



The Friends of Thringstone

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Minutes of the meeting held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 8 January 2009 at 6.45pm

Ray Woodward took the chair in the absence of Nita Pearson

The meeting started with one minute's silence in respect for two members who had died over the Christmas period - former councillor Rod Evans and Paul Scully. Our sincere condolences go to both families.

Present Ray Woodward, Janet Stevenson, Margaret Smith, Pam Clayfield, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, June Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, David Taylor (MP), Ian Bull, Diane Bull, Tracy Foulds, Jan Cufflin, Jo Johnson, Ann Petty, Gillian Squire (NWLDC), John Merison (Ecotherm Ltd), Ray Neal, Pam Porter, Terry Morrell, Sandie Newton

Apologies Nita Pearson, Tony Newton, Bernard Lee, Chris Mellor, Brenda Simpson, Rowena Summers, Tam Bream, PC Rachael Hughes, CSO Jim Sorrell.

Two new members were welcomed : Ian and Diane Bull. Membership money to be collected.

Correspondence and publicity report –

Letters, emails etc: Various emails and contact from press about Fox site and local development framework, contact with membership regarding EMIB application and seminar (see below), joined FoT to Older Person's Engagement network

Promotion: Carols Round The Tree promoted on National Forest website, LCC website, promotion in Echo two weeks running, and a photo of the event had appeared in this week's Echo.

Other: See below on other email contact

Treasurer's Report – Tony Newton was not present but sent a balance sheet :

Balance Fwd	£1410.59
Receipts	£52.00
Calendars	£95.50
Churches together (Payment for tent)	£150.00
Balance cfwd	£1708.09

It was noted that there was a discrepancy with the balance noted in the minutes for the meeting on 11th December which differed from what was presented this time. Roy Hill asked for more detailed statements and reporting. Sandie Newton agreed to ask Tony to bring these to the next meeting.

Roy also said that he thought we need fully audited accounts if we are to continue to apply for funding grants. He thought these should be presented at the AGM in June. It was agreed to follow this up with Tony.

A donation of £5 was received from Sue Gardner.

The meeting also thanked Jan for the £150 cheque from churches together for the Red tent repairs.

Publications and calendar report – Ray reported that there were 6 calendars left but two were sold at the meeting.

Web report – John Smith was not present, so no report was presented.

History – Ann Petty reported that the History group had been to The Star with Witan Archaeology, who would be very interested in doing some excavations in the garden. However with the death of Paul Scully, the owner, activities were suspended for the moment. Ray Neal has been talking to the farmer down Lilybank and he is keen to help with field names etc. Ann has obtained some more newspaper cuttings mostly about Charles Booth and Thringstone House.

Councillors' 5 minutes Dave Everitt was unable to attend as he was at a planning meeting. Ray then thanked Pam Clayfield, who had resigned as a Councillor just before Christmas, for all her work for the village. She will be joining our committee with immediate effect, following agreement by existing committee members. She was presented with a plant and a card signed by members present and welcomed to the FoT committee where it was hoped she would feel able to continue working for the community. She replied thanking everyone for their support and said she hoped to continue being very active in the village. Pam's role on the committee will be arts and community.

Guest Speakers –

John Merison introduced himself as a local man who was very concerned about the environment. He had spent most of his working life with his firm of building maintenance contractors and had now set up a new company called Ecotherm Ltd. He talked about his wish to educate people, through the use of thermal imaging, about the heat loss from their homes. His firm used thermal cameras to show up where heat was being lost through roofs and windows, also hot spots with electrical problems and even water and pipe blockages. He hoped to encourage builders to work towards getting houses so well insulated that they did not need to use heating systems. His firm will do a survey and provide a report (for which there is a cost) which the owner can then use to apply for grants towards insulation. They then do a follow up survey free of charge to show the improvements. There were several questions concerning public buildings, single brick properties and grants which he answered. As a gesture of goodwill, John Merison offered to carry out a free thermal imaging survey of Thringstone Community Centre. Lorraine will follow up on this.

The second speaker was Gillian Squires, the Sustainability Officer from NWLDC. She talked to the meeting about the OWL Smart Meter loan scheme and explained how they could inform householders about their electricity consumption. She said there were 60 meters available for three week loans. However there was a waiting list of about 2-3 months. Feedback from users was very positive. Many were amazed at how much power household appliances such as kettles, fan ovens and irons used. Meters could also be borrowed from the library for one week at a time or bought online for about £35. One member commented that she had obtained one free from her energy supplier. There were high spec meters for schools and small businesses who were using 3 phase supplies. In response to a question, she said the Council would deliver these and set them up. Further information can be found on the NWLDC website following the links from Footprints. David Taylor pointed out that gas bills were often more costly than electricity and hoped that the Council would also be providing smart meters for gas consumption. Gillian agreed to follow this up. Pam Clayfield suggested that a way forward for the Footprints was through partnership working with businesses and Stephenson College. Gillian said that the Council was keen to work with FoT and she would be coming to the next meeting in February to follow up on the Footprints scheme.

Gillian also had application forms for the Footprints scheme and gave them out for individuals or groups. She would bring them again next month. Nita is already working on an application for the group under Community Organisations to be submitted to NWLDC with photos etc and supporting evidence of good practice.

From Previous Minutes

- Thringstone School Christmas fete report - not given, although it is recorded that £50 was raised by Sandie, Ann Baxter and Nita standing selling brochures, calendars and bric-a-brac (brochure sales had gone well)
- Carols round the Christmas Tree report. Jan Cufflin reported that the collection at the Carols Around The Tree had raised £55 and she thanked everyone who had contributed.
- The Fox site report. There were reports of frequent vandalism on this site.
- East Midlands in Bloom seminar at Bosworth Hall, Market Bosworth on 25th Feb at 10.30am. Pam Porter may be going and asked anyone else interested in going to speak to her after the meeting. There is a cost of £10 per delegate to go, which FoT will meet but this has to be paid before the end of January.
- Police report and anti-social behaviour update – there had been 8 crimes over the Christmas period:

Damage to buildings x2; Burglary on Kelso Court; Theft of wheelie bin on Clyde Court; Damage to Christmas lights on Heathfield x 2–no suspects for any of these.; Neighbour dispute on Hensons Lane – all parties advised; Theft of money from The Bulls head pub – Enquiries ongoing.

- Sponsorship update/flowerbed signage – purchase of a motor mower? Ray pointed out from the chair that he would be withdrawing from the committee during the period of the bye election for a new Councillor as he was standing as a candidate. He was currently responsible for sponsorship for FoT and someone else was needed to take on this work. Money was needed for a new lawn mower as the current one was on loan and the owner wanted it back. Can members please let Nita know if they want to help with sponsorship, failing which Nita will have to take on this additional role.
- Events: Ray and Sandie have been largely responsible for putting together the FoT Event in the past. Sandie was unable to continue with this work due to family commitments and, with Ray Woodward's resignation, as above, if members want an Event in the village this year, someone else would need to take over the organisation as Nita is not prepared to do it on her own. Again, please have a think, and if you want to help, let Nita know.
- Roy Hill repeated his request which had been circulated by email for anyone with unwanted Christmas presents or items which had been replaced to donate them to the bric a brac stall now. He was willing to store items until Picnic in the Park and the Grace Dieu events, the organisation for which he has taken on. We will need to have meetings to discuss our stands at these events, and rotas will have to be arranged.
- Renovations to Charles Booth's grave. A quotation had been obtained costing £140. This estimated that the cost of renovating the grave would be around £2000. Discussions were ongoing.

Local Development Framework.

Nita has asked for members to maintain the non political stance of FoT when responding to the consultation exercise on the 18 year building plan for the Coalville Area. Ray Neal said he was organising a petition, but it was thought that individual letters were the best way of making views known. These need to be sent to the Planning Dept of NWLDC before 13th February 2009.

There were several public consultation meetings to be held. The nearest to Thringstone was at Snibston Discovery Park on 26th January. The timings were on the website or ring the Council Offices. Copies of the planning document were available and several members had obtained copies, which could be lent around to anyone who was interested. Forms for feedback were on the website.

AOB

- Forward planning to look at AGM on 11th June – Members were asked to bring ideas for an outing to the next meeting. A suggestion was made for a picnic on the new improved Bob's Closs picnic site
- Next litter pick date. Pam Porter had received a copy of the school newsletter which said that FoT would be helping with the Big Tidy Up litter pick on 21st January 3.30 –4.15. She was surprised as no one had contacted her about this. She thought maybe it was an administrative assumption following our involvement with their last litter pick. Diane Bull offered to find out who had made this assumption and printed it. Pam said she would go to support them and hoped other members would also attend.
- The next FoT litter pick would be in March on a date to be decided.
- Notice was given that British Middle Distance Orienteering Championships are to be held in Grace Dieu and Cademan woods on 10th May 2009
- Nita will be attending a meeting at NWLDC on 16th January to discuss the council's wish to establishing a Thringstone Forum to start on 17th February.

Pam Clayfield thanked the speakers and encouraged members to take Footprints application forms and to look at the website. Ray also thanked the speakers from the chair.

Next meeting: Thursday 19th February, 6.45pm, Thringstone Community Centre. Guest speaker Gillian Squires, Sustainability Officer, NWLDC. This date would be confirmed as it was the date for the bye election and the Community Centre was a Polling Station. However Lorraine did not think this would be a problem as it would only occupy the end room.