



# The Friends of Thringstone

'Working together to improve our village'

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Bernard Lee, Tam Bream, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Ann Petty, Pam Clayfield, Brenda Simpson, , Ray Woodward, Lorraine Whitehurst, Fran Skinner, Roy Hill, Janet Stevenson, Dave Everitt, Pam Porter, Leon Spence

**Apologies:** Aileen Smith, Tony Gillard, Rowena Summers, Sandie Newton, Geoff Walker, Sue Rowbottom, Denise Abbot, Diane Atkinson, Jacque Lloyd

### Reports:

#### Chair's Report Jan 2011

##### Letters received

- From Leicestershire Promotions asking if we want to place any advertising for £250 – declined
- Copy of RCC's Village Voice Winter 2010 magazine in which awards are mentioned including ours
- Christmas card from Andrew Bridgen MP
- VAT winter 201 training programme

##### Emails received

- From lady asking land ownership questions passed to relevant parties
- From NWLDC asking for more support for miner's welfare project. As a result, contacted chair of Trustees and they will keep us in the loop.
- Updates from Whitwick Action group sent to members on email. They have an open day at Whitwick Methodist Church Hall on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan from 10am – 5pm. All welcome to comment on the planning application for 1500 homes on the Whitwick Green Wedge. When Nita gets a copy of the standard letter that WAG want people to use to protest against building on the green wedge, this will be circulated around members on email. Those who are not on email need to contact Nita for a paper copy.
- From NWLDC asking me to promote guided walk around Coalville Arts Trail with Goff Lewis on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10am from Memorial Square. Free.
- From Phil Ellis regarding publicity for community centre events
- From Whitwick Coffee Shop with newsletter. Copy available.
- Invite to Green Footprints network meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan at Stephenson College. Accepted.
- From Marlene Reid Centre regarding charity event on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at Ibstock forwarded to people on email. For more information contact Marlene Reid Centre direct



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## Emails sent

- Various to committee and membership about ongoing issues
- Sent off for discount vouchers from Millett's from names provided to me on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec
- To Bob Rushton about helping us with the situation of wildlife in the brook as per last meeting
- Signed up to the 38 degrees website which is about protecting natural and ancient forests and woodland
- To various people asking when their events are in 2011 – Whitwick Picnic in the Parks will be 3<sup>rd</sup> September, there will be no Picnic in the Parks from NWLDC. Still awaiting replies from Snibston Discovery Park about Miner's Gala Event and for the January meeting of FOGDP to decide their plans for 2011. There will also, obviously, be the Centenary Celebration event and Scarecrow event on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Ann Petty mentioned that Whitwick Historical Society may also be having an event. Nita agreed to write to them to enquire when this is likely to be, so that we have a full list of events to attend.

- To Recycle UK asking for national campaign dates. Dates forwarded are Compost Awareness Week – 1 to 7 May 2011, Real Nappy Week – 16 to 22 May 2011, Recycle Week – 20 to 26 June 2011. Discussions about having a litter pick at least within one of these weeks for more publicity value.
- To Victoria Lowe asking when the graffiti removal is to take place, it having been cancelled at the end of November due to snow.

Dave Everitt suggested the group consider just doing this themselves, but it was pointed out that the youth club want to remove the graffiti in the village so they are seen to be putting right what others in the village did.

## Promotion

- All walks now listed on Natural England walk finder under Thringstone walks and will appear in a Leicestershire partnership leaflet from Walking For Health and the local NHS, which will go to all surgeries, libraries etc. Walks are also logged with the Walking For Health lists. Also listed our walks on Leicestershire Villages website, Thringstone page, as news and also in the diary part, along with details of our scarecrow event for 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- Article on Green Footprints Awards including interview with me in Coalville Times of 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

## Others

- Attended management meeting at CC. OK for us to use kitchen for litter pick on 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- Submitted paper copy plus DVD (thanks Geoff) to Footprint Challenge Awards having submitted questionnaire on line previously. DVD then sent to our website, as Geoff posted on Utube.
- Thanked Margaret Staley for letting us have a Christmas tree for the Community Centre
- Attended Whitwick Action Steering Group meeting – details available on request
- Call from Marlene Reid centre asking if we want to hire their rooms for our meetings – declined.
- Leaflet acquired indicating that Thringstone Football Club has a Club Shop which will help raise additional funds by shopping. Go to [www.thringstonefc.co.uk](http://www.thringstonefc.co.uk) for further details.
- Information from St Andrew's that the church wall is to hopefully be repaired by students from Stephenson College and that their Christmas Fayre raised £360 for the kitchen fund. It is unclear what money was raised for Christian Aid at the Christmas Tree carol event.

## Treasurer's report – Tam Bream

Income since last meeting

2 Memberships            £ 7.00



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Brochure Sales £19.20  
Donation (Harold Bates) £ 10.00  
Book sales by John Dickinson 1x BB1; 1xBB2; 3 village trails

Total paid in £62.70  
Paid out £100

Current bank balance £2,415.55

Nita holds £11.60 in petty cash.

### Publications report – Roy Hill January 2011

Nothing has been sold at the Community Centre, and it is unlikely that anything has been sold at the George and Dragon. Nita has produced new colour promotional leaflets, and these will be given to these venues, and also used at events etc.

### Web report – John Smith

The website is all up to date and includes a promotional DVD, which is also available on Utube, which Geoff Walker produced for the group as part of the Footprint Challenge Awards. Geoff was thanked for his work on this.

### Arts and Community Report – Pam Clayfield

The Community Centre is celebrating 2011 as their Centenary Year.

Watch for events. Main Event will be on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and will include our scarecrow event – see later.

- The Panto at the Community Centre will be Puss in Boots from 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Mid week tickets sales are going slowly this year and it was thought that the change of system which used to allow people to get tickets by going to someone's house had affected sales. It was also felt that promotion had been less this year. Tickets can be bought by contacting Alan Price on 01530 834575 or looking at the website [tickets@tpads.org.uk](mailto:tickets@tpads.org.uk). They can also be bought **only during the rehearsal period** from the Community Centre, and there is a 24 hour ticket hotline.
- Shep Wooley Singer & humourist suitable for 10+ age range at the Community Centre 5<sup>th</sup> March
- The Film Club ;  
21<sup>st</sup> February These foolish things  
21<sup>st</sup> March A very long engagement
- Tea Dances at the Community Centre Fridays 1.15-3.15pm Starting 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- Belly Dancing at the Community Centre Thursday evenings 6-7pm



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- Ray Sutton's talks on Art & Literature at the Community Centre Weds afternoons 2pm
- **Outside Thringstone** - Whitwick and District U3A monthly meeting at St David's Church Coalville 2pm 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, Robot Wars at Hermitage Leisure Centre 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 01530 811215, Whitwick Action Group: Green Wedge development planning exhibition at Whitwick Methodist church Hall 10-5pm, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

### History Report – Ann Petty

The migration project is progressing and a filming date is to be confirmed, but should be in February or March. Nita will contact EMOHA to see what dates can be arranged. Some filming can be done in people's own homes. Ray is liaising with the owners of The Forge, who have planning permission to build on their land, so that archaeology relating to the former toll house is not lost. Ann is helping with this.

### Councillor's Report- Ray Woodward & Dave Everitt

All three of the major planning applications in the ward have had to be re-submitted

1. The application to create living accommodation over the post office is due to be heard by planning committee on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. I have indicated that I want to speak to committee in order to steer through a reasonable and sensible improvement to the facility.
2. I have received a phone call from the Waldram's (the landowner) that a revised application is ready for submission. This has proved to be a controversial proposal with the planning officers, especially the urban designer, making what most people would think to be unreasonable conditions. Hopefully the proposals are now acceptable.
3. The amended application for the hard standings to facilitate works in both Cademan and Grace Dieu woods has now been lodged. There is still substantial opposition to the fact that the forestry commission is insistent that they must be permanent. My major concerns centre around the transportation of the cut material along Turoloough Road and Warren Lane to Swannymote Road. This application is likely to be heard in February or March. Case work continues with the harsh weather causing problems with heating systems etc.

**County Council issues** - Ray had done a village walk with the County Councillor Tony Gillard and pointed out that many of the issues of concern previously reported had not been resolved. Councillor Gillard undertook to look into them

- Parking on grass verges especially by the Thringstone village sign and also on Loughborough Road which have caused a lot of upset because of damage to the grass. There is need to identify the owners of the cars.
- The Build Out of the area at the bottom of Loughborough Road near the Bulls Head which was mentioned about a year ago



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- The Traffic calming on Talbot Lane
- The future of Thringstone Community Centre
- Grit boxes: provision, siting and servicing- there seems to be a shortage in the village at junctions which creates problems in snow & ice. Eg the junction with Springfield and Loughborough Road which causes drivers to slide into the main traffic highway when they are unable to stop on the slope. Similar happening at the bottom of Whitwick Moor onto Talbot Lane.

It was pointed out that traffic calming measures are underway near Church Lane, Whitwick and also on Thornborough Road. Ray W has asked Cllr. Gillard to keep him informed on progress with these issues.

### Police report

CSO Jim Sorrell sent the following report by email

Total crime **REPORTED** in the last 30 days in Thringstone is:

- Assault & harassment x3. Two of these have had No Further Action applied to them. This generally means that the complainant has withdrawn their accusations and the case has been dropped
- Theft x2 one of these has CCTV and we are awaiting the shop to produce the footage so that police can identify the person involved and they can be arrested
- Damage x2 one of which has been No Further Action
- Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) x2 Both snowballing incidents. One of the aggrieved has identified the culprits and they have been spoken to in the presence of their parents

There was some discussion about the best way to deter youngsters who were behaving in an anti social manner. The current problem is taking bags of dog faeces from un-emptied bins and throwing them at cars. Requests have been made to the council for more frequent emptying of the bins and incidents reported to the police to obtain incident numbers.

Fran Skinner had enquired about security cameras and been told that they can only cover private property as filming of the public highway is a potential breach of human rights, as innocent people could be caught on camera. Tam and Janet suggested taking photos on a private camera but this is also apparently illegal. The council are not willing to install road cameras. It is difficult to know where to place them.

Dave Everitt pointed out that damage to fences also caused during such incidents is not ASB but is criminal damage and should be dealt with by the police.



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Fran said that police cars were making more regular tours of the Melrose Estate but were driving round fast and not stopping.

#### FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Gardening update** – new shrubs will be required. Some have died by the church wall, and some others may have been stolen. The gardening team will shortly be doing pruning and barking. Pam wanted to know if Aileen is to ask the school to be involved in anything, but was told not at the moment. Tam is seeing Ella (headmistress) monthly anyway, so can mention things if required.
- Down to Earth recording** - Janet has taken over organising the list of people who can ask questions and has 16 people lined up. She will put those against questions, ensuring that people who want to ask their own questions get their own question to ask, and print out copies for both questioners and the BBC. FoT hope to get new members from this event. Promotional leaflets from FoT and stuff from centre (to include centenary celebrations) need to be put on each seat. Lorraine will provide stuff from the centre. The recording starts at 7.30pm sharp and people need to be seated by 7.20pm. We need to ensure that all seats are taken. We can do raffle and will do. We may provide teas afterwards, but can encourage people to the centre for a pint afterwards. Nita will do more promotion for this, and liaise with BBC over whether they will say much about FoT in their opening. She will also work with Methodists on setting room up and payment. Lorraine said that people can park on CC car park if they need to. Nita will contact newspapers and give a press release to promote this recording taking place.
- Centenary celebrations and scarecrow festival updates** – Information on the centenary celebrations will be the focus of our next newsletter. Tam reiterated what he said last meeting about the way the scarecrow festival will run and members were actively encouraged to think about doing a scarecrow. The entry fee to have a scarecrow will cover delivery (and possible removal if needed) of the straw. There was discussion about the best place to sell quizzes on the day. The quiz needs a gazebo allocated to it. Monthly posters will be done by the school and put up round the village. Scarecrows are to be original and humorous and not necessarily linked to any theme, as this could put people off. Help and advice can be given on this. Fran agreed to try to get people on the Melrose Estate to join in. Lorraine will give Nita details of all the centre users again so that Tam can ensure they are aware of the scarecrow event. Prizes will be given out at the centre to draw people in and judges may be children from the Brownies. A plant sale was discussed and felt to be a good idea. Pam Porter, Ray and Bernard are to organise this as part of the event. Given that there is no PIP and maybe no FOGDP event in 2011, it will be the same scenario as usual in that we will try to get plants sorted to sell. There may be teas offered on front lawn. It was felt important to be visible from the road. The centre's car park will be used by stall holders probably. Ben Stanley's outside catering has already been organised. Lorraine had a query as to whether Hermitage FM can come on the day or not. Nita will clarify. Ray Neal wants the TV there. Nita explained again about steering group dealing with organisation and that this was one of the points they would deal with, but can't guarantee TV. People dressed up in Edwardian costume was thought useful – could be floaters dishing out info on centre and user group although it was pointed out that the panto society have no costumes of their own to hire out.



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Lorraine asked that we ensure that the scarecrow part is promoted along similar lines to the centenary event, using the same format. She also wanted it to be remembered that the centenary was for the Centre and the focus should be there. Tam felt that prizes and activities on the day would bring people back to the Centre.

- **Old photos of the village** - it was agreed that we pursue this, but think in terms of photos on mounts, rather than framed photos and charge about £3-4. This will be discussed at committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January at which 10-20 photos will be available, for the committee to discuss which ones are to be used. Ann is liaising with John Dickinson and David White on this for us. Photos can then also be on sale at Down to Earth broadcast, at all events, including the centenary. Needhams charge £10 for framed photos of Coalville.
- **Litter** - It had been noticed that with the clearing of the snow there was an unacceptable amount of litter in the village. It was agreed that an extra litter pick was needed, so an additional litter pick is taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10am from The Green to clear excess rubbish from village. All welcome. Note that there is no free food after. Anyone who feels able to do any litter picking at a different time on that day is encouraged to do so and to leave any bags by the gate to the sustrans track just close to Melrose play area. Ray W agreed to arrange a pick up by the Council.
- **Next litter pick** - 26<sup>th</sup> March with food at centre (thanks Janet) afterwards. Pam is trying to sort specific dates for litter picks for the year to suit her existing commitments, and try to arrange dates, if possible, close to things like St George's day, so that they remain the same for future years. By doing this, Fran said people always know when the litter picks are, which reduces the need for so much publicity.

It was agreed we need to continue to ensure that everybody involved in litter picks knows when to stop collecting litter and when the food is served, so it all happens more easily. Pam said that people lose track of time, and the cadets last time weren't local and didn't allow enough time to get back to drop off point for sticks, tabards etc.

- **Future litter picks after March**- Pam is currently considering another litter pick at the end July possibly with FOGDP and maybe BBQ there (Nita has asked David Whitt to mention at the January meeting of FOGDP), with another in October to work in with CSV Action days as usual, and maybe another at the end of Nov/early Dec with people with santa hats on to create fun atmosphere with mince pies afterwards. Pam agreed to come up with dates at next committee meeting for discussion. This will be at the Hare and Hounds at 7.15pm on 20<sup>th</sup> January. The panto precludes us using the Community Centre.
- **Getting kids more involved in litter picks**- Leon Spence agreed to talk to Castle Rock about students from there helping with litter picks. Tam has spoken to Stephenson College and is trying to get them involved. We already tell school, scouts etc.
- **Clearing the brook of rubbish** – Tam, Roy, Fran and others are going to meet at 9am by the small bridge leading to the rear of Grace Dieu school on 16<sup>th</sup> January to remove rubbish from the brook. Anybody else who wants to help out would be welcome, but bring wellies.

There was considerable discussion about the performance of the council in bin and recycling box collection over the long holiday break. Some in the village will not have their recycling boxes cleared for a month due to the Christmas break.

Concern was expressed that there were not enough collections between Christmas and New Year period, although it was agreed that it was not as bad as in some places e.g. Birmingham.

Bernard and Ray W thought that the council workers had done their best, but there was a general feeling that collections had not been well planned and that could be the cause of people resorting to disposing of



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their rubbish in bags left by the roadside, of which there have been several close to Booth Road and Elgin Walk recently, which have been removed.

There have also been people using the litter bins in the village for household items, especially near the corner of Melrose Road (top end).

Members were advised to crush cans to save space in the red boxes and ask for more recycling boxes if you need them.

**Next meeting will be 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre  
– speaker Phil Wilson, Neighbourhoods Manager, NWLDC**



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