



The Friends of Thringstone

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

Present : Nita Pearson, Ron Hill, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson, Ann Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Tracy Foulds, Bernard Lee, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Woodward, Geoff Walker, Chris Mellor, Colin Perrit, Colin Porcher, Jo Johnson, Ray Neal, Dave and Julie Everitt, Pam Clayfield, Pam Porter

Apologies Roy Hill, Janet and David Stevenson, Tam Bream, Tony and Sandie Newton, Maggie Smith, Paul and Liz Muller, Rowena Summers, Peter and Jenny Walker, Ian and Deb Wood, Tony Gillard, John and Helen Dickinson, Simon Jaggs, Antony Dandy

Reports

Chairman's monthly report

Letters

- Voluntary Action Leics. Newsletter – copy available
- Letter and CRB forms received from Marlene Reid Centre and various questions raised about whether to go for CRB now (£10 per person subsidised rate) or to wait until next summer to apply for ISA – to discuss under AOB
- Letter from Whitwick Historical Society saying FoT can have photocopies of relevant title and land documents which they hold, but a cost will be levied for this service. Left with Ann to liaise with them.

Emails Received

- From Roy Hill agreeing to take over publications from Jan 2010. Thanks.
- From Charlotte Cosgrove at NWLDC about setting up another Woodside Tenants and Residents' Association. Meeting arranged and attended and subsequent emails (mainly questions) received. Have asked NWLDC to get information to us to include in the next Bauble on anything set up.
- Via website from lady interested in former clergy at St Andrew's for family history research passed to Ann Petty and copied to Alan Burgess for help. Further information sought from Steve Babcock and Geoff Walker, and reply given.
- Invitation to training offered by Marlene Reid declined as nobody available to go
- From Amanda Hanton regarding youth service volunteers producing a mural in the park area off Henson's Lane. NWLDC officers have already discussed and are happy for this to happen. She is hopeful of getting some volunteers to help Ray finish working on the Pinfold in January. Several subsequent emails from partners involved in the mural in the area off Henson's Lane, and meeting arranged for 7th January which Nita is unable to attend. Ray Woodward may be able to go.
- From NWLDC regarding proposals for Miner's Welfare development and refurbishment. Copies available and shown to the meeting. Some people have already been informed of this meeting, whilst others on Booth Road had heard nothing.

Emails sent

- Beat newsletter circulated to those on email
- Query raised with county council as to whether they own the area we call The Pinfold and if not, who keeps fencing it off with barbed wire
- Various emails to committee with newsletters attached etc.
- To Leicestershire Museum service about a museum-style cabinet in which to house artefacts found in the village etc. Awaiting reply from Robin Clark.
- Various emails and calls regarding the organisation of the Carols Round The Tree event including various emails asking media to promote
- To committee asking if I should bother reapplying to BT for a laptop given we didn't get one first time. Agreed not to pursue.
- To Thringstone Primary asking if we could nominate them for an award under the Footprints Challenge. Left with school to pursue themselves, subsequent to which Pam Clayfield has facilitated the school getting a form to complete.
- To Steve Babcock asking if FoT can lease/hire/buy the data from his former Thringstone On Line history site to attach to our own. He is happy for this to happen, and we are having a meeting a some stage to discuss this further, together with a booklet he wants to reproduce in time for the 2012 anniversary at St Andrews about its former vicars.
- Contact with NWLDC to work with them on their wellbeing display on hobbies and groups on 20th Jan. Ray W is helping Nita with this, but we may need to borrow some display boards from Ann and Bill.

Promotion

- Various emails to local media about Carols Round The Tree event and posters put up in various venues around the village and into Whitwick. Thanks to those who helped with this. Also added event to NWLDC events site, national forest site and www.wherecanwego.com.
- Discussions with George and Dragon about their music event – to discuss in AOB
- Article in Mail 26th Nov about David Taylor's bulb planting and heritage event followed by full article on bulb planting, my visit to No. 10 and heritage event in his column in the Coalville Times of 3rd Dec
- St Andrew's December newsletter promoted sales of our Christmas cards as well as the carol event. Thanks Geoff.
- Carol Event promoted in Coalville Times of 26th Nov, Lbro Echo of 4th Dec and Mail of 10th Dec

Other

- Attended opening of Hermitage FM and did live broadcast during which FoT was promoted
- Attended Whitwick Action Group meeting – details available on request
- Phone call from Squire de Lisle about land he owns
- Comprehensive meeting with John MacDonald from Coleorton Heritage Group and others from FoT interested in history to discuss joint working and information exchange
- Sent off for DIY+ kits from Ramblers Association
- Facilitated meeting between NWLDC's physical activity team and Lorraine to try to bring tea dances to the centre from February, as well as promote other classes already on there. Have offered NWLDC chance to advertise tea dancing in Bauble. Subsequently passed to Lorraine details of a Cuban salsa dance teacher, which may be something she wishes to look into.
- Decided against applying for Age Concern Grant due to difficulties getting information together in time
- Put in for funding of £1,000 from the Highcross Bursary Grants. The deadline for applications is 24th Dec 09.
- Christmas cards have been sent to various supporters of the group and honorary members.
- **Treasurer's Report – Tam Bream**

There has been little movement on the accounts this month. Unfortunately due to the Christmas cards sales being poor, the accounts are a little down, but we should finish the year better off. Year to date the total balance is £1443.58 against a half year figure of £1548.41. Downturn was explained last month re. purchases etc.

You will see from the summary (available upon request) that Events are still leading the income and publications which include the Christmas cards are following up slowly. Obviously this summary is only income and does not show monies paid out and not returning a profit.

Balance carried forward £1,443.03

Withdrawn

£163.95 (£39.50 wine, £124.45 bulbs)

Paid in

£112.50 (£25 Christmas cards, £10 donation, £41.50 brochures, £36 wine and water from heritage event)
£52.00 (£45 Christmas cards, £7 brochures)

Current balance £1,443.58

Petty cash: Balance as at 9.12.09 £16.95 (stamps bought for £3.60 for Christmas cards)

- **Publications and Christmas card report – Nita Pearson**

Christmas card sales have been disappointing. From the extra outlets to which cards were taken, no sales were forthcoming from Thringstone Members Club, Ruby's, the Body Toning Emporium or Capelli's. One pack of cards was sold at the Post Office and one at Chapel Fitness. None have been sold yet at the George and Dragon and only one pack so far at the Community Centre.

Half of the cards are still unsold, and we only ordered 500, making 50 packs. We were working on the assumption that 2/3rds of our members would buy cards which would mean they would all be sold within the group. This has not happened and is disappointing especially since the provision of, size of, printing and photo for the cards was discussed and voted on at previous meetings. Some members then expressed an interest in buying cards after the meeting.

A discussion took place on what we should do with the unsold cards, as it had been suggested that these be sent to members/supporters and other agencies as a promotional exercise rather than keeping them for next year.

It was felt that this should not happen, as the cards can still be sold next year, there was also the cost involved of postage. Writing off over £100, being the value of the unsold cards, equates to sales at the last 2 heritage events and part of the Snibston event, which then negates the work done at those events. It was felt that the poor sales to church members was due to the lack of religious content on the card.

With regard to brochure sales, we have sold 3 Memories 1, 1 Memories 2 and 2 Village Trail 3 in the last month.

Stock overview 10.11.09-10.12.09

10.11.09	Com Cen	G & D	Nita	Stock	Total	Value £
B&B 1	3	6	6	1	16	72.00
B&B 2	3	6	6	39	54	243.00
Mem 1	5	6	4	0	15	52.50
Mem 2	5	6	6	6	23	80.50
VT 1	5	6	6	8	25	62.50
VT2	5	6	6	4	21	52.50
VT3	5	6	6	2	19	47.50
	99.50	141.00	134.00	236.00		610.50

We have no stock of Memories 1 and Nita has only 4 for events.

It was agreed that Nita should order 15 Memories 1 and 15 Memories 2 as soon as possible so that we start 2010 with stock in reserve for future events

With effect from January, Roy Hill has agreed to take over the publications role and stock takes for which we are all most grateful.

- **Web report and emails– John Smith**

John Smith was not at the meeting, and it was noted that December updates are yet to take place, which will include some photographs. Nita has also still to talk to John about changing the email system so that it is centralised.

- **Arts and community report – Pam Clayfield**

- Pam is continuing to work with Hermitage FM and recently did a live broadcast on the activities and heritage of Thringstone Community Centre and is helping with marketing. Pam recently took part in a breakfast meeting at the George and Dragon as a result of which some advertising may be forthcoming for the radio. Geoff Walker was thanked for linking the various websites of which he is master to the station site.
- Pam is seeking speakers for Hermitage FM. Nita has already been recruited. More volunteers are needed in all spheres of community work, not just with the radio but with groups like ours as well.

Ray Neal asked what sort of music the radio played, and dedications were discussed. Anybody can make a dedication by calling into the radio station, texting in or emailing or ringing in to ask for a dedication.

- The film club has had reasonable response and it is hoped this will continue in the New Year. Similarly, Ray Sutton's talks continue to be very popular.
- Pam is attending the Christmas lunch at Thringstone Primary School on 11th Dec.
- Marlene Reid Centre have a toy appeal and are looking out for NEW toys to give to families who might not be able to afford to spend extra at Christmas, so that the children don't lose out with toys to open. Distribution of these toys is taking place on 17th Dec.

General discussion took place at this stage, and it was agreed that there should have been more notice given of this. Lorraine agreed to store toys at the centre if Marlene Reid Centre are doing similar next year, and it was agreed that this would probably be a good idea.

- Please let Pam know if you have any ideas on other community/arts events. One of the ideas Pam wishes to run with is that of a book club, which could also link in with the radio station. If anybody is interested in a book club running from the Community Centre, they should contact Lorraine in the first instance, and say whether they would like such a club to run in a morning, afternoon or evening, and what sort of books they would like to have.
- Future plans? Working with young people on environment issues, and hopefully with the youth council.

- **History report – Ann Petty**

- When Ann went to see Jimmy Francis to return the book he has produced, he said that we can have all the papers and documents that he has used to compile the book and some of these have already been given to Ann.
- Ann has also been to see Terry Robinson. He gave her some of his writings about being a child in wartime, which would be lovely in the newsletter so Nita will be given a copy.
- Ann has talked to Ron Goacher about the walk round the graveyard and we have decided to leave it until the New Year. Ann has also now got a copy of the Graveyard Survey for St Andrews that was done as Gracedieu Archeology group in 2002 and has given that to Nita.
- Ann felt the meeting with John MacDonald from Coleorton's Heritage group was exceptionally useful, and we agreed an information exchange and joint working where possible. Various information was shown to John, and he shared with us information on what he has done and how he proposes to work, and as a result, Ann gave him a copy of the railway line plan that he wanted.
- Ann will continue to liaise with Whitwick Historical Society about the title and land deeds they hold, and let the committee know of any cost involved when advised of this.

- **Councillor's 5 minute report – Ray Woodward and Dave Everitt**

1. We are still working with LCC on the bollard situation by Thringstone Off Licence, and waiting further developments, although it is probable that the bollards will be further up the road, rather than outside the shop.

2. We have been dealing with LCC on people illegally parking on grass verges within the village. Ray is in the process of initiating another meeting with Cllr. Tony Gillard about parking in the service road to the Community Centre. The initial response from County Council was disappointing, so we need to bring Cllr. Gillard on board, as county officers are reluctant to confer with District members.

3 Ray has received the thermal imaging report on the Community Centre, and will discuss this with county.

4. Ray worked with Ray, Colin and Bernard on putting up the lights at the Community Centre, and also finding out where the water was getting in and sorting that out.

A round of applause was given for this provision.

6. Ray will be attending a meeting the North West Leicestershire “Your Voice, Your Choice” Task Group meeting on Monday 14th December, 5:30pm – 7:30pm. He went to the last one and put forward a request for funding for the group, which was not successful, but if another more successful group drops out, we might stand a chance of some funding.

- **Police report**

For the second month running, no police attended the meeting and a police report was not given. It was however mentioned that there have been issues on the Booth Road estate in the past week.

From previous minutes

- **Gardening/litter pick update**

The gardening team have been continuing to maintain the existing planting, but have been requested by a resident on Grace Dieu Road not to put bark chippings on the flowerbeds in Brook Lane as it might add to flooding risk which is doubtful. Ray Woodward has agreed to talk to the gentleman concerned over this issue.

The litter pick on 22nd November attracted only 7 volunteers, which included David Taylor, and 7 bags of litter were collected, mostly from the streets. The next litter pick will be in March 2010, but members are still encouraged to keep the areas around their property clear of litter, and collect any litter they may come across when out walking.

- **Junior FoT/meadow project etc**

There are no questions from Junior FoT and the wetland meadow project is likely to commence in January. The school have advised Nita that they will contact Lorraine on this direct in the New Year.

- **Feedback on School Fete 4th December**

Tony and Sandie Newton manned the stall at the fete and sold 2 Village Trail 3s and one Memories 1. Thanks to both for doing the stall.

- **Grannie’s recipes**

No feed back has been received from anybody on the recipes already put forward, and Nita asked on Hermitage FM for anybody with recipes we might like to have to forward them on to us. We understand that the WI is continuing to look for suitable recipes. Someone at Nita’s workplace has offered to try some recipes, and may have others to put forward as being old recipes that can be adapted to a modern twist.

- **Christmas tree/lights etc at Community Centre - 11th Dec for Christian Aid Week**

Everything is in place for the procession and carol singing on 11th Dec. David and Janet Stevenson have said they will help with the procession marshalling, and a risk assessment has been carried out and the suggested route varied to accommodate people being able to walk two abreast in the procession. It is hoped someone will come along and take pictures of the procession. Nita has provided the centre with 30 carol sheets, and the centre have also run off 30.

- **DIY+ packs from The Ramblers**

Nothing has yet been received from the group, but an order has been placed.

- **Photography competition**

Nita had asked for volunteers to help with this, and is leaving it to others to put any pictures forward rather than dealing with this herself.

AOB

- **CRB checks**

The Marlene Reid Centre is able to offer CRB checks to FoT for £10 which is a considerable discount. However, with the introduction next year of the ISA checks, it was wondered whether it would be better to wait until the new forms appear for these, as these are completely free of charge.

All volunteers working regularly with the school need to have the necessary clearances.

This was further discussed, and it was agreed that the gardening team should complete CRB checks now rather than wait, as they may be further involved in working with Thringstone Primary School. Nita will get 3 forms to them for them to complete and return to her so she can get a cheque prepared and sent off.

- **Plans for 2010 to inc. G&D music event?**

Nita has been working on the Action Plan for 2010 which will be discussed at the next meeting, but it has been proposed that FoT work with the George and Dragon on their music event next August and try to turn the morning/afternoon part of the event into a family event with crafts etc., and help with the organisation of the site for that part of the event and turn it into a village event. The general opinion of the meeting was that this was a good idea, and would show cohesion between an existing event and FoT. Nita will talk to Pete Gough about this in more detail in the New Year.

- **Thringstone Miner's Social Centre (Miner's Welfare Building)**

Nita reminded the group of the public consultation meeting mentioned in her report regarding the proposed alterations, development and refurbishment at Thringstone Miner's Social Centre. This is taking place on 15th December from 3pm-6pm at the Social Centre. All are welcome to attend.

Nita thanked those present for bringing food along to the party, and wished everybody a happy Christmas and New Year

She was presented with a basket of plants as a thank you from the group for her work during 2009.

Next meeting 7th January 2010 at 6.45pm at Thringstone Community Centre