available. Storing these recordings is also a way of saving them for future quotes, and they will be available to researchers long term.

The archive has available recorded interviews with older residents made in the 1970s referring to events dating back to the 1850s with people concerned recalling stories which their parents and grandparents had told them. Naturally there are many references to the Great War and the General Strike of 1926.

Colin played to the meeting examples of the type of material that is available from the archive either on line or in person at the office where the archive is based in a similar way to the way that people can access written information in a reference library. These included, by way of example, a recording made by Florence Nightingale, originally on a wax cylinder, as a fund raising exercise to assist Crimea War veterans, a recording made in the 1930s by a surviving officer from the Titanic disaster in 1912, a recording of a news interview with a local resident referring to subsidence at Bagworth and finally a local Whitwick man relating how they used to buy pigs from the monastery and the feeding regime involving graded flour, finishing with barley flour and not using fish meal late in the regime for fear of its impact on the taste of the bacon.

There is an urgent need to involve local volunteer groups in the collection of this material, as it is certain that as the older residents die, the information is lost with them. These volunteers are usually found by local press advertising or by word of mouth. Colin said that often these recordings and the information contained in them is quite novel to youngsters, as they relate to things totally alien to their modern way of life, and remarked that people from all over the world can listen to sound bites of the archived material. Reports have been received of people in far distant countries being thrilled at being able to listen to recordings made by relatives they never met.

Colin said that it was important the taping of residents continue if possible, that this should be done in a gentle way, and the group are to be congratulated on their efforts to preserve village history.

NP thanked Colin for his informative talk and assured him that we as a group would continue with the work we had done in this respect and that we are seeking funding assistance for the publication in book form of transcripts of the work that we have already done in this area. Our own recordings are currently with him for digitisation.

History Sub Group

This activity is now headed up by Rowena Summers. The groups function is to track collate and coordinate our and other groups activities in this area so that duplication of work on projects like The Star Inn., The Bull's Head and Bauble Yard is kept to a very minimum or perhaps even undertaken jointly

Licence application – Jet Service Station

Dwight Barker was asked to initiate this discussion by outlining the Police stance on this matter. He pointed out that their hands were very much tied by rules that only allow them to object to the granting of such a licence if the proposed licensee is unfit or there is concrete evidence that a public nuisance will arise or the premises are totally unsuitable. None of these apply in this case and the Police will not therefore be objecting to the application. He went on to say that arguments that suggest nuisance will be created are treated as speculation and as such carry little weight.

Cllr Pam Clayfield produced official notes on criteria that would affect the outcome of planning applications if a petition is being considered but again any objections must be on planning grounds and based in fact not speculation. Ray Woodward suggested that the licensing authorities may not take any notice of objections received from people who don't live close to the premises in question, a point with which Niels Nielson concurred, having been involved in a licensing objection in the past.

The meeting then heard from Nicola on concerns of local residents, and from those people who live close to the service station who said that they were already bothered by youths sitting on the wall, by litter being discarded close to or on their premises, with anti-social behaviour etc. It was also reported that people sitting on the wall at the petrol station posed a visibility hazard for motorists leaving the petrol station. Whilst the group very much sympathised with their point of view and felt that they had a case if handled in the right way, it could not give direct support as a group, preferring to leave it to individual members to object either by signing the petition form or by writing to the planning authority and licensing sections of NWLDC. The date for submission of objections is 8th August, and these should be addressed to Catherine Gale, at NWLDC's offices.

Police Matters

Dwight Barker announced to the meeting that reported crime had fallen but advised that this was not a time for complacency and in particular that there had been a spate

of burglaries resulting from people not closing downstairs windows and advised that it was prudent to do so including the small fanlight windows at the top.

He reported further success in the fight against illegal use of motorcycles around the village and in the woods. Various people commented on this saying that the police response to a report of this activity was ineffective as it tended to be slow but Dwight encouraged us to continue with our reports which would prioritise the Police response to the problem. If the reports cease those in command assume that the problem has been overcome.

NP asked if there were any possibility of Thringstone becoming an alcohol free zone (no alcohol to be consumed on the streets) as has been the case in Ibstock. Dwight said that this was unlikely as there is no evidence that there is a problem with drinking in the streets within the village.

Calendar

Geoff Walker informed the meeting that he was able this year to provide as many Calendars as required and the item was in fact three parts complete already for which he was thanked. It was agreed that initially we will order 50 copies and that as they will be paid for at time of order Ray Woodward will coordinate this activity. Ruby's fish and chip shop have already expressed an interest in selling the calendars for the group.

Event update meeting to be held on 2.08.07

This meeting will analyse the Summer Event and 'Brainstorm' ideas for future events i.e. a Christmas Fayre, Fashion Show and other ideas. All are welcome, and volunteers at some point in time will be requested

Town Twinning

Councillor Clayfield and Nita have been discussing the possibility of Thringstone 'Twinning' with a French or other European town or village. Neils Neilson and Geoff Walker raised the issue of set-up and ongoing costs associated with the Twinning proposal. Nita will do some research and report back to the meeting.

Planting

This activity has been badly hit by the recent unseasonal weather and no planting had been done since the last meeting. We have had very favourable comments passed about the Brook Lane planting and thanks were expressed to those who were directly involved, including those people who went out one Sunday morning after a storm to remove fallen dead branches, and others which were likely to fall.

Church Wall

This work had now been done, but the wall now requires pointing. A builders name was given for onward transmission to Alan Burgess.

Funding update

In order to comply with the requirements of a current funding application being made to NWLDC's special monies, we need to have in place an Equal Opportunities policy. NP has been working on this, and will complete this document in the next few days and circulate for comment /amendment etc.

AOB

Leaflet availability

Sandie and Tony volunteered to distribute the walk leaflets and other publications that we have produced to suitable outlets like Museums (Loughborough and Ashby), Snibstone Discovery Park, Donington le Heath manor house, Moira Furnace, Conkers and local hostelrys to make them more accessible to the general public

Logo

Geoff Walker presented a proposed Logo which he had designed which produced a good deal of discussion. It was agreed that this formed the basis for a usable logo for the group and that John Smith would further develop the idea.

CVS

NP now has the relevant information to be able to apply for an associate membership for FOT, and will report back on this.

The Fox Public House

It is more than likely that this public house will turn into an Indian restaurant with bar.

Next Meeting

The next full meeting will take place at 6.45pm at The Community Centre on Thursday 6 September 2007