



The Friends of Thringstone

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1st JULY 2010 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Bernard Lee, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pat Elderfield, Gillian Squires, Pam Clayfield, Brenda Simpson, Geoff Walker, John and Karon Smith, Dave and Julie Everitt, CSO Jim Sorrell, CSO Louise Willdig, Ray Woodward, Liz Thomas, Terry Robinson,

Apologies: David Stevenson, Rowena Summers, Jim Wilkinson, John Dickinson, Pam Porter

Speaker: Gillian Squires, Sustainability Officer for NWLDC.

Gillian talked about setting up a 'green' event, which had been the subject of a meeting with her and Nita, following any funding which may be successfully applied for through the RCC Climate Change grants.

She showed some slides on her computer of the stand she ran at Picnic in the Park. If the group chose to go with an event of this kind, NWLDC could provide a marquee and staff and bring generators which could be powered by participants' own bicycles to light different types of bulbs and show how much cycling needed to be done to power a television or a shower, and a whole house. There is also a scalextric which also works on similar principles.

She suggested that any event should be family friendly and have things for children such as face painting etc., and should involve other groups in the village.

Nita has already established that the Smart Driving Team led by Luke Barley are provisionally interested in working with the group on any event. However, they charge £400.

Gillian explained that the provision of help and equipment from NWLDC could be classed as matched funding, and that she would help with promotion for any event. Gillian also said that she felt FoT to be an example of best practice for other groups. Nita thanked Gillian for coming and for her support of the group and said that she would work on a funding application to see where this went.

There was a suggestion that any event be considered for October, which also ties in with The Big Switch Off (a national week to encourage turning off unused electrical appliances) although this may be difficult to work towards, especially if various agencies and entertainment is to be sourced and costed first, before the funding application is even sent to the RCC for consideration.

REPORTS:

Chair's report July meeting 2010

Letters Received given to Janet for filing and available for anyone to read.

- Marlene Reid Centre info sheet – available to view
- Details of VAL Extraordinary General Meeting and proxy form to complete and return as nobody was able to go to the actual meeting
- From LCC regarding Heritage and Arts 'working together' conference at Snibston on 9th October 2010. Information passed to Pam C and Ann P. Pam C has agreed to attend.
- VAL newsletter available in hard copy
- Warden's report and copy accounts for Community Centre following AGM
- Invitation to Mad Hatter's tea party lunch at Community Centre to the group for Wed 7th July at 11am. Anybody interested should tell Lorraine for catering requirements to be met.
- Ordered free items from Big Tidy. Parcel arrived of items to use on and help with litter pick events especially if we have a large group of young people and our existing supply of hi viz vests is exhausted. This parcel will be given to Pam Porter to store and also includes badges, posters and a book on running litter pick events.

Emails received

- Various from agencies about green issues, courses etc., passed around committee
- From Dr. Andrew Reeves re. climate change and CO2 emission reductions and work he is doing in this area which will link with us at some stage – hard copy of leaflet available
- From RCC giving information about funding for green events as per Gillian Squires talk
- From NWLDC about funding, one of which was sent to Thringstone Primary as it concerns Respect Challenges, which they acknowledged
- CSV Handbook to be used with our next litter pick on 30th Oct
- From Amanda Hanton regarding mural project and its plans – see events below
- From EMOHA saying that the lottery funding has come through to put the migration project forward, about joining a steering group, and that they will be in touch about how the project is to work. Nita has established that not being part of the steering group did not mean that the group couldn't work on the project itself.
- From Snibston regarding FoT joining the Friends of Snibston group. The meeting is 3rd July and we are unable to attend, but Nita stressed that working with this group could possibly facilitate other things in the future, such as storage for any artifacts found in the village, and should not be dismissed as not being of interest to Thringstone. She had indicated this to the Snibston group.

Emails Sent

- Several back and forth between Edward de Lisle, the group and NWLDC regarding graffiti on Grace Dieu viaduct. The product the de Lisle's have suggested is unknown to the people at NW who deal with such issues and another suggested.
- Reported telephone scams asking for money to police
- Several to and from NWLDC and Energy Saving Trust about working together on the green, hopefully funded, event
- Sent submission for award for litter picking to Kerrygold Community Awards which has been acknowledged, but means that we need to get people to vote for us
- To Coalville Cadets to see if they want to work with us on a litter pick to concentrate on clearing the woods of litter, debris etc. and to youth group along similar lines. Pam Porter to chase.
- Completed survey on walking for health with regard to our village walks and how to expand them and get more interest
- To Wetherspoon chain informing them that The Rose and Crown is up for sale, as they claim they are looking for new venues for their own chain. Details of the agents supplied.
- To Community Centre about extending hay rake and working with local employers on the Big Mission VAL challenge. A proposal has subsequently been put in to VAL for a second

hay rake to be one of the 7 projects in 7 districts they are hoping to work with. As this involves local employers offering help to groups, if successful, we could also increase our partnership work and possibility of sponsorship in the future. This second hay rake will be on 11th September with a 10am start. Nita will let the group know if we are successful in the proposal, but the 2nd hay rake is recommended to take place anyway, as Ray Neal is not able to continue to work on this project on his own indefinitely after the initial day.

Promotion

- Following information on latest litter pick to local media, Hermitage FM, NWLDC and Rural CC, copies of 14 photos have been put into our portfolio and sent to our website manager. Details have appeared on Footprints Challenge website (NWLDC), short article appeared in The Mail of 24 June 2010, an article with photo went into RCC newsletter and similarly into Loughborough Echo.
- Informed NWLDC's Heritage Officers that we are shortly to start work with EMOHA on the migration stories project for their Culture and Heritage News if this is still produced

Other

- Joined group to Litter Action UK - we now have a dedicated page on their website. Also signed group up to receive the Stop The Drop newsletters on litter and flytipping in the UK through the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.
- Met with judging panel for RCC Community Awards to discuss our 2 submissions which was an interesting if not challenging discussion. Results announced at event on 23rd Sept.
- Met with NWLDC to discuss possible joint event, funding, CSV event and working with youth groups and also working with school and community centre on wildlife fund which links with the BBC and the big lottery.
- Call from lady interested in working with us on the Scottish history migration project whose father was in the dam busters. Information passed to Ann who will follow this up.
- Various calls from non-members about the de Lisle planning applications (see Councillors' report)
- Roy Hill had attended the WAG AGM for the group. A report is available. They are now forming a membership system with a new chairman – Sue Colledge.

Treasurer's report –Tam Bream

Tam stated that he was very pleased to report that although we had not yet received the June 2010 bank statement, he had reconciled the accounts up to the end of May 2010. These are yet to be verified by David Stevenson but this will be done very shortly. His accounts match that of the accompanying statements so he was happy as to their accuracy.

At the end of May 2010, our account statement stands at £2208.47 but when the monies that we already have collected in May are added our final end of year total was £2270.97. If he accrued the expenditure of £319.87 then this would bring the total down to £1951.10. Whichever way this is accounted for is immaterial as it shows that, despite all the work done and things we have purchased during the last twelve months, we have made a surplus of £402.69.

He was also pleased to report that he believes we have already collected £462 in June. We have spent £210 already in June - £60 for the soil on The Green and £150 which has been paid to The Community Centre for the meetings that we hold there. We are getting money back through the EM Airport grant, and the soil is one of these items which will be reclaimed.

Friends of Thringstone is in good shape going forward, which is no mean feat in light of the economic climate. Tam's thanks go to those people who tirelessly work to encourage people to join the group, and run the events, but also specifically to Nita for all the work behind the scenes chasing grants and bursaries. Without these FOT could barely function.

Nita said that we are still a few pounds short to cover the cost of the newsletter for the coming year. She was hoping to attract an advertisement or some new members' subscriptions. We have gained six new members since the AGM (two joined this evening), but had lost seven. However, for

the first time since we started in February 2005, we are within £10 of covering the cost of the newsletter production.

Nita's petty cash stands at 28p.

Publications report – Roy Hill

Two copies of Village Trail 1 and one copy of Village trail 2 have been sold at the George and Dragon during June. This has been a good month and a bad month at the Community Centre. They have disposed of one Village Trail 2, one VT 3, 1 Memories 1, one Memories 2 and one Born & Bred 1. However they have not actually sold those publications, or they have been robbed of cash as only £1.50 in cash was available to pick up. We did notice that their sign still requests a suggested donation and this may now be out of date. Roy will devise a new system of sales to avoid losses and alter the signage on the display stands. £9 will be banked for publication sales this month.

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Stock	TOTAL
Born & Bred 1	3	6	6	22	37
Born & Bred 2	3	6	6	35	50
Memories 1	5	6	6	6	23
Memories 2	5	6	6	13	30
Village Trail 1	5	6	6	24	41
Village Trail 2	5	6	6	22	39
Village Trail 3	5	6	6	22	39
Sub totals	31	42	42	144	259

Web report – John Smith

The web site is now up and running again. Nita asked if we could link with Facebook and Twitter. John will look into this. Lorraine asked that the Community Centre section be updated. She will supply John with the information.

Arts and Community Report – Pam Clayfield

There is a lot going on at the moment. Collect your copy of the What's On leaflet from the Community Centre.

Pam Clayfield, Ray Woodward and Dave Everitt will be the judges for the school Thringstone's Got Talent competition on Friday 2nd July.

Pam read out information and dates for our diaries;

- July 4th Grace Dieu Priory Garden Party Start 12.30pm
- July 6th and following Tuesdays. Ray Sutton's talks on Local History at the Community Centre 7pm. His art and Literature course on Wednesday afternoons will start again in September
- July 7th Community Centre - Blooming Great Mad Hatters Tea Party Lunch. 11am start. Fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care
- July 17th Churches Together. Whitwick and Thringstone are holding an open air service at Thringstone Methodist Church. 2pm. There will be a marquee. Anyone wanting a stall please ring 451366
- Work on the Toilet/Kitchen project at Thringstone Church will begin at the end of July for 6-8 weeks. The church will be open as usual.
- There is soil for the taking from the church rubbish tip near the blue gates off Booth Road
- July 20th – 5.30pm. Mural Project Consultation meeting, Scout Hut – to discuss the mural previously discussed at FoT meetings after a leaflet drop round the village advertising this. There will be a litter pick at 4.30pm on the same day around the Henson's Lane recreation

ground. The mural will be carried out on August 7th and 14th, the latter day also being a fun day. No further details are currently known.

- July 24th – Thringstone Member's Club – Elvis Tribute Band 8.30pm – 1am. Disco and buffet. Tickets £10
- July 31st The Meadows Fete – time not yet known.
- July 31st to 8th August Art Group Annual Exhibition at the Community Centre
- August 16th -20th Summer Play Scheme at Community Centre. Contact Lorraine 222337
- August 21st – Thringstone Live For Charity music event at George and Dragon from 12 noon supporting Rainbows and Cancer Research UK
- August 28th Initial Hay Rake Picnic. Come and help to rake the cut hay and enjoy your picnic lunch on Bob's Closs. More details from the centre.
- August 29th – Whitwick Music Festival – Man Within Compass from 2pm supporting Air Ambulance
- 30th August - Charity Fun Day at Thringstone Members Club
- 2nd & 4th Mondays starting in September - Cinema Club
- 20th September A Centre Stage production at the Community Centre: Ill met by Moonlight
- 25th September Banded Together at the Community Centre. A dramatic production telling the story of the Whitwick pit disaster.
- The Village Quiz will be organised again by Mike Statham and the group are looking for team members to defend the title we won last year.
- There is an ongoing programme of walks. These are advertised on the website and in The Bauble.

History Report – Ann Petty

Ann Petty is interested in working on the Migration Stories project, and is awaiting more details. She took 10 people round the village recently, with some help from Ray. They were from the University of the Third Age, Soar Valley branch. She took £20 for the group. They seemed quite impressed with the village, but because it was so hot and she had already taken them round the ruins in the morning, they didn't quite make it down Loughborough Road.

She has been looking at the documents that Tam gave us and they make fascinating reading. They are to do with his old house on Gracedieu Road and date back to 1726. There are also a couple of wills where one brother leaves his "stocking frame with all utensils" to the other, and to his father "a pair of buckskin breeches" and these are dated 1735. There is also a letter from a military hospital informing a family that their son has died, dated 1841.

She has been to see Lavinia Bonser, whose family used to own The Star, who gave her two photos from the church.

She has been to Forest View on The Green and seen the cellar and made some contact with the owner regarding a better look round. She gave Ray an early photo which shows the front of the house as it was and hopes this might encourage the owner to look for the documents he says he has.

She has been to Pat Elderfield's house and was given some local history books for the group. Those books were donated to the Community Centre's library. Pat Elderfield was thanked for her generosity.

Councillor's Report – Ray Woodward

The Fox site has had a 215 notice served for untidy land and has now been fenced. There is interest from a prospective purchaser, who initially wanted to set up a Bar/brasserie, but he needs to finance this by building other properties at the back of the site. The Citrus group are willing to sell, but the planning application for a Care home is still open and it may be that he looks to build a care home. The prospective purchaser is also interested in **The Rose and Crown** and the property adjacent to it for the bar/brasserie if the care home idea for The Fox goes ahead.

The wife of Paul Scully, who died soon after buying The Star, was concerned about the effects of the **transformer pole** at the end of her garden. Work was now in hand to get this rectified to the benefit of all.

We understand information has been given to the police as to who has taken **plants** in the village including those belonging to our group. However, witnesses are unwilling to give formal statements.

2 planning applications have gone in relative to work to be done in **Grace Dieu Woods and Cademan Woods**. These revolve around access points on Turlough Road and another on Grace Dieu Road opposite no. 25.

These access points will lead to hard standings for vehicles to access the woods, as previously mentioned earlier in the year, and Ray W has asked that both applications be called in, which means that they will go to planning committee to discuss, rather than be officer driven.

He has also spoken to John Dickinson about this.

There have already been some appeals made against the planning, which also says that 35% of the trees in both woods are to be removed to reduce the canopy to allow new undergrowth to develop to protect wildlife, and the work starts in Sept.

44 tonne lorries are going to be used to cart away the timber cut down, which will be used for burning, as it is not suitable to be used to other purposes.

There will be a forest road (access road through the woods) which is a category 1a road and 3.2m wide, created off the hard-standings on Grace Dieu Road and on Turlough Road. Maps are available showing the hard-standings and route of these roads, which will be filled with 300mm of hardcore or equivalent and suitable for the gross weight vehicles. These roads can include culverts, loading bays and turning lay-bys and will provide a base to unload machinery used within the woodlands and provide a store area to load the extracted timber, as this cannot be done on Car Hill Road or Turlough Road. The idea is that this access road/forest road is left after the initial removal is done, to be used every 5-20 years for future coppicing work to be done.

Despite having identified ancient parish boundaries on the Grace Dieu woods side, this is unlikely to be taken into account when the hard-standing is put down.

Another temporary access point was identified, but English Nature is not happy with this as it affects the Site of Scientific Interest part of Grace Dieu woods.

Proper planning reasons will have to be found if what is proposed regarding the forest road or hard-standings is to be altered, not just 'we don't like it' or 'it spoils our walks/view'. Highways issues and the loading on the existing roads taking timber off site will obviously be one thing to mention.

The plans can be seen on the NWLDC website. Planning application 10/00583/FUL

An open meeting has been called by a local resident at the Hare and Hounds on 7th July to start at 7.30pm. Objectors need to write to the Council before the 14th July and it has been suggested by a flyer going round that objectors site issues of Highway safety, permanent development of undeveloped countryside and development not in keeping with the area.

Some residents fear that a permanent standing will attract fly tipping, possible traveller encampments/joy riding and local motorbike vandals. It was also pointed out that a High Pressure Gas main runs up Grace Dieu Road.

Ray Woodward will be talking to Richard Sohacki (the site agent) and Edward de Lisle about all these issues.

Police report

CSOs Jim Sorrell and Louise Willdig, who will be covering for him during his forthcoming holiday, attended the meeting. Jim said that a new beat officer, James Broomfield, had been appointed on a temporary basis until Donna Winters is fully fit, and would have come to the meeting but had been called away.

He gave a report on the crime figures in the village for the past 30 days which total 19.

Burglary x 2; Attempted burglary x 1 - smashed window, no entry gained; Burglary other than dwelling x 1; Theft of cycle x 1 - bike later found by owner in the woods; Damage to cars x 4 - 2 by same person who is known to the police; Criminal damage x 4 - 2 of these were committed by the same person who is trying to provoke a move away from the area. Ray W said that he was on the Council's priority list; Theft x 1; Anti Social Behaviour x 5.

Jim explained that there had been a change of status in ASB reports. These were now 'crimed' so the reporter's details will be taken and given an incident number. He read out the wide range of incidents which were covered by the heading of ASB. This will mean that there will be an apparent rise in crime in the area.

He was asked about the removal of the burnt out car in Main Street. As it is on private land it is not a police responsibility. It was thought that it is the responsibility of the landlord who is currently abroad. The tenant has moved out and the property is empty.

Nita mentioned that she and 2 others had this week pulled a child's go-cart in good condition out of Grace Dieu brook and this had been left in the trees between the viaduct and the back of Grace Dieu School. Jim had had no report of a stolen go-cart.

From Previous Minutes

Gardening update – Bernard Lee & Ray Neal

The planting areas have been weeded and the turf donated by Tony Dandy has been laid on The Green and watered in. Ray wants the Sycamore on The Green pruned back as it is creating too much shade over the new flower bed and Ray Woodward has asked the council to do this within the next month if possible. Bernard plans to strim the Millhouse area and has some wild flowers to plant there. He also asked for transport for the new tree needed. Ray Woodward offered his trailer.

The school project has fallen through as they could not agree on the location of the pond and wild flower area. Bernard would like to get some parents involved. The school also had not replied concerning the wetland meadow project. Aileen, who is our school liaison, had said there may be some communication problems with the school.

Litter pick

Pam Porter was not at the meeting, so Nita reported that the litter pick on 12th June with the Geocache party had been a great success with 39 bags of rubbish collected. It had been an international group with one member coming from Hungary plus two others from the Leicester area. The next litter pick will be on 30th October and Nita is hopeful that the youth cadets will be involved again and possibly the youth club. It is also possible that a free 'breakfast start' of bacon sandwiches will be organised, rather than a meal at the community centre after the litter pick. Nita has been in discussion with Pete at the George and Dragon about providing this at reduced cost, and it looks a possibility.

PIP 27th June and Grace Dieu 4th July – Janet Stevenson and Roy Hill

Picnic in the park at Coalville had been a great team effort and the bric a brac stall and plant sale had raised £207.50 to include a booklet sale. The residue has been taken to Roy for him to use on the stall at the Grace Dieu event. Ray W has the plants. Everything is under control. Bernard asked about the banner. Janet apologised saying she had taken it home from PIP. It was now with Roy complete with poles.

Sandie had offered to remain the official laundress for the tablecloth. She felt she owed it to Pauline Walker, who had made it, to take special care of it. The meeting was very happy for her to continue.

Memberships – Nita

Nita asked for ideas on how to attract more members.

- She wondered if good quality T shirts which were printed with our name could be bought and given to members who did environmental work. This was thought to be a good idea in principle, although someone suggested that tabards would be more transferable, which others felt would not work. Nita will investigate costs and report back.
- Tam had suggested a banner or A board to be put near to work being done with contact numbers. Nita will investigate this as well.

Tam had made several other suggestions which were discussed:

- Ask The de Lisles for some large logs from their tree work which could be hollowed out and carved or burned with our name, then used as planters at village entrances. This was thought to be a good idea. However they would need to be planted up each year. Nita will investigate whether the de Lisle estate can help with this, and investigate whether approvals need to be sought from LCC/NWLDC on placement of these once planted up.
- Leaflet drops. The problem here is delivery. Paying the Post Office was probably not cost effective and with as printing costs, this idea was not felt to be worthwhile. Leaflets, to be put in bags with sales at events, was thought to be more manageable. Janet offered to produce some A5 leaflets for the Grace Dieu event on Sunday.
- Ann Petty offered to make up some information display boards for the group to use at the Grace Dieu event and will collect information from Nita.
- Janet said she had been asked for postcards of the village, but had made some notelets which were well received. She could make up some packs. Roy Hill pointed out that we do not have outlets for sales so they may be difficult to sell.
- Nita agreed to continue her work promoting the group in the local media but feels that promotion by existing members and our work is also a great way of getting new members.
- Promotion to other groups in the area offering to give talks and to receive speakers was also thought to be a good idea. The contact with the Whitwick U3A had been positive and their publicity officer had attended this meeting and joined the group.
- A dedicated notice board within the Community Centre for the group has been arranged with Lorraine and information will be provided
- Tam is keen to involve the young people in the village and wants to organise a Scarecrow festival for which the children could buy sheets and mark the scarecrows with a prize for the winner. It was suggested that we all make an effort to visit the Heather Festival and see how they organise theirs. It was agreed that this would take a year to organise, and Tam agreed to work on this.

AOB

Joining RCC - Nita asked the meeting about membership of the RCC (Rural Community Council). It was decided that the benefits were already covered in various ways and it was not worth the group joining at the cost of £35 per annum, especially given that Nita is already a member.

It was decided to postpone the discussion on the memorial plaques to the next meeting as it was getting late.

If anybody wants a receipt for their membership monies, please ask.

Terry Robinson asked about replacing the conifers in Grace Dieu woods which had been felled by Italian Prisoners of War. It was thought these were not indigenous trees and it would not be feasible.

Next meeting. Thursday, 5th August, 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre