



The Friends of Thringstone

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

Minutes of meeting held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 9th July 2009 at 6.45pm

Present: Karon Smith, Jim Wilkinson, Tracy Foulds, Andrew Wallace, Nita Pearson, Tony Newton, Janet Stevenson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson, Sandie Newton, Ann Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Maggie Smith, Bernard Lee, Ron Hill, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Tam Bream, Geoff Wilson, Pam Clayfield, Dave & Julie Everitt, David Taylor, Ray Neal, Pam Porter

Apologies: Pat and Ray Woodward. Ann Petty, Rowena Summers, Niels Nielson, Jane Wilson, Deb and Ian Wood, Ian and Di Bull, Jan Cufflin, Chris Mellor, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Colin Perritt

Chairman's report and update

Letters, emails etc.

Received Emails

- From lady wishing to trace the Burton family tree passed to Ann and then several emails from family asking for more help
- From NWLDC regarding our work to the benches on The Green asking for our documented request – reply sent
- From Police telling us of new beat officer (Donna Winter)
- From Police on their pledge and latest beat newsletter (copy available, copies emailed to those on email already)
- From NWLDC about extra walk on 27th Sept as part of walk festival (replied)
- From NWLDC agreeing to provide hardwood stain and brushes for maintenance work to the benches on The Green and confirming that a grass cut on The Green will take place prior to EMIB
- Invitation to attend the official opening of Hermitage FM. Pam Clayfield went to represent the group.

Sent emails

- Discussions by email and phone with committee and members on operating issues, litter picks, fete/event planning, brochures purchased etc.,
- To police regarding issues
- To committee on LCC Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Strategies
- To Snibston Discovery Park about the 12th Sept event and banners
- To history section on Festival of British Archeology
- Forwarded low carbon initiative newsletters, RCC newsletters, healthy times, NWLDC's Culture News etc to committee
- Joined FoT to the eco team of Team Green Britain which kicks off on 10th July and is all about reducing carbon emissions
- Sent details to committee of Green Expo at Walker's Stadium on 8th October (hard copy details available)
- Email to NWLDC asking for a litter pick in the village prior to EMIB producing a positive response

- Email from NWLDC about Big Switch Off – see below
Received letters
- Letter from EM Planning Aid on events being held locally with Regional Assembly on housing, transport, coastal flooding, renewable energy etc. Copy to be given to Minute Sec for filing
- Letter and £50 from CSV Action Earth towards the project we did on 8th May on Main Street with Thringstone Primary School
- Letter from Snibston Discovery Park with form to complete to formally take part in the Miners' Gala on 12th Sept. completed and returned
- Letter from NWLDC asking if we wanted a stall on Coalville Market on 11th July. Discussed with committee and members and accepted
- Letter from Snibston Discovery Park explaining that they are now through to the 2nd stage in the Heritage Lottery Funding bid and thanking us for our interest in this
- Letter from Leics. County Council regarding details of our web entry under community groups to check

Promotion

- Thanks to Ann Petty for getting article into Echo asking for photos for Heritage Event on 22nd August
- Featured as part of winning entries for Footprint Challenge in The Vision

Other

- Phone call from gentleman enquiring after the history of the Community Centre having been referred to us by council who were unable to help
- Phone and email call with Whitwick Action Group on their meetings regarding the green wedge – meeting 1st July which was attended and email sent to group regarding getting more involved to protect all three green wedges. (See AOB below)
- Discussion with concerned member regarding issues near their home
- Phone call from lady wanting details of Jimmy Francis's book on the history of Thringstone football club
- Nita went along to see the archeologists at The Star
- Email thanks to Geoff Walker for getting three areas of the village onto Google Earth
- Nita went to Queens Award for Voluntary Service local event – **report on details??**
- Nita removed sign in our planting near the church. (See AOB)

Treasurer's Report– Tam Bream

Balance Bt Fwd. £1709.23

Current balance £1637.79

Full monthly figures will be retained within committee, but members who wish to have details can ask the treasurer or chairman.

Petty cash balance account June 09:

May - Brought forward £13.38

Expenditure: £4.50 plates, plastic forks and napkins for AGM BBQ
£21.00 Printer Ink
 Total £25.50

Income: Raffle £26
 Community centre £10
 Remaining £16

Balance £3.88

Gardening account – no money held.

Publications Report

Geoff Wilson thanked the chairman for preparing the information for his report this month.

- Since the AGM, a full stock take of publications has been done. This brought to light that we had fewer copies of Born and Bred 1 than we realised, and a further 15 were ordered and received.
- A full audit of all publications we have purchased since our inception has also been done. This has reinforced the fact that the only publications which are still subject to the initial sponsorship are Village Trail 3 and Memories 2. All other publications are no longer linked to the initial sponsorship for their production and printing. We do not feel, however, that the cost of the brochures should change, and we propose to leave this at £2.50 for each of the Village Trail brochures (1, 2 and 3), £3.50 for each of the Memories brochures (1 and 2), and £4.50 for the Born and Bred brochures.
- A new spreadsheet has been set up which will record all brochure sales against venues/events attended. This will be maintained throughout the year so that at the next AGM, we will be able to say how many of what brochure have been sold and when/where.
- Stock takes will be done at the George and Dragon and at the Community Centre prior to a meeting, so that up to date figures can always be provided at a meeting on brochures sold/donations received.
- In June, 1 each of the Village Trail 1, Memories 1 and Born and Bred 1 were sold at the George and Dragon. At the community centre for the same period, 1 each of the Village trail 1 and 3 were sold, 4 Memories 1, 2 Memories 2 and 2 Born and Bred 1.
- Prior to this meeting a further stock take was done and no brochures had been sold at the Community Centre but The George and Dragon had 'sold' 1 Memories 1 and 1 Village Trail 1. These may not have been sold, but taken.

When the stock take was done on 3rd July it was discovered that the money kept by the George and Dragon for our brochure sales was £1 short. Margaret insisted on making up the money by taking £1 from the til. She then suggested that they might have to move the brochures so that they are no longer on the bar, as the previous week a group of people had been stopped taking several brochures out of the premises without paying. They said they thought they were free, which obviously is not the case.

It was suggested that we should price each individual publication, so that it is obvious that the brochures are for sale, not free, given that the majority are now not subject to the original sponsorship. There is already a sign in the display stands detailing the cost, but this is often obscured.

The meeting discussed whether to have stickers on brochures, write on the price in pencil, put brochures into plastic sealed bags or have brochures on show with prices for people to look through and the rest kept separately for sale. It was agreed to talk to the George and Dragon about following the latter course of action.

Web Report

John Smith was not at the meeting, but Karon reported that there have been problems with accessing the website of late due to server issues, but it is hoped that this is now sorted. As such, there are some items still to be posted to the website.

Arts and Community Report

- Pam Clayfield attended the launch of the Hermitage Community Radio, which is located opposite Connections on High Street, Coalville. Jon Sketchley, head of the project, is looking for volunteers. Pam have told him that she would be interested in becoming a trustee of the organisation
- Monday cinema club which meets fortnightly will recommence on Sept 14th at 7.30pm with a showing of Slumdog Millionaire. On Sept 28th will be Shipping Forecast, October 12th, A

Good Woman, Oct 26th Gunfight at OK Corral. Details will be placed on the notice boards in the community centre.

- October 10th – Pam is organising a charity evening. There will be blues/pop group and tickets are just £5. All proceeds will go to the oncology department at Leicester Royal Infirmary. The evening is open to everyone. Please support this event if you can.
- Dr Ray Sutton is continuing with his lectures again on Art and Literature throughout the summer. A big thank you goes to all who attend, and Ray is delighted with the response.
- Pam has passed on information about tea dances which the centre is hoping to organise for the autumn period and beyond.
- Pam Clayfield understands from the centre that Centre Stage bookings have been made for November. For further details, contact the community centre office.
- There is a possibility of drama workshops being set up at the centre, specifically for young people from ages 4-12 years and again further information is available from the centre.
- Loose Women continue to meet. There is to be a BBQ on 21st July which has the theme of wearing your most colourful outfit. I am sure it will be a good evening and any Loose Men wishing to attend can do so. Please bring food to share. The bar will also be available.
- Future events for consideration are Autumn/Winter walks starting from the community centre, of no more than 5 miles, and also a Community Travel Club. It is hoped to plan excursions to places of interest, using 12-16 min bus journeys next Spring/Summer during the evening. Any one wishing to assist this project will be warmly welcomed.
- Pam is looking for anybody with a copy of An Inconvenient Truth on DVD, as it may be shown at the centre at some stage in the future if available.

History Report

Ann Petty was not at the meeting but submitted a report which was read by Sandie Newton

- Ann has managed to recruit a new member, who joined because he was impressed with the cleaning up in the village. He also has some photos which he will share with the group.
- The archeological excavation is still on-going at The Star and some pottery has been found indicating a date of 1640-60. A flint has also been found, which links with Viking times, and there has been a lot of Victorian pottery and glass-wear. We would ask members to please not promote the fact that there is archaeology on the site at The Star, or encourage anybody to attend on site and disrupt the authorised dig.
- Ann did a mini-heritage roadshow event at the Methodist Chapel on Loughborough Road. This was another great success, thanks to David White.
- Ann has been asked for information from the new owner of the Three Tuns about the house's history
- Ann is still happy to accept any photographs from people which may link to events at the Community Centre in times gone by. We need these for our event on 22nd August, which will be a full afternoon event, running from 12.30pm through to 5pm.

Ron Hill agreed to take a poster advertising the Heritage Event to the post office. There is already one in the Centre. Nita will do some promotion in the media on this event in early August.

Councillor's report

Cllr. Ray Woodward was not at the meeting but had submitted a report which was read out by Sandie Newton to which Cllr. Dave Everitt added

- There are proposals from NWLDC to put two recycling cabinets in Thringstone. These are large things, separated into two sections, one for plastics and one for cans. The proposals are to site one of these outside Thringstone Primary and the other outside Ruby's. Our councillors feel that siting one outside Ruby's would be a backward step. The pavement is quite narrow there anyway, and feel that the likelihood would be that the cabinets would be full of chip paper, wrappers and polystyrene rather than the plastic and cans they should be housing. Our councillors intend to talk to officers at NWLDC about

this particular siting, and will report back. This point brought about general discussion, and the meeting felt that the siting of a cabinet near the school was also not a good idea. More people were in favour of these cabinets being sited near bus stops where the majority of cans and plastics are found when litter picking.

- Various older villagers have asked for more seating in the village so that they can rest at times of need. This was mentioned to our group before, and the council did not look favourably upon our request, but our councillors intend to raise the issue again.
- The Arriva company are considering altering their timetables, and it is possible that the buses into Coalville will now run every 10 minutes.
- Our councillors are also looking to set up some firm dates for councillor surgeries, and may try to work these in with the existing police beat surgeries, so that they are held at the same time. Again, they will report back when dates are set.
- Following some discussion Dave Everitt said that the provision of bollards on the Woodside estate to prevent car parking on the green areas was being investigated. He circulated a map showing the location of these.
- He also said that the request to remove the traffic gateway by the Bulls Head junction had been rejected by the Highways Forum as no accidents had been reported
- Pam Porter requested that the Council consider the provision of more dog bins

Police Report

This was read out by Sandie Newton

The new beat officer, Donna Winters, sent her apologies to the meeting as she had been changed on to an early shift and Jim Sorrell is on Annual leave. She thanked residents who had attended the beat surgery on the Green on 1st July and welcomed her to the area.

The next beat surgery is at 10.15am on 5th August.

Concerns about behaviour in Grace Dieu woods now come under the Kegworth police area.

Incidents should be reported to PC 1760 Jason Underwood and PCSO 6178 Nicola Stanhope via 0116 222 2222. Copies of their newsletter are available at the Community Centre.

Notices this month have been issued to one motorbiker for inconsiderate driving and another is pending.

Crime statistics for June in Thringstone: Criminal damage x7; Assaults x2; Stolen motor vehicle x1; Burglary x1 Total 11 of which 7 offenders have been located and dealt with by the police.

Guest Speaker – Andy Wallace, Snr. Housing Officer NWLDC

Andy introduced himself. He said his main aim was for him and the work of his housing teams to become better known. There were three teams (4 officers) dealing with 1. Tenant participation 2. Housing management and tenancy support 3. Neighbourhood and tenancy enforcement issues eg. payment of rents, allocation of properties, and management of the estate environment. They conducted quarterly inspections and liaised with the police and housing committees.

They were trying to take a positive approach using rewards for good behaviour and were hoping to introduce a grading system for estates which would include the tenants who would grade the area for such issues as state of gardens, dog fouling, use of highways etc. This would provide more accountability and statistical evidence for future action plans.

Following a comment by Tam Bream, who thought this could have an adverse effect on the prices of privately owned properties on the estate, there was considerable discussion.

David Taylor said that he had received feedback from tenants that they felt Thringstone was neglected by the Council. He asked that 3 issues be considered 1. Tenants and Residents Association meetings, 2. Better maintenance of the open grass areas 3. Improved property and highway maintenance

Andy Wallace (AW) replied that he would take these concerns on board but some of them were County Council issues. He would pass on the comments and consult the tenants.

Tam Bream questioned the level of Council Tax and the reduced number of Council owned properties AW replied that funding was based on rents and not related to Council Tax.

Ann Baxter raised the issues of tenancy agreements, which required care of gardens, and help for elderly and disabled tenants to comply with these agreements. AW replied that they were aware of these difficulties, but able bodied tenants who did not care for their properties were subject to a system of penalties and charges applied through the courts and the final sanction of eviction. Pam Clayfield commented that she felt the way forward was through the development of community spirit and such groups as Junior Friends of Thringstone creating contact with the school children, who may become future tenants.

After some further discussion AW was thanked by the Chair

From Previous Minutes

- **Update on litter picks** - The litter pick on 13th June saw 3 bags of litter being picked up by 8 people. It was gratifying to see less litter on the streets. The litter pick on 28th June only attracted two people, and half a bag of litter was picked up. Pam Porter and Bernard had done another litter pick at the end of June concentrating on The Sustrans area. A subsequent litter pick took place on 8th July, and thanks to Bernard for spending 2 and a half hours picking litter and for the help given by Pam Porter, Sandie Newton and Janet Stevenson who also litter picked. Our next litter pick is 29th September. Nita thanked NWLDC for doing a special litter pick within the village the day before the EMIB inspection and for cutting the grass on The Green on the same day.
- **Update on smart meter loan scheme** – Pam Porter has managed to get copies of completed evaluation forms from NWLDC to help those who have had difficulty completing the paperwork associated with borrowing a smart meter. Anybody who wishes to borrow one should contact Pam Porter please.
- **Update on Charles Booth's grave renovations** - still subject to Faculty decision
- **Planting and EMIB judging held 8th July** - the judging took place and it was difficult to forecast how we will do with this, as out of 11 similar groups visited at that point, the judge said that 8 had been people doing more formalised planting, whilst we have concentrated on more natural planting, linking in with our environmental remit. The judge did say that if we wanted to enter next year as a village, within the main competition, we would need to provide hanging baskets and planters. Whilst it would be lovely to see Main Street bedecked with hanging baskets, this is not something that FoT can take on. The judging panel will decide the final 3 in the neighbourhoods category which we have entered, and these final 3 will be asked to attend a presentation ceremony in September where certificates will be awarded, as our neighbourhood group is not a competitive group with a winner as such. As soon as something is known, the group will be advised in total. Thanks go to the gardening group for weeding and tidying the areas so that they looked at their best for the judging.
- **Report on School fete 27th June** – Thanks go to all the people who helped with this. £51.51 was collected after £10 was paid to school. All sales were of donated items, and thanks go to all those who gave us things to sell.
- **Report on Grace Dieu event 5th July** – Thanks again to the people who helped with this and to those who went the extra mile to provide hot drinks for those who volunteered to help on the stall. Nita reported that it is always the same people who help at events, and asked that members please consider offering their services to help at events to aid those who are regularly doing these. £82.69 was collected after £15 was paid to Grace Dieu group and was again made up of sales of donated items, for which we thank those who gave things to sell. The money raised will be shown on the next treasurer's report
- **Big Lunch 19th July** – we are not taking part this year because it is a Sunday and there are issues with regard to access to the Community Centre. It is understood, however, that some residents on The Glebe are holding a party of their own.
- **Snibston event 12th September** –Nita is waiting for confirmation from Alison Clague at Snibston as to what type of banner Friends of Thringstone should parade with to this event, if we do indeed parade. Two quotes will be obtained, and as there is no meeting

prior to this event at which to discuss these, a decision will be made by committee. This decision will reflect the thought that any banner should not be a one off, but should also be something that can be used to promote ourselves at any event by forming the backdrop to any gazebo/tent.

- **Junior FoT** – the teacher working on this has been away from school, but the competition to come up with a name for this group is still being run, and it is hoped that the junior arm will be set up and ready to run in September. It may be the case that members of our group will be invited to talk to the school about our work in the village, do possible walks with the children around the village to discuss the environment and the history, and work more with the school. The gardening group are still helping the school with various planting/environment things in the interim. It was hoped to get the group up and running in September with the help of ‘Aunties’ Sandie Newton, Pam Porter, Pam Clayfield, ‘Uncles’ Bernard Lee, Ray Neal and Colin Perritt. It was thought that these people would not need CRB checks as they would be working with teachers but may need a 99 certificate. This would be checked out.

AOB

- **Queen’s Head** – a licence application has gone into the council, as the previous licence had lapsed. This indicates that the premises may wish to open from 9am through to 12 midnight Monday-Thursday and Sundays, with the opening hours for Fridays and Saturdays, at which music and entertainment might take place of 9am – 1am. There have been various local objections put in to the council on these proposals, and we are waiting further news.
- **Market Stall 11th July** – we agreed to take advantage of a free market stall on 11th July to clear away the remaining items of bric a brac and plants that we have left over from the last two events. Nita, Janet, Tony, Bernard, and Di are helping with this, which runs from 7.30am through to 3.30pm but we have gaps in the rota and need further help. Dave and Julie Everitt agreed to help with the gap, and Ron Hill will help with clearing up. All unsold bric a brac will be donated to the church group, house plants will go to Sandie, and unsold outside plants will be given to Bernard.
- **Big Switch Off week commencing 12th October** – NWLDC have sent full details of this event which is taking place and a poster on some of the activities has been put up in the community centre. Further information is available from Nita, so anybody interested should contact her please
- **Newsletters** – a summer newsletter has been done and needs to be delivered before 1st August. Some have already been delivered, and thanks go to the group of volunteers who regularly deliver these within the village. The Community Centre is hopeful of being able to put together a newsletter of their own which might, if agreed, be delivered with our own newsletters later in the year.
- **Whitwick Action Group** – Nita attended a meeting in Whitwick with this group last month and was impressed with their drive and enthusiasm to protect all three green wedges, although their main concentration is on the area from Green Lane, Whitwick through to the bypass. In order to protect our own green wedge, it is important that people from Thringstone interested in this issue attend these meetings to continue to put across that our village has a green wedge, and we are not happy to see this developed. The next meeting will be on **29th July at 7.30pm** at the Methodist Church at the bottom of Hall Lane opposite the post office. In the meantime, if anybody wrote a letter to the council in protest to building on the green wedge, please send Nita a copy, as the Whitwick group are preparing a dossier of such letters so that they can talk to the council more forcefully about local feeling on this issue.
- **Sign near Church** - Nita had been advised that there was a sign in the flowerbeds near to the church relating to vandalism of the flower beds by the church wall. This sign had been there for a week before Nita became aware of it and it was removed, and was not put up by our group or any members of it. It was taken down as it had caused offence to

some visitors to the church. An email apology was sent to the vicar, and investigations are continuing as to who is responsible for the sign. Whoever they are obviously has a lot of passion about the planting we have done.

- **Google Earth** – thanks to Geoff Walker for getting pictures of the village onto Google Earth, as it further promotes the village. Geoff did mention that the Thringstone website which he produces has spare pages for promoting other things in the village, including a police page, and what's on. Janet Stevenson agreed to forward on to him any relevant details she has from this meeting in order to populate his pages.
- **Green Event at Walkers' Stadium October** – Nita had some paperwork about this event, which is free and relates to sustainability and the environment. One member expressed an interest in this, and will confirm at a later date if he is able to attend on behalf of the group
- **George and Dragon event 29th August** – our action plan, drawn up in January, agreed that we should feature at specific events within the village and surroundings, as we are not having a large event of our own this year due to having no events team. We are obviously continuing with our own heritage events, but nothing larger. Concern was expressed over lack of volunteers to help with this, which was not helped by the fact that the event is over a bank holiday weekend which was not known when initially discussed. Pam Porter may work on children's activities for this stall and Nita is going to work on any stall with any volunteers that come forward to help. It was agreed that we run a wine and water stall, so we are requesting that people who drink wine, but only with screw top bottles, save these cleaned bottles, together with their tops and give them to Nita. Help has been offered to wrap these for the event. Wine and water stalls work well as has been proven by figures we, and other groups, have previously achieved by running these. Please let Nita have your bottles, and thanks to Janet for offering to help with wrapping etc.
- **Walks report from 5th July** – nobody turned up for this walk, which clashed with the Grace Dieu Event which had been moved from a previous date to 5th July because of parking issues at The Priory. Where possible, we always try to avoid clashing with any other local events but it was not possible this time, as we had already advertised our walks dates when the Grace Dieu date was set.
- **Footpath by Millbank** – Ray Neal reported that the public footpath from Millbank to the A512 which then continues the other side of the road was still closed nearly two years on from its initial closure, which was to be for 6 months. Nita agreed to contact County about this and copy in the County Councillor and would report back when something is known.
- Sandie had some W.I. raffle tickets to sell and thanked those who bought one.

There is no meeting now until September, as we don't have meetings in August due to holidays.

Date of next meeting: September 10th at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre