



The Friends of Thringstone

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Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE

MINUTES OF MEETING 8 January 2008

In Attendance:

Nita Pearson, Pam Porter, Bernard Lee, Lorraine Whitehurst, Jan Cufflin, Margaret Smith, Jim Wilkinson, Roy Hill, Niels Nielson, Rowena Summers, Clr Pam Clayfield, Colin Porcher, Tam Bream, Jo Johnson, Ann Petty, Tracey Foulds, Ray Woodward, Colin Perritt, Chris Mellor, Victoria Bowers & Geoff Wilson.

Apologies recieved from:

David Taylor NP, Dwight Barker, John Dickinson, Dave Everitt, Sandie and Tony Newton, John & Karon Smith, Rachel Forster, Alan Burgess, Ray Neal, Geoff Walker & Jane Wilson.

Minutes of last meeting:

Accepted as circulated.

Treasurer's report – Nita has recently passed on to Pam £17.50, being money for calendar sales sold at loss of £1 per calendar at Ruby's at the end of 2007 to clear stocks, and £43.50 in monies for calendar and brochure sales from the community centre. This money still has to be banked.

Balance b fwd	£601.35	
Receipts	£900.31	Xmas Fayre
	£550	Sponsorship P&R 250, Masons 50, Quiet Storm 50, Mrs Newton 200
Expenditure	Nil	
Balance c fwd	£2051.66	

Secretary's report – Nita passed on to Geoff a copy of the risk assessment used for the Christmas Fayre, a letter which came with money from the USA for a calendar purchase, a page from the Coalville Times of 30th November correcting their earlier misprint of the times of the Christmas Fayre, a Christmas card from The Squire to file, along with a letter to the group from David Taylor, commending FOT for their work, a copy of the full page article which appeared in

the Village Voice magazine promoting our group, and a press cutting from The Echo of 19th Dec showing pictures of the Christmas Fayre.

Web report – There are a few things to be altered on the website, and a new sponsors page is to be added. John Smith is working on this.

History report – Ann Petty reported that Tim booth had visited the Mill site and is of the opinion that there may be the remains of a 13th century Mill in addition to the remains which we are already aware of. She is continuing to investigate the local millennium map and has yet to speak to Lavinia about the Star public house.

Publications report

Tony has not had the opportunity to go to the George at Coleorton to see how the stocks of booklets are there, and Snibston Discovery Park do not appear to have sold any. There are still sufficient supplies at the George and Dragon, and at the community centre. All unsold calendars have been collected.

Councillors' 5 minutes

Cllr Pam Clayfield informed us of a community scheme named Command Respect.

Thringstone Primary School was nominated for consideration for a funding award up to £500 to fund a community wildlife garden, which will hopefully see young people get more interested in conversation. Nick Lackenby has spent a year helping with the town twinning in France, and has been awarded £200.

The church wall now has another gap. The council is investigating how best to proceed, as this problem now needs a comprehensive approach. Jan Cufflin reported that the church had already received donations of £200 towards this.

The signpost at Millbank for the public footpath is in the wrong place, and this has been reported.

Guest Speaker – Victoria Bowers, Rural Enabler, NWLDC

Victoria described her role at North West Leicestershire District Council which has a variety of elements with the primary aim to build the links between communities of North West Leicestershire and the District Council. She was responsible in helping to develop a district level response to the proposed closures of the post offices in Heather and Packing ton, collecting evidence to support the local opposition to the closures. This evidence may not have been so readily available to the District council had it not been for her post and the relationship of the rural enabler with local communities.

Another remit of the role is to ensure that the local strategic partnerships for NWL consider rural communities and ensure that the community strategy produced by the partnership addresses rural issues. She is highlighting the importance of parish plans as an evidence base for the themes in the community strategy, for instance cleaner and greener for all environmental issues and healthier communities.

The primary focus of the role is helping the communities of NWL produce Parish Plans.

Parish Plans are a community consultation project initiated by the rural community council for Leicestershire and Rutland. The RCC has been running the programme for almost eight years and has a wealth of knowledge and expertise when dealing with rural communities. It is her role to work closely with the community development officer for the rural community council in the delivery of the projects within North West Leicestershire.

Initially, members of the public, either through the parish council or independently, contact either myself or the RCC requesting an introductory meeting. Depending on capacity and waiting lists, the community development officer and Victoria will contact the parish council and arrange an introductory meeting such as this one.

A parish plan is a holistic document produced by local residents for local residents. Through various forms of community consultation issues affecting an area are highlighted, drawn into a report and action plan and developed into projects.

A parish plan is an opportunity for local residents to have their say on how their parish should develop. Topics usually considered include older people, younger people, housing, recreation and leisure, healthier communities, traffic and transport, environment, safety and education.

After the go ahead from the parish council there will be a widely publicised open evening inviting all local residents along to have their say and get involved, with opportunity to join a steering group.

With a parish plan a steering group of local volunteers then meet on a regular basis with either myself or the community development officer, or both of us, who will guide the group through the process of developing their plan.

At each stage of the process residents are offered the opportunity to join. A plan will work best if all members of the community are represented e.g. young, old, students, and representatives from local groups and local clubs.

The steering group will then select a form of consultation with the most popular being the questionnaire. Alternatives include open forums, village trails or specific youth groups.

Once consultation has been carried out, the steering group will then analyse the results compile a report and action plan to highlight the concerns of the village.

This report and action plan will then provide an evidence base for service providers such as county and district council, the police authority and the primary care trust to act on giving them direction when it comes to allocating funds.

It is possible for small areas with no parish council to undertake a parish plan, however, as Thringstone is part of the Coalville urban area it may not be within Victoria's remit as a rural enabler, particularly with regards to the funding of the project. Depending on a number of factors such as funding, and capacity, there may be opportunity to work with the friends of Thringstone group, and any other residents who are keen to get involved, on a smaller community consultation project, such as holding a one off event, such as an open day with a more social theme with games and food, yet using the voting handsets, just like those on who wants to be a millionaire there could be a consultation, maybe with a prize draw. Nita explained that, through the village appraisals at the turn of the millennium, the group already had access to this sort of information, and we going to be using the headings as a talking topic at future meetings.

Following on from this address there was considerable discussion lead initially by Tam Bream on the pros and cons of changing the status of the group to become a Parish council. Ray Woodward explained in some detail what this would mean and the general consensus was that we were better off remaining as we were.

From previous minutes:

- **Event on 8th December.** This event went very well, and a profit was made, after deductions of costs, including insurance and printing of calendars etc., of about £480, with about £100 of this being profits on calendar sales. Only 8 calendars remain unsold, but several were sold in late December at a £1 loss to clear stocks. Full details will be given at the debrief meeting which is on 24th Jan at 6.45pm at the George and Dragon, and **not** Thringstone Members Club as previously circulated. An agenda for this meeting will be circulated to all members shortly. We would like to have calendars again next year, but will discuss at the debrief meeting ways of changing these, along with other ideas. We understand that the Coalville Times have a full CD of photos they took at our event which are available to order if anybody is interested.
- **School Fayre – 7th December** only generated a sale of £10 of brochures. Again this matter is to be discussed in greater detail at the debrief meeting, but we are proposing selling children friendly items in future to raise more funds if members agree. The membership were in agreement
- **Litter Pick for February.** It was decided that this would take place weather permitting on 2 February meeting at the Rangers Club car park. Sandie and Pam Porter will work

together on getting this publicised, and Nita agreed to publicise on all websites as an environmental action day.

- **Grace Dieu Priory presentation** at the Community Centre on 27th March at 7pm start. Nita said we should probably have posters and do a press release, and it was agreed that Nita contact the Grace Dieu group and ask for their assistance on this
- **Planting projects updates** – Mrs Newton gave £200 at the last meeting for trees. Bernard and Ray are going to buy extra trees this month.
- **Balfour Beatty** – Nita has received an email asking for a site meeting which she has accepted, but nobody from the company has contacted her since before Christmas to arrange a date. Nita will chase.
- **Sponsorship.** We need to continue to look for sponsors for our September Heritage event. Any ideas welcome. Ray Woodward said that he would chase Midland Quarry Products and other avenues.
- **Marquee purchase.** Nita explained why we needed a marquee, because the Heritage Event would use both inside and outside of the community centre, and if it rains, as is the case with other events, the outside people will be unable to be accommodated inside. It was agreed that Ray Woodward talk again to his contact about this, and Tam Bream agreed to let Nita have details of a tent he has recently purchased, new, for a similar amount as is being proposed. He also agreed that the marquee could possibly be stored at the farm, and suggested a marquee would also be useful as something to hire out to other groups for a small fee.

Any Other Business

- **Letter** from David Taylor, and Christmas Card from The Squire de Lisle as mentioned above
- **Guided village walks.** Between Christmas and the New Year, Nita lead a walk for NWLDC called 'The Pubs of Whitwick and Thringstone' and sold £27 worth of our publications. Gracedieu regularly do guided walks of the priory and reap the financial benefits of this. Nita would like to do similar walks around our village, using the blue plaque walk and Gracedieu brochure, and is looking for volunteers who would like to consider helping with this, and also to do the other walk around Cademan Woods. We can then arrange suitable walk dates and advertise in the local press. Ray Woodward expressed interest in helping with this. Nita will seek other volunteers, and put together a suggested walks programme for discussion at a later stage.
- **Village Appraisal** – Nita has done an analysis of what were put forward as recommendations in the last village appraisal, and wishes to commence going through this in more detail at meetings. Crime and Safety is to be agenda item for Feb. Police and NHW have already been invited and Dwight Barker is preparing a short presentation. The subject for the March meeting will be facilities, shops and services to include transport difficulties and the mobile library. The April meeting will have the environment as its topic, and the May meeting will see a general discussion on how we can help publicise the community centre and work with the school to promote them. The other items from the appraisal document will be discussed later in the year and it should be remembered that the June meeting will be held at Swannington Mill and there is no meeting in August.
- **Publication of memories** – We are still waiting for the money to come from the WI, but in the meantime, need to discuss what sort of front cover/back cover/preamble we have and how we explain why we are only at this stage publishing from only 5 memoirs. Suggestions were needed for the front and back covers. Nita is going to proof read what we have at the moment, and read out suggestions for the remaining items. There were some small amendments suggested.
- **Whitwick and Snibston Collieries.** Nita has had an approach from Alison Clague who works from Snibston Discovery Park. She is the newly appointed co-ordinator for the Mines of Memory project, which aims to map existing oral history collections and hopes to

commission up to 20 new interviews relating to Snibston and Whitwick collieries. Alison has started to look at existing materials available and is interested in working with us on anything we can contribute like this in the future. It was agreed that Nita could give Alison the contact details for Ray Woodward, Bernard Lee and Ray Neal, as all these people had worked in the local pits.

- **NWLDC** A new initiative to overcome the problem of Dog Fouling of the pathways is to come into effect. This will make it an offence to allow dogs to roam on open ground whether they foul the area or not and owners must pick up after their animals in all places. It was agreed that we should ask whether dog litterbins were being provided.
- **Lighting** Bernard brought to our notice that the lighting on the recreation area at the back of Hensons Lane was in need of attention.
- **The Fox** There is no concrete news about the future of the Fox Public House. So far as we are aware no application has been made to the Planning authority as yet but rumours cover the range from Indian Restaurant to Sheltered housing.

Dates of next meetings :

24th January at 6.45pm at The George and Dragon – event debrief and discussion on ways forward
7th February 2008 at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006

NOTICE is hereby given of the intention of North West Leicestershire District Council to introduce orders pursuant to its powers under the above act: The orders are proposed to take effect from 1st April 2008

Order One: Failing to Remove Dog Faeces

It will be an offence for a person not to remove the faeces of any dog in their charge immediately from **any land open to the air to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access** with or without payment, and within the administrative area of the North West Leicestershire District Council.

Order Two: The keeping of Dogs on Leads

Dog walkers will be required to keep **dogs on leads on all land within the Council's administrative area** which comprises a highway, footway, cycleway or footpath or any grass verge which is adjacent to the carriageway or footway and is maintainable at public expense, which is subject to a 40 mph speed limit or less.

Order Three: The Keeping of Dogs on Leads by Direction

It is proposed that the entire administrative area of the District be designated for this dog control order. The order will require people to put and keep a dog on a lead when instructed to do so by an authorised Officer.

Order Four: Exclusion of Dogs From Land

It is proposed that dogs will be **excluded** throughout the District from all fenced children's play areas, all fenced games areas, bowling greens and areas on playing fields or recreation grounds that are marked and designated as sports pitches.

There will be exemptions within all the orders for blind people with guide dogs and disabled people using trained assistance dogs.

Enforcement by Fixed Penalty Notice

The District Council intends to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce the proposed dog control orders, and the fine will be £80 with a discounted rate for early payment of £50. Failure to pay the fixed penalty notice may result in prosecution.

Consultation

The Draft Orders and a map showing the affected area may be examined at the Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3FJ between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Friday. The Orders can also be viewed on the Council's website at www.nwleics.gov.uk.

Any comments regarding the proposed orders must be sent to the Council by the 15th February 2008 either :-

- (i) In writing to Keith Fairbrother, Head of Street Management,
North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Whitwick Road,
Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3FJ
- (ii) or Emailing street.enforcement@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Dated 10th January 2008