



The Friends of Thringstone

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

Minutes of the meeting of The Friends of Thringstone held at the Community Centre. 6th November 2008 at 6.45pm

Present Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Anne Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Russell Love, Maggie Smith, Tony Newton, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Jo Johnson, Colin Perritt, John & Karon Smith, Bernard Lee, Pam Clayfield, Ann Petty, Colin Porcher, Pam Porter, Ray Woodward, Jan Cufflin, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill. Brenda Simpson.

2. Apologies Rowena Summers, Geoff Wilson, Sandie Newton, PC Rachel Hughes, CSO Jim Sorrell, Dave Everitt, Julie Marrafin, David Stevenson, Chris Mellor, John Dickinson, Helen Dickinson, Tracy Foulds

3. Correspondence and publicity report:

Letters, emails etc. (filed and available to members)

- Various emails from and to NWLDC and Bertie de Lisle regarding litter clear up in woods
- Email from Citrus Group thanking us for hosting the meeting to discuss The Fox site
- Copy of NWLDCV's Annual Review
- Emails about gates and ASB/vandalism at Grace Dieu priory copied to the anti social behaviour person at NWLDC together with copies of other emails reporting problems within the village)
- Email from RCC on climate change and energy saving meeting
- Email and forms to fill in re. National Forest walk festival
- Emails from St Andrew's choir regarding carols round the tree
- Email from Anne Marie Brannighan at NWLDC to send round to membership on how to report anti-social behaviour
- Email from Andrew's regarding vandalism in the graveyard
- **Promotion:** Photos taken at big tidy with school and with cadets now in our portfolio, report in Leicester Mercury from 5th November about our work with the cadets in the woods
- **Meetings:** Meeting with Annie Walker from NWLDC re. litter bins

Treasurer's report and Publication report.

Balance b/wd	£1846.58
Receipts	£104
Expenditure	£476.49
Current balance	£1474.09

This does not take account of the payment recently made to the gardening group for plants for the church wall planting.

Calendar sales are slow. Any unsold will be collected from outlets in time for a last push at the school event on 12th December. Please sell some if you can.

It was suggested that we should do something different next year. Christmas Cards have already been mentioned as something to consider, as these do not go out of date.

Councillors 5 minutes Pam Clayfield reported on the Green Footprints challenge being promoted by NWLDC. She asked that anyone who knew of an individual or family who were working particularly hard to reduce their carbon footprint should nominate them to the council. She was asked to feedback to the council that the publicity for their Big Switch Off had been inadequate, but said that other people had mentioned similar to her on this.

Web report John Smith reported that the website is fully up to date. It has pictures of the Big Tidy and the School Tidy under projects. He requested suitable captions for the photos being sent shortly of the planting done down by the Church Wall. The calendar is being advertised especially for the benefit of our international members

History report The following report was received from Ann Petty and read out to the meeting. 'We are at a bit of a standstill with both The Star and the Millfield. I am waiting for the owners of The Star to get in touch and I have emailed Mark Gregory, but am still waiting to hear from him. I am also waiting to hear from Mrs Norley (Hicken) who I spoke to about 3 weeks ago. I have phoned Collin Moore, whose Grandad lived in the Old Manor House this morning and I am going to see him next week. I have got some very interesting newspaper cuttings and photographs from Ron Goacher. I am also looking forward to talking to people about their memories on November 20th.'

Ann Petty is holding a photograph and memories group drop-in at Thringstone Community Centre on 20th November between 2pm and 4pm. It is hoped that people will come along to see our photographic archives, bring photos of their own and agree, at some future date, to be taped recording their memories.

From previous minutes:

- **Big Tidy** with Coalville Cadets and explorers. This was a great success. The Coalville Army cadets F Squadron, supported by Thringstone Explorer Scouts, officers of the NWLDC Street Scene scheme and several members of the Friends of Thringstone worked extremely hard all day. Bernard, Tony, Pam, Sandie, Maggie and Nita were thanked for their efforts. A large number of very big items were removed. As the skips had been provided free of charge Edward de Lisle agreed to make a donation to the cadets instead of paying for a skip. The article previously mentioned, written by the Leicester Mercury, will be placed in the FoT portfolio with photographs.
- **Police report.** A crime report had been received as follows:
 - Theft from Motor vehicle on Loughborough Rd where a vehicle has had the stereo stolen – no suspects
 - Vehicle interference x2 on Booth Rd and Melrose Rd where door was bent on both – no suspects at present but names have been offered and enquiries being carried out
 - Arson on Shrewsbury Wk where vehicle set fire to inside of garage – no suspects
 - Fraud on Loughborough Rd where dog was bought on the internet but never delivered – suspect being traced to be dealt with
 - Burglary Other on Melrose Rd where garage was broken into and items stolen
 - Harassment on Main St from ex-partner via text messages/threats – suspect being dealt with
 - Damage on Main St but no details recorded on report yet
 - Damage at St Andrews Cemetery to gravestones and other funeral ornaments – no suspects
 - Theft at Loughborough Rd at the nursing home – suspect being dealt with
 - Damage on Loughborough Rd where fence has been pulled down – believed to

be a named person but no evidence to support this.

John Smith reported that the stones thrown at his windows and at the Methodist Church had not been included, but it was concluded that Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is perhaps not seen as crime. Members are urged by the Council Officer, Anne Marie Brannighan for ASB to report all incidents to the police on 0116 222222, by dialling 999, or direct to Anne Marie 01530 454545. Leaflets have been delivered on ASB matters to areas surrounding Clover Park.

- **Sponsorship update** - Ray Woodward is still working on this, but will be attending a funding course at Marlene Reid next week.
- **Walks report**- walks for 2009 will be all on Sundays at 2pm and all from The Green, Thringstone: April 5th Blue Plaque history walk, May 17th Cademan Woods - National Forest Walk Festival, May 24th Grace Dieu woods - Ditto, June 7th Blue Plaque history walk, July 5th Cademan Woods, Aug 9th Grace Dieu woods, Sept 6th Blue plaque history walk, Oct 4th Cademan woods.
Volunteers are still needed to help Nita with these walks. Pam Clayfield has offered to help.
- **Church wall planting** This is now complete with photos in the portfolio and photos being sent to put on our website. Whilst it had been hoped to plant this area for about £400, the final cost was £525, due to the length of the area planted and the types of shrubs. Several members commented on how good it is looking. The gardening group were thanked and given a round of applause.
- **Charles Booth's grave** No further information available. Jan Cufflin was asked to speak again to Alan Burgess about the way forward. Details of recent vandalism in the churchyard were given and members again asked to report every incident they witness or experience.
- **Flowerbed signage** Vandal proof signage is still being explored.
- **Litter picks and litter bins.** Nita and Pam Porter had had a meeting with Annie Walker form NWLDC about the provision of litter bins near to the entrance to the school and a free standing bin is to be provided. Other bins near the recreation ground in Henson's Lane were not thought possible. It was noted that the bin near The Fox had been vandalised and that there were a large number of cans and plastic bottles on the play area off Henson's Lane, known to the Police as Clover Park. This would be reported to Lindsay Weaver with a request to have it cleared up and to support the need for further bins. Dog foul bins on Turlough had been mentioned at the meeting held with Annie Walker, and whilst this is not possible at present, it could be in the future. Nita was asked to contact the Romans group to see what their practice is regarding litter bins and dog fouling.
- **Newsletters** to be distributed. Please deliver these by 20th November as there are details of Christmas activities included and also details of the history group meeting mentioned above. There are also inserts promoting the Community Centre.
- **Christmas tree and lights** There was considerable discussion about this with the main area of concern being the provision of external power sockets. A quotation had been received from the County Council for £600 for a power point and cable at the front of the centre, to take light provision to the lawned area. The work would require a trench to be dug to hold the cable. The quotation for the provision of a socket to the rear external wall is less. Several electrician members did not consider the electricity supply to the lawned area to be a difficult job and suggested several other cheaper solutions. It was finally agreed that Lorraine should speak again to the Council to ask if the external socket on the building, which is going to be installed in the near future, could be extended by a local qualified contractor to provide power for the tree lights, with labour from our group if feasible, the work to be inspected by the council. This would enable the lights to be on for a longer period than just the one night for the carol singing. The insurance implications will also be investigated. Ray

Woodward is dealing with the light provision. Bernard Lee is going to look at the Christmas tree, and will liaise with other members, including Russell Love, who might be able to help with moving the tree from Millhouse to the centre. It would be nice to have the tree in situ for 15th Dec.

- **Patio at the top of Bob's Closs** An estimate for paving this area is still pending. Russell Love offered his help with a digger, labour and quarry waste. It was agreed that this was a spring job and would be discussed again at that time. Lorraine is very keen to see this project carried through.
- **The Fox** There is no further official information. However, some residents had received a letter from the Citrus Group saying that an amendment had been made to the plans, but no details given. Nita will follow this up to get details of what the amendment proposes.
- **Lily Bank** A reply had been received from Polly Brant, Senior Highways Engineer at NWLDC, to the letter from FoT requesting that Lily Bank was made a one way road. This was refused on several grounds: lack of reported incidents, dangers of increased speed on one way roads, and the longer and more dangerous turns on the alternative route round Henson's Lane. It was agreed that we did not wish to bear-bait with the council and would not ourselves follow up a suggestion made by a county councillor for press involvement. The George & Dragon management were however going to consider the situation at their staff meeting, and Pete Gough has agreed to talk to the county councillor about the press coverage himself. David Taylor had been appraised of the situation and wished to help where possible. The George and Dragon are going to consider setting up a petition for lighting down Lily Bank. Members were again urged to report every incident, however small, to the police. The person who recently broke two fingers by being pushed into the pub wall by a passing vehicle had failed to report this to the police himself, and incidents like this need to be reported. Tony Newton said that a lot of people didn't walk down the lane because of fear of being hit by a car, and there was a perception in the village that to walk down there was dangerous, which it probably is. It was also pointed out that unauthorised lorries were still using the lane, and one such lorry (over the 7.5 ton limit for the road) had broken branches to trees in the lane. Other members reported seeing vehicles driving on the wrong side of the road.
- **Village Quiz**- FoT team came 2nd with 89%. John Brown's team won with 93.5%. It is hoped to make this an annual event.

Any Other Business

- Nita asked the group's agreement to enter the East Midlands in Bloom competition to promote the planting work that had been done round the village. It was agreed to do this. There is no fee involved to enter.
- The school are holding a Christmas Fayre from 3.30 – 5.0pm on 12th December. Sandie has agreed to man this stall, and will take any unsold calendars.
- If anyone agreed to sponsor Sandie for her walk they were asked to give the money to Tony
- The Community Centre Film Club is being re-started. The first showing will be on Monday 10th November. The film will be Richard Attenborough's Closing the Ring. Entry £1 by raffle ticket. If you wish to attend, please contact the centre, as places are limited.
- Grace Dieu Priory Lantern Procession and Carols will be on Friday 5th December at 7pm from The Bull's Head. Nita left some leaflets on this at the centre
- Anne Baxter is organising the food for the next meeting, which is our Christmas Party. She will be contacting the members who have not yet said what they are bringing during the course of November. Please support this final meeting if you are able, as it is the opportunity to celebrate our achievements during the year. Minutes will be prepared in advance, so it really will be a party evening.

- Jan Cufflin has arranged for the church to pay £150 to FoT for the damage to the tent, following fund raising. It is still hoped to repair the tent for use as storage. Jan was thanked for her efforts on our behalf.
- The George & Dragon are now offering breakfasts and are also intending to develop a farm shop in collaboration with local farmers in their 'Dragon's Den', and are looking to see if funding is available from Defra's Rural Enterprise Scheme. Their Christmas lunch is fully booked with a waiting list in operation.
- The Bull's Head still has a few places for Christmas Day and is also offering a Boxing Day meal for £14.95

Date of next meeting – Christmas Party 11th December at 6.45pm. Please remember to bring some food to this – Anne will be contacting you.