



The Friends of Thringstone

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th MAY 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Jim Wilkinson, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Sue Rowbottom, Denise Abbott, Ray Neal, Ron Hill, Pam Porter, Aileen Smith, Colin Perritt, Ann Petty

Apologies: Tony Gillard, Pam Clayfield, Rowena Summers, Dave Everitt, CSO Jim Sorrell, Sandie and Tony Newton, John and Karon Smith, Maggie Smith, Ray Woodward, David Stevenson, Geoff Walker

Reports:

Chair's report for May meeting

Letters received

- From Thringstone Ramblers with membership monies and details of walks they wanted advertising in The Bauble
- From Tony Gillard regarding new mobile library times in village from 10th May – details on website - see AOB
- VIP newsletter
- From EM Airport confirming we have been awarded £330 for planting in the village as per funding bid submitted earlier this year. Also received questionnaire to complete and return.
- From NWLDC acknowledging application for funding from Coalville Special Expenses and then confirming award of £200 for litter pick sticks for the group. Payment of award to be made by BACs transfer so details provided on bank account.
- From NWLDC inviting us to their inaugural meeting of the Green Footprints Community Network on 13th May in Moira which has been set up to work with others involved in environmental issues. I shall be going to this.
- Voluntary Action Leics. Directory of voluntary and community groups in NW Leics. in which we are listed. Will be useful to find speakers perhaps?
- From Community Centre asking for 2 nominations to the management committee.

Emails received

- From Voluntary Action Leics. about funding training
- From Marlene Reid centre about food and culture festival passed to committee
- From Whitwick Action Group about Coalville regeneration
- From CSV saying their next action date is 30th October (a Saturday). Pam is working on a litter pick on the same day to link in with this event

- Information passed via John and Karon Smith on Geocache reports on their visit to the village
- From person in the village about the graffiti on arches of the viaduct in Grace Dieu Woods. NWLDC will not supply chemicals as land is in ownership of de Lisle's who are having an estate meeting on 6th May to discuss this issue. FoT and Friends of Grace Dieu Priory have already offered labour to help remove, and photographs requested by Edward de Lisle of the graffiti have been taken and sent to him.
- From Joe Smith from Thringstone Scouts. He is taking his Queen's Scout badge and wants to do voluntary work with the group towards this award. He was put in touch with Ray Neal about helping with the memorial flower bed. It was also suggested that he could help with litter picks and he was given Pam Porter's number for contact. Tam thought that he should be generating his own project and be told that FoT would be willing to help.

Emails sent

- Various to and from committee regarding ongoing issues and forwarding of e-bulletin news and to membership about events etc.
- Reported fires in the woods following contractor's work to site agent
- To NWLDC asking for help with removal of roots to memorial flowerbed. This has now been sorted and a mini digger will help the gardening team.
- To Leicestershire County Council regarding Drury Lane

Promotion

- Details and photo of litter pick in RCC newsletter of 9th April, Lbro Echo of same date plus Coalville Times of 23rd April
- Contact from U3A about walk on a Tuesday around the village for their group to include Grace Dieu passed to Ann Petty to deal with (see Ann's report)
- Attended Leics. Walking Week Meeting and now have copy of initial flyer for Leicestershire Walking Week in which we are taking part, and in which details of our group and the web address are now given. 140,000 of these are being printed and circulated around the county. 13 water bottles have been given to our group to dish out to walkers as promotional items.
- Sent details of walks in April and May to Echo, Coalville Times and Leicester Mercury

Other

- Helped Friends of Grace Dieu (along with Ray and Pam P) on litter pick by Rusty Mary
- Meeting with Rhonda Dean to discuss Whitwick Community Centre Project. For further details see Nita.
- Went to deliver Cademan and Swannymote walk 11/4 but nobody turned up
- Attended meeting with Tam to discuss Mural Project (to be discussed later in the meeting)
- Reported graffiti on the arches to the viaduct. Hoping to get this removed.
- Took delivery from Tam of 20 hi viz vests sponsored by Fisher German and with the FoT logo and name on the front for which we thank Tam. These were displayed to the meeting.
- Meeting with landowner about Drury Lane – see AOB
- Completed risk assessments for FoT walks from National Forest Org.
- Phone call from Sustainability Team at NWLDC asking me to do a talk to council on 19th May to do with Transitions (Energy saving in community areas) and how FoT started and how it has evolved.

Nita was asked to encourage whoever won the parliamentary seat for NWL to come to any FoT meetings. She agreed to email the winning person immediately the result was known.

Treasurer's report

The accounts are still looking healthy, in that we are receiving more monies than we are spending, and with the additional £1,000 Highcross Bursary Grant, we are better than ever before. With the additional £200 from NWLDC for litter pick sticks and the £330 from EM Airport for planting,

we look comfortable for the year ahead. These latter two amounts have not yet been accounted for as the money is paid in arrears.

For those interested in breakdowns of income, this comes mainly from events at £398.82, followed closely by publications at £356.40 and sundries of £1,140.81. Membership is low at £124.50 but will pick up after the AGM.

Current bank statement shows balance of £2,149.97, outgoings of £173.30 for printer ink, publications reprint and newsletters and incoming of £20 made up of memberships plus one booklet sale.

Publications report

Stocks of Born and Bred 1 have been brought up to 25 through a new print run. One copy of B&B1 has been sold at the George and Dragon and one at the Community Centre in the last month, but a copy of Memories 2 appears to have been taken since the stock levels at the CC have dropped, but there is no cash representing a sale. £9 will be banked.

STOCK REPORT

| | Community Centre | George & Dragon | Nita | Central Stock | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Born and Bred 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 25 | 37 |
| Born and Bred 2 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 36 | 51 |
| Memories 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 25 |
| Memories 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 32 |
| Village Trail 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 26 | 42 |
| Village Trail 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 41 |
| Village Trail 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 41 |
| Sub-totals | 27 | 42 | 42 | 157 | 269 |

Web report

There continue to be problems with the site which makes it difficult to load new things on to it. John is investigating what can be done.

Arts and Community Report

Kelmscott Manor trip was successful and enjoyable. It was an informative day blessed with fine weather

Ray Sutton's lectures on Tuesday evenings (History) and Wednesday afternoons (art and literature) remain popular.

Pam led a walk for 2 people through the bluebells in April and raised £4 for the group.

Thringstone Community Centre have Maalstroom meets Jo Freya on 21st May. Tickets are £8 or £7 concessions. Show starts at 7.45pm

The Film Club has closed for the summer.

11th May at Thringstone Community Centre will see a Well Families Clinic which will run from 2.30-5.30pm. It is free, and health checks, free assessments, exercise and drinks are offered.

TPADS are putting on 42nd Street from 10th May to 15th May at the Community Centre.

We have two FoT walks coming up – 9th May (Gracedieu woodlands, canal and railway) and 23rd May to Cademan and Swannymote.

There is a ladies charity fashion show at the George and Dragon on 17th May starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 with all proceeds going to Cancer Research and Rainbows.

There is an open garden event at 109 Main Street (The Three Tuns) on 5th June for RNLI. The WI are helping to provide cakes and plants for sale.

History Report

Ann is now a certified walks leader. She is still waiting to hear from the man who owns the Queen's Head about taking photographs.

Ann has agreed to do a Thringstone walk for Coalville U3A on June 22nd.

Ron Goacher has spoken to Nita and is going to get back with various queries raised on burials in Thringstone churchyard. He currently has 7 foolscap sides of information on notable graves.

Ann has photocopied some parts relative to Thringstone from the 1910 will of Mr Mann, and is putting together a few photos of the monuments erected by Ambrose de Lisle in Cademan Woods to use on our walks. Ann has also let Nita borrow a book on Ambrose de Lisle from the library. This needs returning in 3 weeks time.

Councillors' Report

There was no County Councillor's report available.

However, Ray Woodward has reported that a Section 215 notice (Untidy land) has been served on the owners of the Fox Site asking them to clear it up and secure it. Citrus group are only the agents. The likelihood of this being heeded is very slight as the owners are registered in the Virgin Islands. Ray is continuing to monitor.

The problem of motorbikes in the woods continues and there is nothing further to report on ASB issues. The police have agreed to pay more attention to the woodlands.

Case work continues as necessary. Currently 6 residents have requested assistance in some form.

Police report

3 x assaults and harassment – one with suspect who is hiding, one with suspect awaiting interview (child), one charged the mother withdrew complaint.

3 x damage – one arrested and charged, one other suspect

4 x common assault – one arrested awaiting charge, 2 suspects bailed awaiting charge, 2 arrested awaiting charge – all this is from one incident at a family BBQ

1 x damage to motor vehicle – 2 suspects

1 x burglary other than dwelling

2 x theft from motor vehicle – three interviewed, but no charge

1 x theft of motor vehicle

The theft of plants from the church wall which have been seen in the garden of a nearby property have been reported to the police

From Previous Minutes

Gardening update – Following the removal of roots from the flowerbed on The Green, an email was sent to NWLDC thanking them for their help and a reply received. Discussion took place on whether the flowerbed should be raised or planted flat. Various things were put forward, and a vote taken which proved in favour of a flat bed for the time being. It was agreed that a sub-group be formed by Pam Porter to discuss planting of this area, and that plants that are needed should be priced up and details given to the treasurer for his action.

Next litter pick is 12th June. Pam Porter will liaise with Karon Smith about this, and link it in with the Geocache network. It was agreed that food be provided, and that we offer jacket potatoes as before. Nita will liaise with Lorraine over opening of the centre for this, and Janet Stevenson offered to deal with the cooking of these and the organisation of their purchase. Karon will let Pam Porter know how many people might be coming from the Geocache network so that catering can be organised accordingly. Nita will ask NWLDC to help design a poster and get copies for Pam P to distribute.

Junior FoT – Aileen Smith agreed to be liaison with the school and FoT as she is at the school regularly. Pam Clayfield has agreed to be the FoT representative on the school council and attend meetings. Aileen agreed to talk to the school about their wishes for the pond (which now may not happen), the wetland meadow project which has never started and working with the school in other ways. It was suggested that this liaison include a link with older people in the village, and

maybe the school might be interested in doing something at The Meadows at Easter or Christmas, and might like to consider working on plants for either window boxes or hanging baskets there, subject to the agreement of The Meadows. Aileen will report back on this. Nita had spoken to Sandie on the issues with the school, and Sandie had suggested she arrange a meeting with the head and report back, but as all this is now being sorted by Aileen, there is no need for Nita to have a meeting.

Tam mentioned that he would still be willing to work with the school on a cycle treasure hunt where parents join in with their children along the Sustrans route. Aileen agreed to sound out the school on this and report back on this as well. FoT could probably give prizes for the winner of this treasure hunt.

Nita gave Bernard, Colin and Ray a thank you booklet from the school for the work they have done.

Denise Abbott suggested that the group also try to focus on things for older adults, and work, possibly with the community centre and TADDAC and the luncheon club on Christmas dinners etc. Nita will talk to Lorraine on this.

Grannie's recipes – this seems to be going nowhere, so it was agreed to abandon it.

TLC event - the people from the committee of this event, who had agreed to come along to talk to the group did not attend, so no further action was taken on this issue.

PIP 27th June and Grace Dieu 4th July – stall manning and organisation. Janet has already agreed table pick up with the Community Centre for the PIP event. Bernard, Colin, Ray and Ray are requested to work together to get the gazebo organised and erected at both events. Janet needs people to help with manning the stall, and if anybody is interested, they should contact her. She also needs plants. Ray Neal said it is the year of the foxglove, so these might be an idea to donate.

Roy Hill is organising the Grace Dieu event, and also needs help with manning the stall. Please contact him if you are able to help, or contact Nita on either to pass messages on if you find this easier. Roy is going to talk to Lorraine about tables for the event. Tam has agreed to store the gazebo after the Grace Dieu Event.

AOB

Meeting re. Drury Lane – Nita explained the position with regard to a meeting with a lady owning land there. Nita has already written to County to try to establish who the contact there is and explain the issues.

It was agreed that the County Council be asked to contact the lady about the trees that are causing a problem with the footpath and boundary wall to Bob's Closs. The letter needs to state that vandalising of any of the existing FoT planting there or removal of the boulder at the entrance will not be tolerated until the position on ownership is officially established.

AGM – Discussion took place on whether to have a BBQ for the AGM. Tam agreed to contact Tori and Ben Stanley of Blackbrook Longhorns and see if they would be interested in coming to the event either to set up and sell burgers, or help in any other way that can be negotiated. Tam will report back on this. If they are unable to help, Nita will contact Lorraine about using the BBQ at the centre, and organise catering as happened last year.

Disposal of red tent – the old red tent is currently stored at Ray Woodward's and cannot be repaired. It was agreed that this be scrapped, and Ray was thanked for trying to find a way to keep the tent in use in the past.

Mural project update – Tam explained the situation with regard to the meeting held recently. Various concerns were raised about this project which is to put street art on the 26 concrete panels facing on to Henson's Lane recreation park. Nita explained that the wall is in the ownership of the Miner's Welfare, and she was not sure if they had yet given their permission for anything to be done to it. The idea is that the 12 youths who are working on the project link with the street artist and his team paint the mural in one day as part of a competition. Officers from County and District will have spoken to various groups in the village, and to the National Forest Organisation, about what the artwork might consist of. The youth leaders are only employed by the Council for one year.

Concern was expressed that these 12 youths had not arranged their own funding, but it had been sorted by county and district officers who had funding in the region of £2,000, and that they may not represent the feelings of all the youth in the village or the village as a whole. The cost of hiring the street artist was also discussed.

Tam had suggested to the steering group that the leaflet they were thinking of putting out round the village about this project be turned into a consultation exercise. It was not clear when this leaflet is to be produced, and nobody has yet seen it.

Members felt that maybe it would have been a better idea for a street artist to work on the changing room areas to the football pitch at the back of Thringstone Bowls Club where graffiti has already sprung up. Nita will attend the next meeting and report back.

Mobile Library update – Nita showed the meeting details of the new mobile library times, and left the poster with Lorraine to put up at the centre. Denise Abbott suggested that the group have its own board at the centre, but this is not possible at present due to lack of space.

Newsletters have been printed and distributed to volunteers to deliver and should be out all over the village shortly. An advert in The Bauble by Chapel Fitness Centre raised £20 for the group.

Charles Booth – Ann reported that a book on Charles Booth had been sold by John Dickinson, who was donating the £3 to the group.

A programme on maps which mentioned Charles Booth was recently on BBC4. A copy of the part about Charles Booth has been given to the group by one of the members in DVD format. It is very interesting and will be shown, hopefully, at the AGM.

Discussion took place on whether there is any news on the renovation of Charles Booth's grave in St Andrew's churchyard, but nothing is known. Nita will continue to liaise with Alan Burgess on this issue and report back.

Memberships – monies are now due. 5 people paid at the meeting. The cost is £3.50 for the year. The future of membership cards was raised, and it was agreed to scrap these, but to issue receipts. These will be issued by David Stevenson who has agreed to work on memberships, but outside the committee structure.

Tam asked how we could best attract new members. It was agreed that people try to encourage newcomers to the AGM BBQ, as events were always the best way of attracting newcomers. The PIP and Grace Dieu events this year could be a platform for getting newcomers, and it was agreed that we have not the manpower this year to put on a large event of our own, which would attract more people. Thringstone Community Centre has its centenary celebrations in 2011, and it was agreed that FoT work with Lorraine and the centre on this to draw in new members. Lorraine has agreed to let us know when the event will take place in 2011, but it will probably be July.

Committee vacancies were announced. Tam would like to be relieved of the treasurer's job, but nobody has put themselves forward for this role. We also would like to have an event team, help with admin, and help with environment work. Aileen Smith had already agreed to be liaison with the school outside of the committee structure, and Diane Abbott and Sue Rowbottom agreed to help with gardening and possibly next year with events.

Next meeting 3rd June – AGM. 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre to be followed by a BBQ on Bob's Closs weather permitting or inside if inclement weather.