



# The Friends of Thringstone

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Rowena Summers, Tracy Foulds, Jo Johnson, Chris Mellor, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pam Clayfield, Brenda Simpson, Geoff Walker, CSO Jim Sorrell, Ray Woodward, Rhonda Dean  
**Apologies:** David Stevenson, Liz Thomas, Tony Gillard, John Dickinson, Dave Everitt, Lorraine Whitehurst, Bill Newton, Fran Skinner, Sue Rowbottom, Denise Abbott, Jim Wilkinson, Paul Banham.

Guest Speaker Rhonda Dean came to speak about the proposal for a Community Centre in Whitwick. She is the manager of the Community Coffee shop and Chairman of the committee working towards building a new Community Centre in Whitwick. This has arisen because there had been many enquiries at the coffee shop about meeting places for groups in Whitwick, especially now that the Working Mans Club is about to close. The church hall is small and in poor condition and the Methodist church hall has a restricted use covenant. They had identified over 50 groups looking for space. A suitable site has been found, with the help of NWLDC, behind the Wheel and funding is in place from grants. The Community Builders Fund have approved £75,000 for work with architects, planners for feasibility studies. The Social Investment Fund which is a government quango (protected in last review as part of the Big Society) has offered £1.3 million in grant + a 20 year loan. The contracts already in place at the coffee shop for training placements for young people and those with special needs could also be included.

The aim of the Centre would be to provide facilities in an eco friendly building. It is therefore necessary to find out what would work best. The needs of the proposed Parish Council and a visitors' centre for the Friends of Holly Hayes Wood are already under consideration. Consultation is taking place regionally (including Thringstone) to find out what the community wants, who would use it and how it could be used for community development. It would need to be run on a commercial basis and a business plan is being written. The money is committed for use by March 2011 so there are time constraints.

The Whitwick Party in the Park will be held on 4th September as part of the consultation exercise. Friends of Thringstone will provide leaflets and publications for display and sale on the Whitwick Action Group stall. Rhonda said that they were also working with local radio who were giving them a regular feature, fortnightly press releases, a leaflet and film on CD for every house in the village, talking to groups and a website.

Questions were invited and Rhonda answered them concerning the wish to work together with Thringstone community centre. It was not seen as a competing organisation. The differences between their proposal and the Thringstone Community centre were discussed as Thringstone is constrained by the need for County Council management of funds and this is at present under considerable pressure for savings. The Whitwick committee consisted largely of professional people, having a solicitor, architect and accountant amongst their numbers while Thringstone has a management committee of user group representatives. The centre would also be run by a manager/development officer, looking to develop business and other usage. It was clear that Thringstone felt somewhat threatened by the proposal. However we thanked Rhonda for coming to explain the situation and accepted her assurances that they wish to work with us and not compete. Further information is available from the Coffee shop and Whitwick Community Centre websites.

### Get well messages

Nita told the meeting of two members who were ill and to whom we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery: **Jim Wilkinson and Paul Banham**

### Reports:

#### Chair's report – August 2010

- **Letters Received given to Janet for filing and available for anyone to read.**
- From VIP – Volunteering, internships and placements (Amanda Hanton) with details of their project working which expires March 2011.
- From Royal Horticultural Society – Their Growing Communities magazine
- Another package of stuff from Big Tidy including car stickers all given to Pam Porter
- Copy of Village Voice magazine received by me personally – available to members if interested.
- Letter from NWLDC asking if we want a market stall on 28<sup>th</sup> August which is bank holiday weekend. Declined.

### Emails received

- Various newsletters/information etc. passed to committee as usual
- Request for dog bins on Turolough Road passed to NWLDC with little response
- From East Midlands Oral History Archive with update on migration project passed to history group and committee and a further one requesting a meeting in August.
- Invitation to attend the RCC Awards evening in Kibworth on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. We put in for 2 awards – one under community and one under Cleaner Greener. Nita attending with Ray Woodward.
- From local T'ai Chi instructor wishing to advertise her classes to our group – poster available.
- Email via VAL from young lady from Glebe Road interested in volunteering during her summer vacation from university. Gave various suggestions of things to help us with.
- Diversion details for Lbro Rd closure on 23<sup>rd</sup> July sent to those on email
- From NWLDC with their draft report on the Town Transition scheme working party we attended last month. Asked for some slight amendments which have been agreed.
- Copy of NWLDC's Planning Policy July newsletter. Copy available in paper form if required.

### Emails sent

- To members on email on behalf of Ray Woodward updating knowledge on planning application relating to de Lisle woodland management project and other follow up emails
- To FOGDP regarding issues they had at their garden party and offering suggestions
- To NWLDC and councillors asking about the removal of ragwort within the village from the Lbro Rd near to The Bull's Head – reply received and further email sent about Japanese Knotweed which has been acknowledged to Tam direct as he put the question forward.

- Discussions with various concerned people regarding the de Lisle woodland management project
- To membership about charity collection bags and some being unlicensed. Members should talk to Ray Woodward about this.
- Regarding events and ongoing issues to committee
- Enquiry about a presence at NWLDC's Happy Hearts Day on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 10 – 5pm at Hermitage Leisure Centre which is during Active Ageing week. Stall booked.

### Promotion

- See item 1 below!

### Other

- Following suggestion by a member, we have arranged for BBC Radio Leicester's Down To Earth team to record their programme at Thringstone Methodists with our group and invited others on **10<sup>th</sup> February 2011**. Further details nearer the time, but **we will need 16 people with 16 different questions, all submitted in advance in writing to Nita by end of the year 2010**.
- Attended National Forest Walks Festival de-brief. Positive comments about our walks. Next festival is 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011 through to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011. Will look to put on walks again for this.
- Sourced new risk assessment for Pam for litter picks which is more specific for those sorts of activities and includes sharps procedures, contamination from chemicals/bio hazards, handling injuries and natural hazards from cuts, stings etc.
- Attended Whitwick Action Group Steering Group meeting – report available
- Ordered FoT t shirts – now available for people to use who man stalls at events and help with litter picks. 5 still available. 10 given out.
- Meeting with Vice-Chair to discuss eco event – update – and other events and issues
- Invitation to have a stall at Coalville Air Cadets Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August, Whitwick in the Park event (stall £15) on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and at Thringstone Member's Club day over August bank holiday weekend. Declined as nobody could man stalls. WAG has agreed to have our leaflets on their stands at Whitwick in the Park and Whitwick Woodstock Music Event for which we thank them.
- Attended Henson's Lane Mural Team open meeting – report available
- Had some bus pass covers from NHS for anybody who wants them

### Treasurer's report – Tam Bream

Tam said he had received the bank statement today (5<sup>th</sup> August).

Outgoings were £73.31 for newsletters and £29.16 for BBQ food after the AGM.

Income was £160.81 made up of

£28 walks

£9 publications

£13 donations

£10.50 membership subscriptions

£100.31 for the Grace Dieu event

Not yet paid in £13.50 for 3 new members + donation

Current bank balance £2,236.96

We have yet to pay for the t shirts.

Nita said that for the first time, the membership monies we have will cover the production of the newsletters for the year.

Tam Bream suggested that we try to all attract further membership, and suggested that we have a prize, at the next AGM, to the person who has brought in the most new members during the year. This was felt to be a good idea.

### Publications report – Roy Hill August 2010

I have been unable to get to the George and Dragon this month and Lorraine is on holiday and so I cannot report on sales from those outlets. We have, however made one sale of Memories 2 at Picnic in the Park. It was too windy to display the brochures very well at the Grace Dieu event and therefore I shall consider ways of improving the way we can show them for sale at future events. £3.50 has been banked.

#### STOCK REPORT

	Com Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Stock	Total
Born and 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	12	29
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	143	258

#### **Web report – John Smith**

No report was available, but the website continues to be an asset to the group.

#### **Arts and Community Report – Pam Clayfield**

- \* August 7th – revised date for the summer fete at The Meadows
- \* 7th and 14th August I am onwards – mural painting at Henson’s Lane reekie. 14th August will also see some sort of competition and open fun day for the community.
- \* 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
- \* 4th September – 12noon – 5pm Whitwick Parks event for local groups
- \* Mondays starting in September - Cinema Club This will now be monthly and 4 month advertisements will be produced
- \* 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.
- \* 30th September – Happy Hearts Day at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick. FoT will have a stall there.
- \* The Village Quiz is being organised again by Mike Statham and we are still looking for team members to defend the title we won last year.
- \* There is an ongoing programme of walks and Nita is leading one to Cademan and Swannymote this next weekend. The next one Pam Clayfield is doing will be 5<sup>th</sup> Sept approx 5 miles Osgathorpe area

#### **History Report – Ann Petty**

Ann has seen Ron Goacher who has given her copies of some of the inquests for the ‘burial folder’ which are very interesting. Nita and Ann are meeting with Colin Hyde from the East Midlands Oral History Archive on 27<sup>th</sup> August at the centre to discuss the pilot project on Migration Stories which links in with the people who moved to the Melrose Estate in the 1960s.

## Councillor's Report – Ray Woodward

There is a constant flow of casework, which consists of assistance to council tenants. This includes a satisfactory response to requests for repairs, moves both in and out of the ward and advice on a number of questions raised, assistance with planning applications, with the applicant and residents with concerns. Casework also covers any aspect of council related assistance required.

Ongoing anti-social behaviour and nuisance motorcycles. Following a number of complaints of theft, unruly behaviour by both young people in the street and by youths riding m/bikes around estates and especially in the Gracedieu wood, another meeting was held between Ray Woodward, Auzra Flynn (community safety team and Anne Marie Brannigan's team leader), Andrew Wallace (Manager of Housing affairs) and Commander Brown (LPU commander NWL). Many points were touched on which included a lack of confidence by the public at large, a general lack of communication and the recent lack of a beat officer over the last 6/8 months

Whilst I was happier with the outcome of the meeting than with the previous one earlier in the year, it would be imprudent of me to say that every problem was going to be addressed. I was assured that reports of ASB of whatever type were in fact addressed by whatever resources were available at the time, (which mostly is a later call or visit and is always too late). It was stressed again by Com Brown that the police need information from the public to identify the culprits, and that **any** information and description should be passed on.

I have taken a liberty, and with the approval of this group, to put a little article in the next newsletter and to use this as a means of distributing a police questionnaire throughout the village. We now have a new beat officer in place and PC James Broomfield should shortly be back from honeymoon, and Com Brown would also ask that both PC Broomfield and PCSO Jim Sorrel attend the meetings of FOT when available.

There are a number of planning applications in the pipeline which I am helping with to try to see that they satisfy not only the applicant but also the wider community.

The application to build hardstandings for timber removal and access to the relevant woods (G/dieu and Calvary Rocks (Cademan woods)) is ongoing and more info is required before this goes to committee. Negotiations are still taking place between planners and applicant to try to resolve this matter.

Sunil at the post office is having a difficulty with an application to use the upstairs of the post office as flats, which includes renovation of the shop front.

The application to build 13 houses on the old coal yard on Grace Dieu Rd is progressing, but with a problem of boundary conifers and the Homestead Rd site has now had the all clear to proceed after some financial wrangling between the developer and Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. I still hope to recognise one of our former councillors by getting his name attached to at least part of the development.

I am still awaiting a reply from the County Councillor as to where the works requested are in the works list. These include the use of a front garden as a parking place (without permission) and all of the jobs around the Community Centre.

Work has started on the kerbworks and installation of the bollards outside the terraced houses adjacent to the shop. (top of John St)

After approx 15-18 years the clubhouse at the Homestead Road football ground is now demolished, the ground being cleared ready to re-build. Already the copper pipework and the boiler have been stolen. Could I ask, in association with all other criminal activities, that if any one witnesses any untoward activity on the site, to report it to the police.

The work needed at the Community Centre has been put on hold. Funding is likely to be withdrawn for putting the overhead cables in Bob's Closs underground unless work is started shortly, and the patio work is on hold, also for the stair lift to the upstairs hall.

The meeting felt this should be pursued as the lack of access to a public space was now illegal. Ray W explained that he had no direct access to the County Council and had to go through Tony Gillard. He suggested we write to our MP, Andrew Bridgen.

The Mural on the concrete wall is progressing and in my humble opinion does look rather good (compared to a plain concrete wall). Tam expressed the opinion that the money spend on this

project had not been well used. The project had not been youth led as stated, consultation with the village had been very poor and plans for the future removal of the wall were not in place when the leaders would probably have moved on. He asked for an assurance the leaders would be involved if the wall were moved. He asked that these concerns were taken to the project boss and not the wall painters. Ray W said that he would take Tam's points to the project group.

### **Police report**

CSO Jim Sorrell called in at the meeting to give us a report and tried to convince us that there were no problems in Thringstone compared with other villages as there had only been 15 reported crimes. Similar comments had been made to Cllr. Woodward in his meeting with Commander Brown, who said there were considerable problems near Measham.

The meeting did not accept this as an excuse for lack of police action in our own area, and noted that there had been considerable reduction in anti social behaviour as a result of increased police car presence during Jim's recent three week holiday. He explained that these car patrols had been asked to keep an eye on the beat while he was away. The meeting asked if this could be continued as he was still on his own, but he said that James Broomfield would be back from honeymoon next week and so the increased patrols would cease, although he was only posted as temporary help while Donna was still on light duties.

Nita and Rowena reported incidents of verbal abuse in the street by youths causing damage to trees near Grace Dieu woods and throwing crab apples at houses.

### **July Report**

Damage x 11, ASB Bikes x 1 issued with a Section 59 notice. (This means that a further offence will result in removal and destruction of the bike) 1, -2 suspects; 1 x shouting abuse – offender has written a letter of apology. Theft of motor bike x 1; Theft from motor vehicle x 3; Damage to motor vehicle x 2; burglary x 1 – male charged, 1 x from keys left in garden – many suspects but no help to police.

**Next litter pick** is on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Nita is working on getting the youth cadets and the scouts involved. The youth club have already said they want to help. She had arranged with the Members Club for food to be provided at 1pm. Tam is going to see if he can contact some cadets to see if they will also be involved, and Pam P has already ordered extra litter pick sticks for the occasion.

### **AOB**

#### **Publicity**

The T shirts, which were printed with our name, had arrived and were given to members who did environmental work and manned the stalls.

#### **Memorial Flower bed**

This discussion had been carried over from the last meeting. It had begun as an idea to commemorate the work of David Taylor for the village. Since then Nita had 4 requests for plaques to go on the sleepers of the flowerbed and asked for discussion of the criteria to allow a plaque to be placed there.

It was agreed that the person should have lived or worked in the village and contributed significantly to the community. Final decisions would be made by the FOT Committee. Geoff Walker felt strongly that this would lead to much ill feeling if some were accepted and others rejected.

Roy Hill said that the university had developed a document to apply for such a memorial which required the applicant to provide evidence of significant work for the benefit of the community. He would look to supply this to help the committee to make decisions.

Tam said that there would need to be clear criteria regarding, size, type face and materials. The cost would in most cases be paid by the applicant.

#### **Eco Event**

Following Gillian Squires presentation at our last meeting Nita and Tam had investigated the possibility of running such an event in October. There were several difficulties mainly financial, timing and evaluation.

The Community Centre would probably require payment for a whole day's use of about £320, other contributors such as the smart driving group wanted payment of £400. This would mean that money which had been obtained for planting and improvements in the village would need to be spent.

The time scale to October was felt to be too tight to organise a big event, but if deferred to next summer this would be outside the RCC funding schedule.

The grants available required follow up evaluation of the eco impact on the residents. This would require evaluations from the public and long term follow up. This was not thought to be feasible by our members.

It was suggested that we could run a mini event in conjunction with the Big Switch off week 10-17<sup>th</sup> October. Nita and Tam would investigate with Gillian.

**Next meeting.** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre