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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Tracy Foulds, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pam Clayfield, Geoff Walker, Roy Hill, Tracy Hill, Pam Porter. PC James Broomfield, Lorraine Whitehurst
Apologies: David Stevenson, Llynda Baugh, Rowena Summers, Brenda Simpson, Ray Woodward, John and Karon Smith, Jim Wilkinson

Reports:

Chair's report September 2010

Letters received

- VAL trustee board form and details of AGM circulated round committee and available to view
- Enable Partnership Event 23 Sept in Leicester. Information passed to committee
- Letter from County regarding attendance at Heritage Conference at Snibston which Pam C is attending
- Letter from RCC regarding programme for Village Achievement Awards on 23rd Sept, and on voting in for new trustees
- Letter from Snibston regarding procedures put in place for event we are attending on 11th Sept.

Emails Received

- Various from RCC and Council regarding proposed eco event to time with Big Switch Off
- Various from Mural Steering Group about their event on 14th Aug passed round group
- Various eco themed bulletins passed round committee
- Proforma and suggestions received on criteria for memorial plaques on The Green from Roy Hill for which we thank him.
- Invitation to 2nd community network meeting of Green Footprints group to go to EM Airport. Ray W to attend as nobody else available who has a current passport and driving license that has a photograph on it which is a pre-requisite.
- From Community Centre saying our FOT notice board is now ready to populate. Dealing

but need pictures to go on it. Ann Petty has agreed to help with this.

- From Janet Stevenson offering to promote FoT at Whitwick Park event – accepted.
- From local resident sending letter of official complaint to Natural England about the woodland work. Copied to all members on email.
- From North East War Memorials Project who are recording details of all war memorials and indexing these and their connection to elsewhere wanting details on Theophilus Jones who was headmaster here in 1914 and who was the first soldier killed on British soil in WWI. Details sent and information passed to Ann and to Steve Badcock, and photos taken of the blue plaque at The Old School and the roll of honour at the community centre and sent to them. Steve supplied a lot of further information direct, and asks if we would sponsor a brass plaque (with PCC agreement) at St Andrew's to commemorate Mr Jones' place in history.
- From Leon Spence (member) asking if people wish to sponsor him on a 530 cycle ride through France for the Pilgrimage Trust sent round members with emails. Others who are interested, please ask for details.
- From Whitwick Action Group attaching copy of letter sent to Housing Minister regarding green wedge issues

Emails Sent

- Updates on events and on going issues sent round group and committee
- Details of FoT assets currently held for audit purposes – list available
- Discussions with committee and Roy Hill over Christmas cards. Now being brought to all events and meetings. Please buy. We have 20 packs left to sell at £5 per pack
- To committee on where to find out about lighting changes in Leics. from county council website.
- To members about proposals to put 2 speed cushions and a priority chicane down Talbot Lane seen in an article in the Coalville Times
- To NWLDC concerning the amount of litter which is thrown from cars and vans into hedgerows
- Completion of various paperwork to register for help from young volunteers through VAL on line

Promotion

- FoT logo now on the mural on Henson's Lane recreation park
- Completed a facebook page for the group, and advertised our next litter pick on it
- Conversation with Laura from Mercury about migration project following press release put out by EMOHA (see below)

Other

- Meeting with Colin Hyde re. EMOHA pilot scheme on migration stories with Ann – information in Ann’s report
- Various emails, phone calls and meetings regarding proposed eco event on 9th Oct
- Filled in necessary form to get all FoT walks insured through Walking For Health.
- Nita has made a list of the assets belonging to the Friends, so that there will be no confusion should the group cease to function.

Decisions required

- Nita asked for agreement from the group to spend £300 on planting purchases. Agreed.
- Nita said that the Christmas cards for the group are available from this meeting onwards and will be taken to all events to try to sell. After sales at the meeting, 14 sets of 10 cards are still available at £5 per pack of 10. It was agreed members should support the group by buying cards, so that we don’t lose money on this venture.
- Nita discussed the issue of a plaque for Theophilus Jones at St Andrew’s, and it was felt that, given there is a record of him and his death both at The Old School house (on the blue plaque) and on the Roll of Honour at the centre, another plaque was one too many.
- Should FoT price up the cost of a roll up banner which could be used at events? It was agreed this would be a good idea. Tam had some suggestions as to who to use, as had Ann Petty. Nita will talk to both about this, but the meeting agreed if the cost were considered acceptable by the committee something could be purchased.

Police report

PC James Broomfield came to the meeting to introduce himself as the new beat officer. He handed out the new beat leaflets. Copies are available. He is new to the area and is working to get to know the place and people. He expects to be in post for about one year. Since the planned Fun Day had had to be cancelled because of the extremely bad weather he was now going into the schools with activity days. He replied to complaints from Tracy Hill about the deteriorating situation on the Melrose Road estate. He said that an Anti Social Behaviour Team had set up Operation Hedley and they would be working in this area soon. On the question of fires in the woods he said that the police were working with known culprits. He appreciated local feelings about the woods coming under the jurisdiction of Kegworth and was investigating what could be done.

He then gave the crime statistics for the previous 30 days amounting to only 12 crimes.

Assault and harrassment 2- One with suspect and one is an ongoing situation

Damage 3; Burglary 2; Theft of motor vehicle 1; Theft 1 – suspect being dealt with;

Damage to motor vehicle 1; Theft of cycle 2

James then repeated the familiar police attitude that Thringstone had no real problems and was a good place to live.

The next beat surgery is October 18th from 10am – 11am on The Green, Thringstone.

Treasurer's report – Tam Bream

Things have not changed since last month's report.

Nita currently has £33.28 in petty cash, but is intending to buy wine and lemonade for the wine and water stand at Snibston out of this money.

Publications report September 2010

Two sales at the George and Dragon have been made this month: one Village Trail 2 and one Born and Bred Part 1. There have been no sales at the Community Centre.

STOCK REPORT

	Community Centre	George & Dragon	Nita	Stock	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	6	6	18	33
Born and 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	21	38
Village Trail 3	5	6	6	22	39
Sub-totals	31	42	42	138	253

Web report – John Smith

The good news is that the website is all up to date, with all the newsletters, meeting minutes, agenda and project pictures.

Our web host seems to be behaving a lot better lately and John is able to upload new content without having to wait for ages for the connection to be established, only to have it fail after 30 seconds. Apparently, our site was sharing a server with a lot of very heavy usage sites (mainly pornography) but they have all been removed to a different host, so our site should be a lot more reliable from now on.

The web host have changed their Terms and Conditions so that new users don't get such a generous free deal as we have, so John is waiting to see if our hosting deal gets downgraded or if we'll be able to continue as we are.

We get 4Gb of space, new users only get 100Mb, we can upload much bigger files and we can use full FTP access whereas new users have to use a very restrictive interface and template system that would make our site impossible to set up or maintain. John hasn't found any other suitable free hosts for our site, so if the T&C's change we may have to start paying.

Arts and Community Report – Pam Clayfield

* 4th September 12noon – 5pm Whitwick Park's event for local groups Ann Petty and Pam Clayfield offered to help Janet with this.

* 20th September - A Centre Stage production at the Community Centre: Ill met by Moonlight - a tale of magic and evil spirits!

*25th September - Banded Together – the story of the Whitwick Pit Disaster. Tickets from the Centre and possibly from Whitwick Coffee Shop

* 30th September – Happy Hearts Day at Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick. FoT will have a stall there.

* Mondays starting in September - Cinema Club This will now be monthly and 4 month advertisements will be produced. The next four films will be: Nowhere Boy on 11th October, followed by Love In The Time of Cholera, Glorious 39 and A Very Long Engagement.

* The Village Quiz will be organised again by Mike Statham and we will be looking for team members to defend the title we won last year. This will be held on 10th November.

Other activities for the autumn will be advertised in future minutes, but details are available from the centre.

Pam also advertised the activities at St Andrews Church –

- 14th September Jan's Amble Sence Valley, Ibstock. Lunch at The Gate, Osbaston
- 25th Sept Moira Male Voice choir; Harvest Festival October 10th at 9.00. The church will be decorated on Saturday 2nd October between 10am and 12 noon.
- Auction of promises at Thringstone Methodist Church at 2pm October 16th. Please send offers to any church member.
- There is a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford on 16th October. Details from Julie Rowe 01530 838662

A new class for karate Kick Boxing will be starting very soon at the Community Centre. For further information ring 07954 572025.

The pottery class at the centre are still welcoming new members. £6 per session. Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm and 7.30pm-9.30pm.

History Report – Ann Petty

Nita and Ann had a meeting with Colin Hyde from East Midlands Oral History Archive on 27th August and subsequently with Margaret Bell at Thringstone Members Club to discuss working with the Migration Project.

This project has come about as a result of successful funding through the Cultural Olympics Fund. It was realized that a lot of foreign people will be coming to the UK for the Olympics in 2012 but similarly that there are a lot of existing people in our communities who have come from other areas and countries.

There is a lot of information out there which needs bringing together, and the project is to film people, and not just be reliant on audio work, as this is slowly becoming an outdated mode for recording things. There is a new website through Renaissance East Midlands and their sister site EMPedia upon which all the work will/can go. They have been funded through this site to put on anything relative to the project, and each group working on the project can also put information on there on walks (for example) and other projects linking to that group and/or their village. Slides, photographs and sound recordings can also be included on this site.

This project is to start after 20th September, and during the first year, Colin aims to work with groups in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, but it will be at least 2 months before any filming starts. They have 2 small camcorders and will have 2 apple mac computers to do editing.

He is willing to do training on how to do all this and work with groups, and will also provide any publicity posters and flyers to get a project underway.

A group can have a camera for up to 4 months to do their project, but the first thing needed is a timetable of what is to be done, when, by whom etc. , and after the recording, a log needs to be provided of what's been said, by whom and when etc.

Each video, in its finished state, must include a caption of what it is and where at the start and at the end, include not only people talking about their experiences but photographs if possible, and be edited. He said this is a simple process and he can help groups with this by offering training.

Obviously the first thing to do is establish who is willing to be recorded and provide a standardized generic questionnaire – he wants to meet with us on this before it's used.

Questions could include things like why did you come here, what support did you get, did you know anybody else from your original area, how did you find out about things in your new area etc.

Everybody who is recorded will get a copy of the completed DVD which in itself will be something for their own family history records.

We subsequently went to see Margaret Bell at Thringstone Members, who would be pleased to work with us on this, and help get people involved, including those who were instrumental in getting The Rangers Club set up, this being quite a unique achievement for a local group of migrant workers to set up in their new home. Nita knows an architect whose first job included working on the Scots estate, and that would also be useful information.

Ann has information from the Coalville Times on the questions raised at the time about the building of 200 new homes and how local people reacted. This could also be part of the film.

Action points:

- Nita is looking to hear from members who may want to work with her and Ann on this. Ann will also mention this to members of FOGDP to see, given the history link, if anybody wants to work with us from their group.
- Nita and Ann will work on the generic questionnaire, email this to Colin and hopefully come up with something that is suitable and acceptable to all
- Find out from Margaret Bell when is a good time frame for filming for her and her people and talk to our membership if they have a Scottish link
- Work with Colin to produce a lot of flyers and posters and get them out there – possibly mention in next newsletter dependent upon time frame
- Possibly approach Kay Lakhman and others who came to the area to be involved?
- Put something in the local press about what we are doing and why to get more people involved. Colin has already contacted the Leicester Mercury on this.

Councillor's Report- Ray Woodward

Ray W and Dave Everitt went to the unveiling of a Memorial plaque at Heather in remembrance of David Taylor The plaque is adjacent to a pin oak tree plated earlier in the year at the junction of Ravenstone Rd and Pisca Lane. They, with Dave's wife Julie, also did the 8 mile ramble in David's honour for the BHF on Sunday. It had been very tiring but they felt a sense of achievement.

There was not a lot else to report as the major items seem to be on hold at the moment. Work at Homestead Road, the planning applications on Grace Dieu Rd for housing on the Waldram's site and the applications for the permanent hard standings on Turoloough Rd and Grace Dieu Rd are still under negotiation awaiting highway reports when the officer returns from leave on 25th August. The application at the post office is still subject to reports. The bollards are now in place outside No 11

Loughborough Rd but an extra one has been requested outside 17/19 to prevent drivers mounting the pavement there

Ray has contacted the Environment Agency regarding the problems of knotweed and other weed in the brook at the bottom of Brook Lane and he has arranged for the reinstatement of the grassed areas that were damaged adjacent to the brook on Grace Dieu Road. He has also arranged for the re-location of the Brook Lane sign the position of which is misleading people unfamiliar with the area. Ken Beniston has agreed to deal with the willow tree in the winter. Tam Bream explained more about the knotweed and other weed problem to those with questions.

There was no **county council report**, but Nita reiterated that there were considerations being made to further traffic calming on Talbot Street following a request by Joe Wheatley as per her report.

From Previous Minutes

Next litter pick

The next litter pick will be on 30th October. Nita has arranged with the Members Club for food to be provided at 1pm for those taking part. Following emails sent, she has had confirmation that at least 10 Army cadets will be helping, with possibly some Scouts and Youth club members. Nita has provided Pam Porter with some inserts for the posters to advertise the event, and is willing to laminate some of these in due course. Pam will liaise with Nita on this. Pam will also see if the RAF Cadets are interested in helping on the day by talking to a colleague at NWLDC.

Gardening update

Bernard and Ray N have bought shrubs and a Mountain Ash from Sunnyside Nurseries in Ibstock so that Nita is now able to send off for the full EM Airport Grant of £330. They have also received donations of hydrangeas, hostas and heathers. An oak tree has also been offered and will be accepted.

Snibston Miners' Gala. FoT is to be represented in the procession and with a stall at the event. Bernard, Ray N and Ray W are helping with the procession, and Janet S has agreed to relieve Nita over the lunch period. This year, our stall is in the foyer area and will therefore be easier to find. We are also next to the Grace Dieu stall as usual.

The **Eco Event** is to be postponed as there is not enough time to organise this properly. Nita will contact RCC and NWLDC and discuss other options, possibly linking this with the Centenary Celebrations at the Community Centre next year (date awaited).

AOB

Lorraine asked about a **Christmas tree** for 2011. One had been donated last year. Bernard will talk to Margaret Staley.

Ray Neal asked whether there could be **energy saving lighting** on the tree in 2010.

There was some discussion about the problem of **hayraking** in Bob's Closs. This happens yearly although Roy said he was not aware of any publicity for it. County cut the grass but say they do not have equipment for baling it. Local farmers do not seem to be interested. It is extremely hard work and most of the people who offer to help are not getting any younger! The idea of a cutter/collector mower was suggested. The idea of fencing it fully for livestock and putting sheep on it for about six weeks was thought to be a better solution. The meeting agreed that Ray W as chair of the Community Centre Exec. Committee should be asked to talk to our county councillor with a view to this issue also being discussed at either the Community Centre's Executive Meeting or Management Meeting, or both.

Next meeting. 7th October, 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre