



The Friends of Thringstone

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MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present Nita Pearson, Brenda Simpson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Tony & Sandie Newton, Pam Clayfield, Ann Petty, Tracy Foulds, Ray Neal, Frances Skinner, Jacquie Lloyd, Janet & David Stevenson, Bernard Lee, Ray Woodward, Jim Wilkinson, Geoff Wilson, Jan Cufflin, Colin Perritt, Chris Mellor, Geoff Walker, Pam Porter, Tam Bream.

Apologies Roy Hill, Maggie Smith, John and Karon Smith, Rowena Summers, Pauline Bolstridge, Dave and Julie Everitt, Jane Wilson, Jo Johnson, Colin Porcher, Ian and Deb Wood.

Reports

- Chair's 2 monthly report - no meeting in August

Letters received

- Several from Voluntary Action Leicestershire enclosing details of all members and asking for votes for new trustees. There seem to be no other NWL groups on the list of members. Further letter from Voluntary Action Leicestershire regarding meeting on 22nd September in Leicester plus. Voluntary Action Leicester Training Programme for Autumn 09. Hard copies available.
- From EMIB asking us to the civic presentations in Nottingham on 11th September a.m – being represented by Pam Clayfield and Ray Woodward
- From South Derbyshire Council enclosing copies of walk evaluation forms for the 2 walks FoT did as part of the National Forest Walk Festival. Analysis of comments carried out and passed to committee, and Ann Petty who helped on the Grace Dieu walk– hard copy available. All very positive.
- Letter from NWLDC asking if we wanted to take part in the Christmas Stalls as part of the lights switch on in Coalville on 28th November. Declined.

Emails received

- Emails received from NWLDC, CVS and Marlene Reid Centre regarding funding opportunities passed to vice-chair and treasurer followed by various emails between committee on wish list (to be discussed)
- Email from one of our members about action day in Thringstone woods passed to all email members, and about dead trees passed to NWLDC
- Questionnaire received from National Forest about our organisation sent after completion
- From East Midlands Oral History Archive giving details of their latest event. Forwarded to committee and history group.
- Emails sent to and received from County Councillor regarding footpath closure down Millbank circulated round committee and other footpath issues. Hard copy available.
- From Sue Anderson at National Forest asking if FoT want to do beer mat walks and sending a form for completion and return regarding volunteer groups. Hard copy of form available.
- Community Carbon Footprint Toolkit received and sent to committee.

The Friends of Thringstone
Winner of the Partnerships and Community Group Awards 2009

foot prints
Stepping out for a greener district

- Information received from NWLDC following our request on children's activities already organised in the village passed to Pam C.
- Email from NWLDC informing us of funding opportunity – passed to Pam P and Ray N as it relates to environment issues.
- Several from Luke Barley regarding smarter driver training previously discussed, with a view to starting this at the end of September. Luke is the new contact. Email confirmation sent back confirming our continued interest and confirming who the local press are for him to publicise. Waiting for dates of course. To be discussed.
- From Jason Underwood (Kegworth Police) with suggestions of linking with Sustrans to deter motorcyclists using the Route 52 path through Grace Dieu woods followed by email to de Lisle family. Sustrans link came to nothing.
- Updates Ray Woodward regarding issues circulated round committee.
- From St Andrew's about their flower festival at the end of August
- From National Forest Company asking if we are taking part in their festival between 22 May and 2 June 2010. Sent in paperwork supporting walk to Cademan Woods on 23rd May 2010 and Grace Dieu walk on 30th May 2010, both leaving The Green at 2pm. Back marker required please.
- From Peter French, Rearsby Heritage Warden, congratulating us on our work and wanting to meet up for us to discuss best practice – meeting arranged subsequently postponed and rearranged for 9th Sept. Report available.
- From Green Communities asking for a form to be completed and returned about our group. Done.

Emails Sent

- Forwarded breathing places newsletters, lo-carbon innovation newsletters, RCC newsletters, Team Green Britain, event details, action plans etc. to committee
- Email sent to new volunteer Sustrans ranger Keith Lycett who has congratulated us on picking up litter on the Sustrans route. Asked his remit and subsequently had a long conversation with him. Hard copy of report available.
- Emails to organise and purchase banner to use at events. Done.
- Email to NWLDC asking them to cut back holly bushes at entrance to village
- Emails between various members and St Andrew's regarding bowls match on 15th September. Support would be welcome.
- To BSHF regarding disused piece of land at the bottom of Grace Dieu Road to enquire of ownership and follow up emails to establish ownership of the other side of the tunnel. Subsequent discussions with councillors/NWLDC about highways issues and maintenance of the road way over the tunnel, and to de Lisle family about the other side of the road. Reply received from BSFH confirming ownership and maintenance liabilities for the disused land, and refusing the group access to the site, but now likely to go to their committee to discuss.
- Emails to history group regarding possible new publication of booklet of pictures of Thringstone in the past against now.
- Continuation of emails to police regarding motorbikes and ASB in woods. Kegworth police did a couple of plain clothes visits to see if they could catch anybody (hard copy available). They caught nobody.
- To CEO of NWLDC asking why Thringstone isn't classed as a sustainable village, reply received and questioned, and subsequent reply received. Available in hard copy.
- To Punch Taverns reporting vandalism at the rear of the Rose and Crown, acknowledged by David Goacher, property manager who thanks the village for reporting such things to the police, and visited to see for himself. Have asked for fencing round the car park. No reply received.
- To RCC acknowledging that many of the walkers came on the National Forest and subsequent walks as a result of their publicity, not that of the National Forest Organisation. Asked about 2010. Positive reply received. Form filled in detailing our 8 walks for 2010.
- To Citrus Group asking for the current position regarding the Fox site. Reply received. Hard copy available.
- Emails to St John's and St Andrew's asking if they will help promote the next heritage event in their newsletters. Positive replies received.
- Email to members regarding the proposal to put in for planning to build 200 social housing units on the edge of the village and others potentially on Red Hill Lane subsequently found to be without foundation.

- To those on email in the group detailing events on in the village through to Christmas. Hard copy available but additions need to be made to this.
- Registered next heritage event as part of CSV Make A Difference Day
- To NWLDC regarding recycling bins and reporting to police
- Email to Youth Council asking if they want to send someone to speak at our October meeting.

Promotion

- Press releases sent, website forms filled out etc. for heritage event on 22nd August at Community Centre. Promotion in CV Times of 6th August and Lbro Echo of 13th August and photo and write up in Lbro Echo of 4th Sept.
- Promotion sent to newspapers, radio and other media for walks programme through to the end of September to include Leics. Walking Festival
- Completion of 3 page form relating to the walk on 27th September that we are putting on for the Leicestershire Walking Week (hard copy available) and subsequent brochure received, plus details on their website and in flyers etc. Hard copies available.
- Article written earlier in the year printed in Summer's Enable newsletter. Copy in portfolio.
- Blue plaque and Cademan walks now listed on The Best Around website
- All FoT walks advertised in NWLDC's Active Together brochure
- Promotion sent to Rural Community Council for our heritage event in October

Other

- Call from EMIB judge regarding photographs of our planting for the ceremony at which certificates are issued
- Attended 3 Whitwick Action Group Meetings to discuss building on green wedges and circulated information round to members on email about petitions and other avenues of protest to national and local level. Copy minutes available to read of first meeting. Notes available from last meeting. Petition available to sign.
- Joined Energy Saving Trust's Green Communities Initiative which gives us links to funding opportunities etc.
- Discussion with Hermitage FM who have agreed to be our November speakers.
- Call from gentleman in Hoby who is tracing his Henson family tree and was recommended to speak to us by someone in the village. Ann Petty involved to supply further information.
- Discussion with Sue Anderson from National Forest Organisation regarding help we need from their group. They want to support groups like ours who use forest sites, and preserve and maintain them.
- Started to work on getting a FoT Christmas Card organised for Nov 09. Costs forwarded round the committee, and will be discussed
- Sent details round to group of letter from resident/member regarding the proposed licensing application on the Queens Head.

Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream

Balance brought fwd	£1548.41
Balance cfwd	\$1730.49

Petty Cash report: - Current balance £5.04

Publications report – Geoff Wilson

Our stock of publications and sales since the last Report is as shown in the table below.

The Community Centre stock figure is at 22 August 2009 because I have not been able to obtain a more up to date figure.

Unfortunately a number of publications with a face value of around £50.00 were lost or misappropriated during the refurbishment of the Community Centre

DATE	TITLE	CC	G&D	NITA	GEOFF	TOTAL	SALES	VALUE £
8.09.09	B&B 1	0	0	6	10	16	6	27.00
	B&B 2	1	0	6	48	54	2	9.00
	Mem 1	2	1	6	12	21	2	7.00
	Mem 2	3	0	6	16	25	11	38.50
	VT 1	0	2	6	17	25	7	17.50
	VT2	0	2	6	13	21	8	20.00
	VT3	0	2	6	13	21	3	7.50
							126.50	

Web report – John Smith

John was not present but Nita reported that the website had not been fully updated as John's computer had crashed. Fortunately he had full back up of all files and would do the work in due course.

Fran Skinner asked if it would be possible to buy publications through the website. This would need a paypal account which some members were not keen on, but it would be referred to the webmaster.

Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield

- The film An Inconvenient Truth has been acquired for the group. Suggestions on how this should be presented at one of our future meetings would be appreciated. Do we want this in small bite-sized pieces or should we show it to the group in its entirety outside a normal meeting??
- Hermitage FM Radio, based at Hotel Street, Coalville, is due to go live in early October. I have been enlisted to act as Community Co-ordinator. My role is to liaise with as many agencies, businesses and community groups as possible, to glean news and secure advertising. It is hoped to reach out to potentially 100,000 residents within the whole of NWL. The radio station intends to operate on a 24 hour period, 7 days a week. Jon Sketchley, who has worked tirelessly to bring about this project, is happy to come along and give a talk about this existing initiative at our November meeting, and has been booked.
- The Big Screen Film Club starts on 14th September (Monday) with Slumdog Millionaire. The cost is just £1.50 (raffle to cover costs). The club meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, and a varied and interesting programme has been scheduled. Please support this club if you can. There is an urgent need to support the Community Centre and I believe it is a case of use it or lose it, particularly in this current political climate.
- Nita has passed on to me details of contacts I can pursue for youth issues, and I will follow these through. Nita has also been in contact with the youth council on my behalf to see if they will come to talk to us at a meeting, and we are awaiting a reply. It is important to engage with young people for the future.
- It was suggested that I be the lead contact for anything to do with the school and gardening, as well as Junior FoT. I would prefer that this be handled by Pam Porter and/or Sandie Newton if possible, as it is often difficult to contact me and I do not as yet have a computer for contact. I hope this is acceptable to both Pam and Sandie. *Both agreed to handle this contact.*
- Finally, may I bring to your attention my fund raising event on 10th October here at the Centre from 7.30pm until 11.30pm. All proceeds will be going to the LRI oncology unit, and it would be great to see people dressed in colourful outfits. I am sure that there are many of you who know of someone who has needed the services of the oncology section at the LRI, so if you can, please, come along to what I am sure will be a great evening. The band is Cellar Bar Blues and will be playing classic rock and blues. Tickets are just £5. If you can't make it, donations will be much appreciated. People who want more details, or to buy a ticket, can contact me on 224804 or talk to Lorraine here at the centre on 222337.

History – Ann Petty Sandie Newton read out Ann's report

1. The excavation at the Star is on hold because of the archaeologists' prior commitments.
2. We had the Heritage Event at the Community Centre, which was themed on the Community Centre as the centre of the village, which it was and still could be. David White did a slide show

and about 50 people attended. The next Heritage Event is at the George and Dragon on 31st October and will be themed 'A Celebration of Village Life'.

3. We may have solved the mystery of "Duke's Castle" down Drury Lane. This was first shown on a series of papers from the owners of the land there and posed something of a mystery. However, a newspaper cutting from the 1950s Coalville Times suggests that a gent called Duke lived there, although we cannot as yet find a Duke by surname on any census information going back to 1841. It may be that he was called Duke as a nickname.
4. Ann is trying to put together a folder of information, newspaper cuttings and old photographs of the Blue Plaque walk so that Nita, or anyone else who would like to help with the walks, has a photographic record to show people as they walk round.

Councillor's report – Ray Woodward

- The situation regarding a caravan, previously on Melrose Road, then moved to a parking section off the main road, and then on the grass verge outside a property on Lbro Road, is that it has just been moved elsewhere.
- With regard to the party house, proceedings are still carrying on although there is less noise at present.
- Admiral Taverns are continuing to pursue an application for a licence at The Queen's Head. Together with the objectors to the current proposals, Cllr Woodward will be making every effort to ensure that the licence granted meets with local approval. If anybody wants further information on this, please see Ray after the meeting.
- Investigations into the destruction of the plants on Brook Lane have been satisfactorily resolved with the environment agency and a letter received indicating that they intend to replace damaged planting in the Spring and then ensure that future work on the brook does not disturb this.
- The request to BSHF to tidy up the land on the Whitwick side of Grace Dieu bridge is going to their committee and we are awaiting further details, although Nita has had a call indicating that they will give their approval, but we are awaiting the letter detailing any conditions before proceeding further with regard to any tidy-up or any archaeology being carried out.
- Investigations into land ownership on the other side of the bridge are proceeding and a map is to be sent to the de Lisle family and then they can tell us whether they in fact own the land or not.
- Enquiries of the CC as to the state of the bridge and the old railway tunnel (being a single item) are continuing.
- There is a broken red scooter by the viaduct in Grace Dieu woods, which is hopefully to be removed by the NWLDC. We require the help of members to remove this to somewhere near to an easy pick up point for NWLDC. Help is requested.
- There was a car on jacks on The Green which was subsequently removed.
- The Miner's Welfare development is subject to clarification on funding options, and there is to be a meeting to discuss options on 23rd September..
- An incident at the Rose & Crown had been reported by Ray Neal who has an incident number. As the police thought it was a break in they attended immediately and caught the young people, but they were doing no harm.
- A question was asked about sites for recycling bins. Suggestions had been made at the last meeting and it was suggested that these be considered by bus-stops or at the corner of Henson's Lane where the pavement is wider.

Cllr. Woodward is still investigating problems of sinking of pavements near the shop on the corner of John Street and other issues raised by individuals. He is also keen to see the resurgence of a residents' association on the Woodside estate, and will follow through with this and report to the meeting. It would be useful if the meetings of the residents association could combine with the FoT meeting, as issues could more readily be discussed and resolved.

Police report

CSO Jim Sorrell read out a report from Donna Winters as she was unable to be present.

The next beat meeting will be on 23rd September on the Green at 10.15am when Donna and Jim will be there to discuss any local issues.

Motorbikes - 2 notices have been issued this month to motorbike riders who were riding in an inconsiderate manner. An ASB letter has been sent to a local youth who was not riding the bike but was with an older youth who was. His parents have been informed of this association.

Crime statistics for July & August Total 20 crimes

Criminal damage x7; Assaults x3; Stolen motor vehicle x1; Burglaries x5; Drugs offence x1; Thefts x3 (recycling boxes). These have been stolen from the Springfield area and it is believed local youths are burning them in the woods. There are no identified suspects, although some were seen in the process of being stolen. Any information and/or names would be welcomed by the police. However since the bins continue to belong to NWLDC, despite being given to occupants, it is they who need to report the loss. Nita is trying to find out who at NWLDC is reporting these losses, and it seems at the moment like this is nobody. If anyone has trouble please inform the council **as well as** the police. Of the 20 crimes, 8 offenders/suspects have been located and dealt with by the police. Of the 5 burglaries 3 arrests were made. Two males have been charged to appear in court for three of the burglaries.

Jim then answered questions about parking on Melrose Road. Fran Skinner requested a leaflet drop warning residents about illegal parking on the pavements. She reported that double parking was making it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through. The fire crew had had to cut a child free from a swing on the Melrose Rd play area so there is now a swing missing.

The situation at 49 Melrose Rd was being dealt with. She asked that there was a more visible police presence seen to be walking around the village and asked that rubbish bins be emptied more readily to prevent items from there being thrown at passing cars. She also asked about house numbers being more visible from the road.

Sandie reported that the Grace Dieu ruins were potentially being used for drug and alcohol abuse and fires had been lit in one area. Jim said he would follow this up. Tam Bream thanked the police for doing a good job

From previous minutes

- Building on land to the north of Henson's Lane/Red Hill Lane (see Chairman's report)
- Gardening group's request for new mower. This had now been purchased and was being put to good use. The sign saying Planted by Friends of Thringstone had been stolen from the planting near the church, and had been reported.
- Christmas cards – quotes for 35p for small card, 44 for A5 card. An order for 50 packs of 10 of the A5 card will be ordered from East Midlands printers having been approved by the meeting. The front picture will be the colour photographs of the snowmen taken by Karon Smith, and built by the Purple, Emerson and Townsend families, who will receive acknowledgement on the finished card.
- Market stall report from 11th July (£30.52) Nita thanked everyone who had helped.
- Walks reports for 9th August (Ann covered this walk and raised £13) and 6th September (£4 raised and Ann again helped with bringing photographs to show the walkers). Evaluation forms for the walks taken as part of the National Forest Walking Festival in May were available for reading. Feedback was very positive.
- Heritage Event report from 22nd August (£29 brochure sales, £43 raffle) About 50 people had attended.
- Music Festival report from 29th August (outgoings £57 – to be confirmed by treasurer. We took £85.50 inc one brochure sale)
- EMIB results due 11th September Ray Woodward and Pam Clayfield will attend for the group.
- Litter pick arranged for 12th September 10am Meet on the Green. Pam Porter said that she thought the village was becoming more aware of litter and was now cleaner than in the past. She asked that anyone who wanted a specific area clearing should inform her. Fran Skinner indicated an interest in helping with future litter picks. It was reported that litter is dropped by people exiting the Chapel Fitness Centre. Nita agreed to talk to Tony Dandy about this.
- Snibston event on 12th September –the new banner will be carried by Bernard and Ray Neal in the Parade which leaves Memorial Square 10.15am. Nita will run a wine and water stand at the event as well as having brochures to sell.
- Bowls Match arranged for 15th September 6pm for 6.30pm start. Colin Perritt agreed to make up the team to 6 members for which he was thanked.
- CSV Make a difference day – 31st October – our last Heritage Event for 2009 and promotion of same. Linking the heritage event to another event for volunteering, during which we can ask for help with projects like the pinfold and will allow further promotional opportunities to be pursued.

- The Community Centre patio. A quote for £16000 had been received for work on this, which was felt to be excessive. There was some discussion about materials and supply of labour and suggestions from Tam Bream about approaching Bardon Quarries/others to sponsor it as a community project. Tam also said he would look into supplying labour from his work force and would talk to Bernard and others outside the meeting. It was agreed that this matter be put on the Management Committee agenda by the Community Centre to further discuss.
- Smart driver training. There is some confusion about arrangements for this, but it was being looked into, but we may not be able to go to this if, as suspected, it involves 3 consecutive days training during working hours.
- Queens Head licence application. (see Councillor's report)
- Land on Grace Dieu Road (see Councillor's report)
- Sustainable villages (see Chair's report)
- Junior FoT: The school are keen to be involved with this and thank the FoT and the Gardening team for their work up to now.

Discussion points

Wish list for forward planning on expenditure

Since the group now some surplus cash, members had been asked for their ideas about the best way to spend it. Ideas are as follows:

- Thringstone now & then- photo booklet – problem would be locating photographs that have not appeared before in other publications. This is being further considered perhaps to include recipes
- Another Memories booklet. We have a lot of people taped and their transcripts typed up and that could make another book Geoff Wilson was asked to look at patterns of sales to see which would be the best area to develop, and this will form part of his report at the next meeting.
- Possible funding of cabinet in which to house artefacts found in the village and/or trophies/certificates detailing FoT's successes. Ray Woodward said he had a possible cabinet and Nita would look at this to see if it was suitable. It was agreed that it needed to have a glass front and be lockable. Lorraine suggested it could be placed in the Front lounge at the centre as this is kept secure. Possible funding of hanging baskets or planters in the village which will then be the responsibility of whoever's house/premises they are in front of to water. It was thought these could be open to abuse, but Nita would investigate costs.
- Clearing out the Pinfold near the Millhouse estate again, once ownership is established. The group are not sure who owns this, but it should be something in the village ownership.
- Seasonal planting every year of the areas we have previously planted. The seasonal planting down by the church wall was stunning. Bernard and Ray will liaise with Pam and Tam to acquire bulbs for seasonable planting and the children at the school may be asked to help with the planting.
- Possible funding for the recycling bins that Andrew Wallace mentioned in his email shortly after the last meeting. There was discussion about siting and liability for use. We will wait until Cllr. Woodward has discussed further the siting of these before offering to help with the funding.
- Discussion groups/workshops/activities for young people in the village in partnership with other agencies. Nita and Pam will continue to discuss this.
- The school had been asked to register for the Elm Trees project through the conservation foundation, but several members thought this was a waste of time as the trees were not thriving. It is up to the school to decide.
- A Community Orchard was suggested. This had previously been considered when we were looking at the area by 181 Main Street and had been dismissed, as there were issues with NWLDC and County over tree planting, and also siting such an orchard would involve further consultations with neighbours, as had been the case before, which is why 181 Main St site contains only cherry trees.

AOB

- Lorraine had suggested a lantern procession through the village from the church to the Centre for the carols round the tree. She is already making lanterns and would be willing to run workshops to involve the young people to make some more. She will report on this further at the next meeting.

- The Bull's Head will close for about 2 weeks from 7th Sept and reopen as a Crown Carvery.
- The Save The Green Wedge petition is still available for signing.
- The Council's Big Switch off will take place between October 12-18th. This will be an opportunity to reduce energy consumption throughout the whole area and will be promoted to the group.
- Ray would like Ann to investigate what happened to the standing stone that used to be at the bottom of Millhouse. When was it moved, and who moved it, and is there any possibility that another stone could be put in its place. Ann agreed to investigate.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th October at Thringstone community Centre at 6.45pm