



The Friends of Thringstone

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

Minutes of AGM held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 11th June 2009 at 6.45pm

Present: Nita Pearson; Lorraine Whitehurst; Bernard Lee, Ann Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Tony Newton, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Colin Porcher, Jo Johnson, Ann Petty, Ray Neal, Colin Perritt, Ian Wood, Deb Wood, Janet Stevenson, David Stevenson, Ron Hill, Niels Nielson, Pam Porter, Jan Cufflin, Maggie Smith, Tam Bream, John Carr

Apologies: Pam Clayfield, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Ray and Pat Woodward, Pat Elderfield, Dave and Julie Everitt, Pam Spence, Keith Timson, Sandie Newton, Rowena Summers, Sue Parker, John and Karon Smith, Brenda Simpson, Chris Mellor and Tracy Foulds.

Chairman's report and update

Letters, emails etc

- Emails sent to NWLDC to take up offer of smart driver training, received from St Andrew's regarding their Walk The National Forest mission in September, sent to police on issues, to committee on issues arising and regarding organisation for fetes, to Bertie de Lisle asking for information on his linking with English Nature regarding Grace Dieu woodlands, to VAL and other networks asking if they have any experience of working with students from universities and colleges, so that we can approach same to see if we can attract young volunteers to do environmental work. Replies and help potentially available on latter, thanks to NWLDC officers.
- Confirmed to St Andrew's that we will not be joining in the Open Gardens event on 12th September as discussed at last meeting
- Sent off CSV Action Earth application for £50 towards costs incurred (hard copy with secretary for filing)
- Forwarded Breathing Places newsletters to committee, together with VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) e-newsletters
- Sent round details of Marie Curie event at Community Centre to all members (**see Lorraine for further details**), and details of member now hiring out bouncy castles (**see Pauline Bolstridge for further details**)
- Discussions with NWLDC (Clark Robinson) regarding the state of the benches on The Green.

Promotion, publicity etc:

- Article sent to Leics. County Council Branchline newsletter and asked to be able to promote August heritage event in their 'What's On'
- Details of Leicestershire Walks Festival additional walk on 27th Sept. sent to both LCC and to NWLDC (for inclusion in their Active Together Brochure), with details of the cost for walkers
- Accepted invitation along to County Hall on 23rd June to go to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (Leicester area) event

- Email from Snibston about Miner's Gala on 12th Sept and whether we will take part and be in the parade starting at 10.30am from Memorial Square The meeting decided that we should take part and that we should have a banner. Nita will obtain costs and report back.

Other:

- Meeting with Andrew Wallace, Snr. Housing Officer, NWLDC (attached)
- Guest speaker at Ashby Rotary which may see us being asked to lead a private walk for their group within the village and woodlands and a further link with Osgathorpe
- Led a walk on 24th May round Grace Dieu area, which attracted a record 35 walkers and a £50.50 being collected from those attending and one booklet sold, plus another walk on 7th June in the rain for one person only which raised £2 in donations. Subsequent to the walk on 24th May, a further donation of £3 has been received from a participant who attended.
- Took photographs of bushes on Loughborough Road to add to portfolio
- Purchased (from patty cash) and planted another bush on Loughborough Road to fill in the gap where the mower had taken one out
- Prepared Chairman's report for the year, copied independent examiner of accounts report for the year, and petty cash report for circulation

Tam Bream asked that the meeting's thanks to Nita for her outstanding efforts throughout the year should be noted.

Additions to constitution

These were discussed and minuted at the May meeting and were approved and filed.

Treasurer's Report– Tony Newton.

Balance brought forward		£1,472.91
Receipts: Memberships 9.5.09	£17.50	
Memberships 21.5.09	£60.00	
Memberships 30.5.09	£ 7.50	
Booklet sales	£33.00	
Walk 17.5.09	£12.00	
Walk 24.5.09	<u>£50.50</u>	
	£180.50	
Expenditure: Plants (cash)	£50.00	
Dress hire	<u>£55.00</u> (see previous minutes)	
	£105.00	
Balance:		£1,548.41

Petty cash balance account May 09:

Balance as at 30 th April 2009	£13.33
<u>Expenditure: - Plant</u>	<u>£4.95</u>
<u>Income: - Raffle generated</u>	£15
Donation to Community Centre	<u>£10</u>
Remaining	£5
Balance as at 31 st May 2009	£13.38

Gardening account – no money held. All monies received spent on plants for EMIB.

David Stevenson gave his report and suggested that a petty cash statement and sub accounts such as gardening should be available to members occasionally. This was supported by Roy Hill, who proposed that the committee look into the presentation of accounts. It was agreed that the new treasurer would recommend a method.

Publications report – Tony Newton said that sales had held up well and the total for the year was £511.50. Tam Bream asked if there were a breakdown of titles and sales. Tony said this was difficult as the publications were not sold as such, but donations were suggested and this could mean the amounts received varied. Once all original supplies of brochures are used up, thus severing the tie with the original sponsors of the individual brochures, the group can more readily give information on the breakdown of titles and sales, but discussions will take place with the new publications officer on keeping detailed records of what actually sells the best.

Pam Porter gave a vote of thanks to Tony on his retirement from committee, for his work as Treasurer, Vice Chair and Publications officer.

Web report – John Smith was not at the meeting but was continuing with the work of updating the website.

Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield was on holiday but sent a report. The Loose Women Group will continue to run in June and July, then will take a break for the summer. Pam will act as the Community Centre Representative for this group. Keith Pare will represent the Cinema Club. Ray Sutton's talks on Art and literature will take a break for two weeks at the end of June and then will continue through the summer if there is sufficient support. He has given Lorraine a new list of topics.

History – Ann Petty

- Archive photos have been collected from the community centre and sorted into folders. Ann hopes to bring them to a meeting and get some names and dates.
- A large folder of photos has been borrowed from Martin at The New Inn at Peggs Green.
- New photos have been acquired of the old school when it was derelict and The Star
- Witan Archaeology have started an excavation at the Star. Too soon to report much but some artefacts from the mid 1600s have been found.
- David White has been asked if he can do a slide show for the next Roadshow.
- The lady who came to the George and Dragon Roadshow has made contact to confirm that she is willing to be taped.
- Contact has been made with Amy Watkins at the Echo asking her to appeal for photos of dances or horticultural shows and any other events at the Community Centre in the past

Councillors' report

Cllr Everitt has met with the police round the Melrose Road estate to discuss problems and has asked that future meeting be planned in advance.

Cllr Woodward has met with the housing team to talk about problems with regard to noise and nuisance and to discuss outstanding home repairs. He understands that there is to be a change in policy in private housing with regard to the targets for decent homes standards. This could possibly see money being made available to improve private homes which are in disrepair/need insulation etc. to make them a better standard. More information should be available shortly.

Police Report

There had not been a lot to report in the last 30 days. One vehicle interference, no entry gained. Three domestic related crimes reported, with damage to property, and assault. The offender has been dealt with. The beat surgery was more successful and people had filled in the consultation questionnaire.

Nita added that there had been a fatal bike accident on the A512 and there had been some racist graffiti on the buildings on the football pitch. She said that following her report to the police and NWLDC, this had been quickly removed. She had also found and removed litter and a partially gutted fish in the woods, which had also been reported to the police and to the ASB officer at NWLDC.

Chairman's Annual report (attached)

Subscription rates – Tam Bream

Tam Bream suggested that the subscription rate was too low and that we were sending out a message that membership of our group was not of value. The subscription funds the newsletter (Bauble). A change of subscription would have to be agreed at an AGM and early payers would not know if the rate was changed. A proposal was made, and agreed, that a process for changing the subscription rate should be set up.

Voting in of new Committee:

Standing for re-election are the following, for the positions in parenthesis:

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Nita Pearson (Chairman)	Tony Newton	Tam Bream
Geoff Wilson (Vice-Chair and also Publications)	Janet Stevenson	Pam Porter
Janet Stevenson (Minute secretary)	David Stevenson	Tony Newton
Secretary (vacant – volunteers welcome)		
Pam Porter (Environment Lead)	Roy Hill	Tam Bream
Pam Clayfield (Arts and Community Lead)	Janet Stevenson	Ian Wood
Ray Neal (Gardening)	Pam Porter	Bernard Lee
Tam Bream (Memberships and treasurer)	Tony Newton	Ann Petty

These people were voted in en bloc.

Any other Business

- **Litter picks.** Pam Porter said that the next litter pick was on Saturday 13th June, 10am at The Green. Pick up points had been discussed with the Council as there were more agreed points than were actually being used. Tam Bream suggested that the Council be asked to supply a large commercial green bin for use by the Group. Lorraine agreed that the litter on 13th June could be stored at the Community Centre, as it was considered too long a period of time to leave litter for collection from Saturday to the following Tuesday when the council were able to pick it up. Pam Porter will have a conversation with the person at the council who is responsible for these issues, and report back.
- It is important that the village is looking clean and tidy for the **East Midlands in Bloom inspection** which takes place sometime in the first 10 days of July. As mentioned above, Nita has asked the council about the benches on The Green and been told that ownership was not with the council, but that as they maintained the area, maintenance was theirs to do by default. Whilst NWLDC are willing to do an extra grass cut in the lead up to The EMIB inspection and tidy the flower beds on The Green, they are unable to do the work to improve the benches, but would have no objection if we cleaned them up. It was felt that the council may be prepared to pay for the materials. Tam suggested that we should ask them to supply some wood stain and brushes as they had acknowledged that maintenance was their responsibility. Pam agreed to deal with this issue and report back.
- Pam asked that people who had borrowed **smart meters** fill in the **evaluation forms** given out with them as this feedback was a condition of the subsidy from the council. **Please return them to Pam as soon as possible.**

Date of next meeting: 9th July 2009 at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre. Guest speaker Andrew Wallace, Snr. Housing Officer, NWLDC.