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Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Thringstone Community Centre at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Sandie Newton, Tony Newton, Pam Clayfield, Ray Woodward, Jenny Walker, Dave Everitt, Julie Marraffa, Tracey Foulds, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson, John Carr, Bernard Lee, Colin Perritt, Jim Wilkinson, Alison Clague (guest from Snibston Discovery Park), Ann Petty, Roy Hill, Pam Porter, John Smith, Karon Smith, Janet Stephenson, Claire MacRory, PC Dwight Barker, CSO Rachel Forster

**Apologies** Jane and Geoff Wilson, Rowena Summers, Ray Neal, Maggie Smith, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Chris Mellor, Jan Cufflin, Alan Burgess, Bill Newton

**Treasurer's report**

Balance bfw £2,051.66

Expenditure £25.00 Picnic in the Parks stall  
£65.46 newsletter printing

Receipts Nil banked

Balance c/fwd £1961.20

In addition to above sums, Pam gave out a cheque payable to Ray Woodward for £34.20, one to Bernard Lee of £55 for shrubs, and £100 for insurance for 6<sup>th</sup> September event. This will be recorded on the next report.

Nita passed to Pam a receipt for the Picnic in the Parks monies.

Pam took possession of monies in cash from Lorraine for brochure donations.

**Secretary's report.**

Geoff Wilson was not at the meeting.

Nita has already passed to Geoff information on Picnic in the Parks, the letter from David Taylor about a proposed Citizen's Survey which we were asked to comment on, and which we did, a letter from Thringstone WI regarding our proposed publication, a letter from Local Works about sustainable communities, a letter asking us if we wanted to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Coalville CVS, and information on Leicestershire Volunteer Centres.

**Web report**

John Smith reported that the website is up to date and now has a sponsors' page and a full list of our achievements since 2005. John has also added a new section on the Our Links page, so that other web masters can download our logo and a code to put it on their websites easily. He



noticed that although we have lots of links to other people's sites, few have returned the favour for us, so Nita has chased this with a number of organisations and groups. John put "Thringstone" into Yahoo the other day and Friends of Thringstone came out top, and came out at 10th in Google but we are still difficult to locate on MSN. John is continuing to work on this link. Nita has entered details of Friends of Thringstone onto the [www.any-village.co.uk](http://www.any-village.co.uk) site, and also on the [www.infolinx.leics.gov.uk](http://www.infolinx.leics.gov.uk) site, which is connected to the county council and includes details of all East Midlands organisations and volunteer groups.

John was congratulated on the quality of the website and the information detailed.

### **History report – Ann Petty.**

Ann spoke about information received from the current owners of The Star and reported that one such piece of information, dated 1645, has been passed received, although this is relating to cottage, orchard, gardens and tenements and probably not the current building. Further information has also been given to Ray and Ann to look through which is dated 1587, and Ann also has a lead on Talbot Farm from deeds which give a date of 1600.

Nita has spoken to the owners of The Star and they have agreed to take photographs of the inside of the property which they will share with our group, and also to let us have scanned copies of the deeds of the property as they copy them themselves.

The information share regarding The Star is in no way a priority for the family at the moment, and we are working with the family at their own speed. The property is to be sold in due course.

### **Publications report - Tony Newton**

Tony reported that sales at The George in Coleorton and George and Dragon are still continuing as are sales at Thringstone Community Centre.

Nita has placed 30 of our walks brochures (10 of each of the three walks) at Ashby Tourist Information Centre. They weren't interested in the Born n' Bred's. The Tourist Information have said they will produce their own poster, if they can, to advertise our brochures as available, as they are different from most others they have there.

Our current stocks on the leaflets unplaced are 23 village trail (blue plaque) leaflets, 33 Grace Dieu woods and viaduct, and 48 Cademan Woods. We have 5 Born n' Bred no. 1 and 82 Born n' Bred no 2.

It was agreed that we reorder 30 copies of the blue plaque walk. Nita has already ascertained that the printers don't have a minimum order, and costs would remain as they were last time we ordered.

### **Councillors' 5 minutes**

The councillors were involved in another meeting at this point, to return to our meeting later, but Nita reported that there was still work being carried out on the Mill site relating to the footpath area.

### **Topic – Crime and Safety**

At the end of last year, Nita looked through the Village Appraisal done in 1999/2000 and taking each section in turn, asked local partners to comment on what they felt had changed, what they felt had improved, and what they felt had remained the same.

Dwight Barker and John Carr, who is NHW co-ordinator for Springfield and Heathfield, had already provided some information on their thoughts.

A summary sheet was passed round to the group on things mentioned in the 2000 survey.

Dwight reported that the police wished to work closely with neighbourhoods, thus addressing local issues that people were raising and appreciated the need to work closely with local groups. Some members felt that there should be a greater police presence in the village, but Rachel said that she does come to the village a lot during her shifts, and works with local groups and individuals all the time. It was felt that whilst there was a good police presence a year ago, this was now not the case, and people had commented that they felt nobody was patrolling the area.

Nita mentioned that Dwight had told her that he had been doing plain clothes work, and Dwight said that they regularly do this, so perhaps people had just been looking for a uniform.

Dwight reported that the police target areas where there have been reports of problems, and if problems aren't reported, there is obviously less of a police presence. He had recently worked in the Springfield area because of fires set and litter problems reported. There are 6-10 officers for the whole of NWL area, an area of 115 sq miles, and it is difficult to be permanently visible in our village, especially given that there is only Dwight for Whitwick and Thringstone.

There are 9 NHW groups covering Whitwick and Thringstone, Steve Hastings regularly sends out information to all NHW co-ordinators, but the NHW co-ordinator for Springfield asked for more feedback from the police on what was happening locally in the village.

It was agreed that Dwight would be supplying a monthly newsletter on events in the village to the NHW co-ordinator and our group, rather than the 6 monthly report presently being done.

Dwight also said that he would forward in advance to the group and the NHW co-ordinator details of police surgeries and door to door work, so that the group could put this information in newsletters and on the website and the NHW co-ordinator could tell others on his patch.

Dwight was asked what the position was if someone caught someone committing an offence. It was agreed that people can do citizen's arrests and use reasonable force, but that if a crime is reported to the call out number as being in progress, a rapid response was guaranteed.

Dwight also said that anything involving the fire brigade coming out was also reported to the police as a matter of course. It was agreed that a person carrying out a citizen's arrest could take the person into their home if they wanted, without it then being seen by courts as unlawful imprisonment. Dwight reminded everybody that their own safety should be paramount in these situations.

Problems in the village tend to revolve around anti-social behaviour as a result of alcohol consumption by young people. There is no significant crime pattern in the village.

Dwight asked that all crimes, however trivial, be reported, as it is often the case that other reports could link in with these and lead to further action being taken.

Dwight was asked if regular police attendance in one path then merely moved the problem elsewhere, but it was felt that this is not the case, as there are often several groups of people involved in problems.

It was felt that alcohol is being bought for young people, probably from supermarkets. Discussion about an alcohol free zone brought about the reply that such things had to link with crime and disorder figures.

It was reported that there was a problem with youths at the Leisure Centre in Whitwick which was possibly again drink related. Dwight said that he had tested local shops to see if they sold alcohol to under age people, and this was not the case, but youths still continue to go down to the woods with drink, where they are unlikely to be spotted, but they are often seen en route or returning.

There is not a particular drug supply problem in the village, although there are some users.

Ray Woodward reported that there is a problem on the corner of Mossdale with people from neighbouring properties parking very close to the junction. As it is illegal to park within 10m of a junction, Dwight agreed to investigate, and said in similar circumstances before, a letter to the people concerned resolved the problem. He agreed to do this for this case.

The glass on the recreation park on Henson's Lane has been cleared, but glass continues to be scattered. 3 of the 4 lights reported at the last meeting as needing repair had been mended.

It was pointed out that there is a traffic problem by Thringstone Primary School at picking up time, and Henson's Lane can become treacherous to negotiate. People park on the zig zag area which causes a lot of problems. Dwight agreed to investigate.

Rachel and Dwight regularly give talks at schools about crime issues, and Dwight reported that there are now things called parental orders which can be used in addition to ASBOs being given to youngsters.

The traffic light system near the old Eveden factory was discussed, and the fact that there is now a rat-run situation in Cademan Street and Parsonwood Hill, which is exacerbated by building work in that area itself.

Claire reported that the main problem reported to the council relates to dog fouling, and reiterated the situation regarding the new orders coming into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April discussed at the last meeting. Nita had brought copies of the poster for people to take away if interested. Parking attendants have now been trained up to work with street wardens on this issue, and areas such as Main Street and the jetties around there would probably be targeted. Claire gave out some cards called Caught Doing It Right, which would be given out to responsible dog owners seen clearing up after their dog. These cards would go into a draw and a year's free dog food would be given out to the winning person.

### From Previous Minutes

- **Litter Pick for February** took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February despite the snow overnight. We concentrated our efforts on the area down the side of the bowls club, the football pitch, and the Sustrans trail as far as the gate leading off the Sustrans track to the play area near Kelso Court. In that small area, we collected 19 bags of rubbish, plus cycle tyres, cardboard, bed springs, carpets, batteries and plastic boxes. A further bag and a half was collected on 3<sup>rd</sup> February on the Sustrans track from the football pitch down to the Springfield entry, and from the bushes in the garden area of Thringstone Members Club, and another bag was filled after a fire on the edge of the Sustrans trail on Sunday night. Many thanks to all who came and took part. Nita took some photos of some of the rubbish collected and sent them to the Coalville Times and Coalville Echo. There were discussions regarding the amount of rubbish in the dip behind the houses on the corner of Springfield, some of which is hazardous and has been there some time. FOT were not willing to try to remove this for health and safety reasons. The council were unable to remove this until they had ascertained who owned this piece of land. It is likely to be The Squire, but may be Richard Bream. Nita said she would talk to Tam Bream about this and see if he knew the ownership. Bernard Lee said he thought that Richard Bream had purchased the whole of the railway line area in the past.
- **Grace Dieu Priory presentation** is at the Community Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> March with a 7pm start. Grace Dieu group have been asked to help with production of posters, and have declined. Nita has already put information on local websites and in the What's On in the Echo, and hopes that our membership will support the event.
- **Planting projects updates.** Colin and Bernard have been done further planting of trees next to 181 Main Street to finish off this area, and have secured other saplings in the same area. It is hoped to be able to plant more bushes etc. at the front of the Community Centre and also consider a small plaque/donate a tree to Robert Newton, whose mother has sponsored planting in the village. Lorraine would be in favour of something like this happening at the front of the community centre. Colin, Bernard and Ray will talk to Lorraine direct and arrange what goes where, but are aware that some bushes need removing.
- **Balfour Beatty** – Nita had a site meeting with Balfour Beatty and it transpires that the group who caused the damage were from Balfour Beatty Utilities. The grassed area in question has now been reseeded and extra kerbing put in, and Nita has chased up what is happening with the 4 plants they agreed to replace there and as yet haven't done.
- **Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre** - We had a few copies left of the analysis of comments made by stall holders and visitors at the Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre. If anybody wanted one, they were available to take.
- **Sponsorship for Heritage Event** - Ray is going to have discussions with Midland Quarry Products again, try Grace Dieu windows and also have a trip round the industrial estate at Bardon to see if there are any people who might help with sponsorship. This extra money is needed so that we can have some good quality entertainment. We discussed this at the events meeting, and thought a brass band might be a good idea outside. Ginns and Gutteridge's fairground organ would be outside, and it was felt that Carillon should operate inside. Ray Woodward is going to talk to Donisthorpe Scout Band and Ibstock

Scout Band, and Roy Hill had agreed to see whether Grace Dieu School had a band of any description that might like to come along.

- **Marquee purchase** – Ray Woodward has spoken to the owner of the tent, and we have agreed to see it being used at either Whitwick Historical Society's event or at Picnic in the Parks and then we can make a decision. The owner of the tent would be happy to let us use it at our event and then make our minds up then, but we hope to be in a position to make this decision before that time.
- **Walks** – Nita is proposing to do a blue plaque guided walk on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March which is Easter weekend, when most people might be off work and asked for someone to come with her to act as deputy at future walks. Nobody volunteered. This will be brought up again at a future meeting. Walks will be advertised on websites and local papers. It was agreed that a charge of £2.50 be levied against walkers coming to our walks which would give them a brochure.
- **Publication of memories** – Nita is continuing to proof read the information as it is produced. We have heard from WI that they will provide the funding monies on production of an invoice, and look forward to seeing the finished product, which must have their logo on the front, as agreed. Some of the contents of the memories has had to be left out for legal reasons.
- **Colliery discussions – Alison Clague** – Whitwick Historical Society are putting on a Mines of Memory Project open talk on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm for their membership. At this meeting Alison Clague will be speaking, as will Fred Hartley. Alison has been given telephone numbers of members connected with the pits who may be willing to be taped talking about their memories. Alison is also involved in another open meeting at Snibston Discovery Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to talk about the project, which is Heritage Lottery funded and will involve taping people about their working patterns at Whitwick and Snibston collieries.
- **Calendars** – Geoff Walker is no longer able to help with production of calendars. As a result, Nita has been seeking prices for calendar production elsewhere. The events meeting felt that a long slim calendar would possibly be better than something A4, as not everybody has room in their houses for larger calendars. If produced, it would be nice to have calendars on sale at the Heritage Event. We have so far received one quote of £500 plus VAT for 100 calendars from ASAP, and a quote of £5.40 per calendar colour or £2.50 black and white from Pukka who produce our brochures. Those at the event meeting considered this sort of cost excessive, and Ray Woodward has talked to Quiet Storm and Charnwood Publishing subsequently. A more realistic quote has been given of £275 for 100 calendars on glossy paper by Quiet Storm against a quote of £250 from Charnwood Publishing based on a similar format to before, with an expected price increase in April anyway and not glossy paper. Nita and Ray are hoping to have a meeting at Quiet Storm in due course to see what can be sorted.
- **Picnic in the Parks and Grace Dieu events** – Picnic in the Parks will be on 29<sup>th</sup> June and Grace Dieu will be 15<sup>th</sup>. Nita has booked our stall at Picnic in the Parks and paid for a 4m x 4m stall which is larger than usual to allow us more space. At the events meeting, we discussed what we would be selling, and agreed that we would have plants again, but that we will not be buying plants in this time, as this is not really cost effective, as we had plants left over last year. We need people who feel they can help with plants to start potting up in February, and would ask for good quality plants please and that these be labelled up so people knew what sort of plants they are. We will also be selling our publications and bric a brac at both events, but not clothing. Because of the alteration of the date for the Grace Dieu event, Nita will be unable to help with that this time, as she has already been booked by NWLDC to lead a walk from The Bulls Head through the Grace Dieu woods. Hopefully she can then bring people to the event, depending on whether people are willing to pay £3 each to enter.
- **Parking at events** – At the events meeting, we discussed the problem of parking at the community centre when events are on. We felt that stallholders should be given priority

parking passes to park nearby, as no cars can be kept on site due to health and safety, and intend to ask The Rose and Crown if we can use their car park, and also ask whether the Methodist car park down Brook Lane could be used. A new tenant is coming to The Rose and Crown shortly. Members were in favour of stallholders parking on the Methodists car park if this could be made available, and suggested that if The Fox were still undeveloped, people could park there, although there would be a long walk to get to the centre.

- **Possible Easter 09 event** - The event meeting discussed whether having a Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre in December was too late, as similar fayres seemed to take place in November. Whilst this was felt to be a good idea, given that the Heritage Event is in September, it was felt that a Christmas Fayre in November wouldn't be feasible this year, and it was suggested that we might look to an Easter craft fayre. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, but to wait until the September event had been and gone before making any formal plans in this area.

## AOB

- **Volunteer groups** - Nita has booked herself onto a training course with CVS on attracting volunteers and has also registered Friends of Thringstone with the Leicestershire Volunteers' Centre as an organisation run by volunteers, needing new volunteers. We could potentially then get people to help with the hay rake and other such things.
- **Foreign Links** - Sandie Newton suggested we investigate whether the Coalville and District Town Twinning people at Romans-sur-Isere in France had any historical or environmental groups working with it, and a letter has therefore gone to the secretary of the Town Twinning group to ask if they have any objections to our writing, in French (with the help of Pam Clayfield) to the Town Hall to tell them all about our group, what we do, and set up an email contact. This may well produce nothing, but could be an interesting development, broaden our horizons, and allow us to share good practice with another country. Janet Stephenson also offered to help with any translations.
- **Whitwick Historical Society 25th Anniversary** – This is to be held at Hall Lane Methodists Church on 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> May. Nita is trying to get agreement from WHS that we can stand on 18<sup>th</sup> only, and also confirm what we could sell in addition to booklets. It is to be discussed by their committee. We could be asking for volunteers to help in due course, and Nita asked people to think of volunteering for this, as it is always the same people who are involved each time there is an event. Ann Petty said that if nobody volunteered, there was a possibility that she could take some items to put on a stall she was running with her brother.
- **Sustainable communities** – Nita had previously sent information round to the group confirming that the Sustainable Communities Bill had gone through parliament and was now law. This means that government must ask all councils to submit suggestions of ways to help make our communities most sustainable. Each council must set up citizens' panels and try to reach agreement with those panels on suggestions and then pass these to government. It would be nice to be involved in this in some way, and discussions are taking place with local councillors on the best way forward. According to the latest edition of The Vision, the council have already identified 6 areas to visit in this connection, but this does not include Thringstone.
- **Street signs missing** – After reminding the Council that they had promised to put up The Green sign on the Community Centre wall during this current financial year and had so far failed to do so, a new sign appeared within a week. We also reminded them about a Brook Lane sign at the Grace Dieu Road end which has also appeared, and that the Dalkeith Walk sign which has been uprooted, and had been lying on the grass for a month. This had also been replaced.
- **The Fox** – This public house closed forever on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008, but we have taken full photographs for future archives. It is understood the building is likely to become a care home, but this is not certain.

- **East Midlands Today** – The BBC are doing a programme visiting villages and towns in the East Midlands as part of a Route 366 section. Nita contacted them suggesting they visit our village, and providing brief information on what we have to offer here, including the blue plaques, and Brady Haran from the programme has expressed his interest in coming to the village. We are now awaiting his further contact.
- **Newsletters** – Due to a slip up by the printers, we have twice as many newsletters as usual with the cost remaining the same. We have arranged for people to do extra deliveries on Grace Dieu Rd to The Dumps and from Mary's House to the Rag and Mop, 100 newsletters have been passed to the Friends of Grace Dieu, a similar amount to Whitwick Historical Society, copies have been left at Mason's Chemist, at Whitwick Health Centre and St Andrew's, at David Taylor's office in Hotel Street and at the CVS in Coalville, and Nita has delivered to the Howe Court/Smith Court complex. The normal 50 copies had been given to the council to put in the councillor's pigeon holes and one to be given to the CEO. Janet Stephenson agreed to do the houses on the A512 working up to the Swannington turn off island. Roy Hill agreed to do Parsonwood Hill, Temple Hill and Cademan Street, but there are still supplies of newsletters needing homes. Other volunteers should make themselves known.
- **Community Centre events** – A new film club is being set up at the Community Centre starting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Details of this were on the tables for people to look at. It was pointed out that nibbles would be available at the event, and it was a good idea for people to support this initiative. There is also an evening booked with Elvis Fontenot and The Sugar Bees (country and cajan music) at the Community Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and Thringstone Panto Society are putting on Annie from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May plus a Saturday matinee at 2.15pm. Tickets are to be on sale for this in March.
- **David Taylor** – David Taylor had sent a lovely letter to the group, congratulating them on their work and achievements, which has been framed. Lorraine is going to be looking in due course to put this up in the house lounge at the Community Centre.

**Dates of next meetings :** Full meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre. Topic of discussion for the 6<sup>th</sup> March is facilities, shops and services to include transport and the mobile library.

Next events meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Thringstone Community Centre for 6.45pm.