



The Friends of Thringstone

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Minutes for meeting to be held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 21st May 2009 at 6.45pm

Present: Nita Pearson, Janet Stevenson, Jim Wilkinson, Brenda Simpson, Ray Woodward, Pam Porter, Bernard Lee, John Penny, Tracy Foulds, Deb and Ian Wood, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Geoff Wilson, Roy Hill, Colin Peritt, Ian Bull, Dave and Julie Everitt

Apologies: Tam Bream, Pam Clayfield, Ron Hill, Rowena Summers, Maggie Smith, Tony and Sandie Newton, Jan Cufflin, Lorraine Whitehurst, Chris Mellor, Diane Bull, Jane Wilson, Geoff Walker, Pat Woodward.

Footprint Challenge Awards: Nita told the meeting that the Partnership and Community Group Award had been given to the group for their work in the village. She showed a copy of the professional photograph taken, together with the framed certificate and the wooden award which had been designed by a student at Stephenson College.

Ray Woodward proposed that the cost incurred by Nita of hiring a ballgown to attend the Civic Dinner to receive the award, should be covered by the Group. This was seconded by Geoff Wilson and approved.

Potential alteration to constitution. The Committee had been considering altering the constitution, as it missed out important things. Nita read out the proposed changes as advance notice that these matters would be voted on at the AGM. All members present were in agreement with the proposed alterations, and agreed that they be put forward to the AGM to be altered thus (alterations and additions in bold):

The Friends of Thringstone is a non-political organisation and will always be such.

Membership will be open to anybody with an interest in Thringstone and surroundings. The rates of annual subscription shall be set by vote at the AGM which will be held each year in June.

Annual subscriptions **become** due on the day of the AGM **but can be paid from May of each year onwards in advance**. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears shall be excluded from membership by decision of the Committee, after reasonable attempts have been made to remind the member of the arrears. All members must abide by the statements made in **the aims and objectives of the group and** the Equal Opportunities policy. In the event of a member not adhering to **these**, procedures will be put in place to remove the member from the group. **The group can terminate the membership of anybody who brings the group's name into disrepute or uses the group in a political arena for personal gain**. Any complaints regarding members' conduct, or works carried out on behalf of the group, should initially be made in writing to the chairman or other elected officers. This will then be discussed by said elected officers and a reply generated within 7 working days.

Reports

Chairman's report –

Letters, emails sent etc Hard copies of documents were given the minutes secretary for filing and are always available for reading.

- Email to Police about drug taking in the woods

- Email to Pukka Publications about brochures after ringing other supplier who can't do reprints of existing brochures without a PDF subsequent order to Pukka and collection of brochures, taking our stock to 30 minimum of each
- Email to School asking if they want to join in walking week in September (no reply) Sandie would follow this up, followed by email to Leicestershire County Council expressing interest and email to NWLDC to ask if they want to work with us on it
- Email to St John's to ask about their fetes in 09
- Email to Lorraine about the open gardens event on 12th Sept and the need to forward plan for this (See below)
- Copy of letter received from David Taylor confirming NWLDC have no plans to build on the Thringstone Primary School site
- RCC weekly newsletters forwarded to committee. Hard copy of latest available as it relates to NWLDC area.
- Email regarding Age Concern sponsored walk sent to committee plus details of two training courses in volunteering and funding volunteer organisations. Details of sponsored walk available in hard copy.
- Email from Ann regarding the meeting at Snibston on 21st April – to be discussed in history section (see below)
- Letter from Local Works regarding 2 motions going to vote at the House of Commons – firstly local spending reports and secondly the Green Energy Bill. Emailed David Taylor to discuss his stance. He had voted for both.
- Copy of Culture News (NWLDC's arts magazine) sent by email to committee and Ann Petty – hard copy available
- Email from Whitwick Historical Society confirming that they are not putting on any events in 2009
- Information forwarded to Ann and committee regarding East Midlands Oral History Archive meeting in June
- Details of Voluntary Action Leicester training course to get and keep volunteers sent to committee. Nita has previously attended one of these. No new takers.
- Email from NWLCVS regarding The Big Lunch – see AOB below
- Email updates from low carbon initiative sent round to Committee
- Email about low carbon initiative best practice meeting in London sent to committee – hard copy available
- Phone call from lady wanting to borrow a Smart meter – details passed to Pam Porter
- Emailed details of Vista open day in June to committee – hard copy available to view
- Details of child protection training via VAL sent round to committee
- Emailed copy of April's minutes of National Forest Walk Festival to committee
- Circulated details of **food hygiene course** at Margaret Street church to all email members. Course is 6th June. Hard copy of details available – **there are still places.**
- Emailed committee details of Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation's concert in June. Hard copy available.
- Completion of 8 pages of details for CSV Action Earth project feedback and funding following our planting on 8th May – waiting for another receipt before sending off
- Emails and calls to committee regarding altering constitution
- Information on Shine (awards for young people and schools) forwarded to Thringstone Primary School – hard copy available
- Various emails between us and the police regarding incidents in Grace Dieu woods, also copied to anti-social behaviour officer at NWLDC.
- Email from NWLDC regarding smart driving – do we want to join – discuss under AOB
- Reminder sent to members regarding our litter pick 17th May and walk same day
- Shire Awards application pack received from County Council
- VAL (Voluntary Action Leicester) newsletter in hard copy form

- Andrew Wallace NWLDC Housing Officer, has requested a meeting with FoT to discuss issues on the Melrose Road estate. Nita will see him on 27th May at 3.30pm.

Promotion, publicity etc

- Promotion of heritage event in St John's church magazine out on 2nd May and link put on their website to ours
- Details of Heritage Event and CSV Action Earth project sent to Radio Leicester's newsroom
- Completed two forms for Go Leicestershire website inclusion of CSV Action Earth Project and Heritage Event
- Articles in Echo of 29th April on history road show and CSV Action Earth project and follow up articles sent on heritage roads how to all media
- Tam Bream produced a flyer on the group which he delivered in various areas of the village. Thanks to Tam for this and to Fisher German for sponsoring. **People are needed to deliver these around the village.**
- Information from Geoff Walker that he is trying to get some pictures of the village onto Google Earth
- Attended CSV Action Earth project afternoon with Thringstone Primary School
- Provided NWLDC with details of our walks to the end of 2009, and asked whether they would work with us on the Leicestershire Walk Week between 19 and 27th Sept.
- Information sent to media on behalf of Pam C regarding the history lectures at the Community Centre which was printed in Echo and CV Times
- Photos taken of CSV Action Earth project on 8th May by Ray Woodward and Heritage Event on 9th May by Tony Newton – Echo attended CSV event
- Environmental awards photos and quote on page 4 of Coalville Times of 15th May
- CSV Action Earth article and report on Environmental Awards in Echo of 20th May

Other:

- Updated Action Plan and sent out 'to do' list
- Various discussions with existing committee over AGM
- Working lunch at Community Centre to discuss arts programmes for the remainder of the year

Treasurer's Report – Tony was unwell and unable to attend. He sent written copies of the balance sheet and the bank statement for April 2009.

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| Previous balance | £1,525.85 | |
| Received | 53.00 | booklet donations |
| Expenditure | 107.00 | booklet reprints |
| Seeds | 8.94 | |
| Current balance | £1472.91 | |

Publications and calendar report – Sales for the past year have raised £478.50 which is an excellent figure. Most sales take place in the summer months when we have stalls at events.

Web report – John Smith was not at the meeting to give a report. Nita reported that there was still a lot of interest in our web pages and the site was proving to be a good tool for promotion.

Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield Pam was not available for the meeting, but the Loose Women Programme is:

June – French evening, July a BBQ with a Jamaican theme, The Ray Sutton talks on Wednesday afternoons are being well attended. He will be asked if he will continue throughout the summer on a reduced programme, June 8th the Film Club will be showing The Duchess and then starting again in September with possibly Slum Dog Millionaire.

October 10th Pam will be organising a Charity rock and Roll evening for LRI Cancer Unit.

History Report – Ann Petty’s report was read out.

Ann had attended a meeting at Snibston about the re-design of the galleries inside the museum. They hoped to involve ex-miners and were looking at more real experiences such as a miner’s cottage, simulated cage rides down a pit and a coal seam to crawl along. It is still only at the design stage and was subject to available finances.

Ann has a list of baptisms and marriages and some photos kindly given for copy by Keith Timson. Ann is looking for any photos and memories of the **Community Centre** as the **next Heritage event** will be held there on **22nd August 2009** and will include memories of past Pantomimes. Please send anything which is of interest to Ann. She is particularly interested in getting any photographs of the dances which took place at the Community Centre.

Prior to the Heritage Event on 9th May, Ann walked around Peggs Green looking for the pubs which had been in Thringstone before the boundaries were changed, and had met a man who subsequently let us have some photos.

The new owner of The Star, who is Mrs Fletcher’s son, (she used to live in the cottage near the Bulls Head,) is willing to cooperate with the history group.

The Heritage Event on the theme of local pubs at George and Dragon had been a great success with about 150 people attending throughout the day. The Whitwick Historical Group came to look and said they were impressed. Many people who came along took away information previously unknown to them, and also gave information to the group of which we were unaware, and several people had left their contact details for further discussions to take place. Ann and Bill were congratulated and thanked for all their work.

Councillors’ 5 minutes

Dave Everitt said that there were no changes to personnel on Council committees. The questions of supermarkets in Coalville had been discussed and the ASDA application had been turned down awaiting the consultation with TESCO. This had now taken place and there could now be a free vote.

The Fox situation was dormant. Nita had received an email from Phil Matthews of the Citrus Group. Whilst they were still in ownership and accepted responsibility for keeping the site clear of fly tipping, they were still hoping to sell the site to another group, but there are financial problems to be resolved before that can happen.

Guest Speaker – Alison McCafferty Energy Advice Officer sent her apologies due to family illness.

CSV Action Earth project completed with Thringstone Primary School. The event attracted 38 children, 3 teachers and 3 school governors, as well as members of Friends of Thringstone, and seeds and heathers were planted. Nita has written to the school saying that the children are a credit both to their parents and the school, and will now send off the paperwork to CSV Action Earth to reclaim £50 towards the costs incurred. The children would like to form a junior group of FoT as they already have a gardening and Eco group. They will run a competition to decide on a name and will be free members of FoT. They will write a regular letter to Auntie Pammy (Pam Porter) saying what they are doing and asking questions, which would receive replies.

Transport: The No 99 bus from Thringstone is being replaced by the No 126 to Loughborough. Barton and Trent buses are looking to put on something similar to the 99 which goes to Nottingham, but it will be necessary to change in Loughborough.

From Previous Minutes

Police report/Needle exchange. There is a needle exchange system. However if needles are found please do not touch them. Report to the Council on 454545 who will collect them and keep a log of areas where they are found. If there is a recurrent problem the police will be alerted and will tackle the problem.

Rachael Hughes, the local Police Officer, is trying to spend some time with local youngsters to become familiar with the woods and the issues there of motor bike activity and fire setting.

In the last 30 days there have been the following crimes:

X 3 domestic incidents, 2 on Main St and 1 on Henson's Lane

X 2 assaults where children under 10 have fallen out and ended up hitting each other. On both of these occasions the police have done restorative justice where the children say sorry or do some sort of punishment in their dinner times at school.

X 2 vehicle interference, one on Melrose and one on Dalkeith Walk - one having their tyres slashed and the other one the door being forced - nothing stolen.

Theft of taxi fare not being paid from a male that came from Leicester – enquiries ongoing at this stage

The police completed their beat surgeries on 20th May, but unfortunately no body came to either of them, which is always disappointing. The Police have been putting up some posters around the village with pictures of them and how to contact them to try and promote people to get in touch more. These have gone up in the schools, shops, community centres etc.

After a meeting with the Kegworth beat team who actually cover the Priory area and part of the woods area, our local beat police are doing some joint initiative to get the Police teams together for a weekend to try and tackle some of the issues in the wood. It's very difficult with the borders and PC Jason Underwood will be dealing, as he is aware of some of the issues raised.

There was mention to the police of a quad bike going into the woods and this belongs to a local person who has been advised not to use the bike in the woods. The bike is legal and can be ridden around the roads, so no doubt this male will now test the quad bike in the streets rather than out of the way in the woods. People don't understand the effects of the noise and this owner didn't see the logic in not using the woods, feeling it's much safer in the woods than testing the bike around the roads. If this bike is seen in the woods again please contact the police.

The Police are doing a walkabout on 22nd May around Melrose with the councillors and the council to show teamwork to tackle ASB in this area. A house on Melrose Road is being used as a party house day and night causing the elderly residents a lot of discomfort. The tenant of this house has been warned by the council, and a possible eviction could result.

It was observed that the report had not mentioned the vandalism resulting in a broken fence by the culvert to Grace Dieu Priory. This had cost the Grace Dieu Trust £247 to repair. Some young people have been seen throwing large objects, including a bike, from the viaduct. This was dangerous, as the bike had caught in a tree and had been swinging in the branches from a rope. After several conversations and emails, the parks department from NWLDC came to take this down safely so nobody was hurt and when the rope snapped. There have also been small fires set in the woods, of which the police and the ASB office at NWLDC are aware.

Smart meter loan scheme. Pam Porter asked for return of unused meters and record books. She said that people needed to provide feedback on the meters, as we have an obligation to complete statistical returns to NWLDC as part of our funding for these. Please contact Pam about this if you have borrowed a meter, irrespective what your views are.

Leicestershire Walking Week 19-27 Sept – Nita will offer the Cademan walk, and it will be advertised through the Active Together brochure with a cost of £2 per walker. Friends of Grace Dieu are also doing a walk during this period. It was agreed that Nita find out when the Grace Dieu walk is, so that we do not use the same date.

Charles Booth's grave renovations – Jan Cufflin was not present and there was no information, although it was thought that the issue was still with the faculty. Nita will ask Alan Burgess.

Litter pick 17th May 8 people had turned up and had cleaned up Main Street, Loughborough Road and around the church. Some hardy pickers had continued in the rain and cleared the fly tipping by the bridge on the Sustrans track and 8-10 bags of litter had been collected overall. It was agreed that there was less litter now than in previous months.

Walk report 17th May 8 walkers had come to the walk, half being residents of NWL and half not. They had all come along because of the inclusion of the walk within the National Forest Walk Festival brochure. The weather was very wet and Nita was disappointed in the response to her request for donations. The meeting felt there should be a set donation of £2 requested upfront and that brochures could also be offered. Nita will advertise this in future editorials.

Patio – Shire Grant – as the land is managed by Leicestershire County Council, it was agreed that FoT cannot put in a funding bid to the Shire Grant fund as it is not their land, and so needs to come via the Community Centre. The shire grant application information was passed to Lorraine.

Action plan/action list . All members with action points are working towards completing these, or had already in fact completed them.

Planting and signage Any extra plants from members would be welcome, including any annuals. Please give these to Bernard or any member of the gardening group. Additional annuals will be bought before the EMIB competition inspection in July and Bernard was given another £50 towards plants. The signage, explaining planting and maintenance are by FoT, are now in place.

11th June AGM, BBQ and picnic arrangements. Please come with your own food to share. FoT will buy some basic burgers, Bernard will bring some sausages and Geoff Wilson will fund some cobs. However this will not be enough to feed everybody, so please do bring food with you.

AOB

- **1st June – Rainbows Charity** cheese and wine evening at George and Dragon – tickets £5. Contact the George and Dragon for more information
- **27th June School Fete** – Roy and Sandie, and possibly Pam Clayfield, are down to help. It is not sure what time this event is running to and from, but as soon as things are known, the volunteers manning the stall will be informed. We need some children's toys for this event, so if anybody has serviceable children's toys they wish to dispose of, please contact Nita.
- **19th July The Big Lunch.** There is a national proposal for a sit down lunch in communities. It was agreed that Lorraine ask all village groups using the community centre if they were interested and if so the tent could be put up on the lawn at Community Centre.
- **12th September open gardens** –The original idea was for Bob's Closs to be opened and combined with the church event. However, the meeting felt that September was not a good time to show off the Closs, and it would be better to defer this until May 2010. John Penny said there had been some discussion at Church about a walking event involving monks, and Nita agreed to contact Alan Burgess for more details and inform him of the decision regarding the 12th September open gardens link.
- **Charity event at G&D 29th August** This will be a music event and FoT will have a stall.
- **Smart driving course** – This free 2 month project is being promoted by the Energy Saving Trust and NWLDC, following a pilot at the council offices, which had benefited all who had attended and seen their petrol consumption reduce by up to 30%. 8 people are needed to volunteer and it involves group work and lessons, with incentives being offered such as power downs and standby sockets. 6 people present expressed interest, and it was thought two more could be found, so Nita was asked to write and accept the offer. If anybody else is interested, contact Nita for full details.
- **Subs** can now be paid for 2009/10 and become due at the AGM on 11th June.

Date of next meeting is AGM on 11th June. Please bring food your own food to share for the picnic. BBQ available.