



The Friends of  
Thringstone



**'Working to improve our village'**

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**Visit our website at: [www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk)**

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

**Present:** Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson, Ann Petty, Roy Hill, Geoff Walker, Bernard Lee, Ray Woodward, Lis Muller, Leon Spence, Mike Statham (late arrival), Cllr Nigel Smith, Cllr Alison Smith

**Apologies:** Janet and David Stevenson, Paul Muller, Rowena Summers, Simon Jaggs, Dave and Julie Everitt, John and Karon Smith, Tam Bream

**Speaker:** Cllr. Nigel Smith, Chairman of NWLDC

Nigel Smith gave a well accepted, very useful, entertaining and interesting talk revolving around the work of the Chairman of NWLDC.

This is his second term as chair of the council. This is quite unusual, as most people in this area usually only carry out one term.

His role is split into 3 elements:

- 1. Chairing the full council.** NWLDC came about in 1973 with the amalgamation of Coalville and Ashby councils. Coalville Council had been formed in 1895. His role as chairing the full council is totally non-political, and he was selected from the ruling group to be chairman. At full council, he leads the meeting through the agenda and ensures all people have their say. To his left he has a lawyer and to his right is his deputy and in front are the councillors. He said it can be a lonely place and is often a difficult job. There are 6 full council meetings a year which are opened by prayers.



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**Stepping out for a greener district**

Decision can be taken at sub-meetings and recommendations made to full council to be voted upon. There are two committees where decisions are delegated and these are planning and licensing, as these decisions cannot be left for 2 months at a time. Licensing involves not only licensed premises but also taxi licenses. After meetings, there used to be a bar and councillors used to get together in the board room and talk, which was very useful. This has now stopped, but Nigel felt that it was something that should come back, with tea and coffee being available, as it was a good opportunity to network and talk to other councillors outside a committee set up.

2. **Representing the council within the district as civic leader.** He is regarded as no. 1 citizen of the district and only outranked by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire or Royalty. He attends various events, goes to schools and meetings and opening ceremonies and aims to promote NWL to as wide an audience as possible. A lot of people think NWL is just Coalville. He often says to school children that anybody can end up as Chairman of the Council if they want to and join a political party. Sometimes he is out 2-3 times a day and also has several events to attend in an evening, and also attends briefings at the council. In addition, he is a councillor for his own ward and sits on the planning and licensing committees as a councillor. However, when he is in the chair at council meetings, he is totally impartial. He pointed out that the role of consort to the chairman is also an important role.
3. **Charity work.** The Chairman's charity/charities are a personal choice. Following a suggestion by the previous chairman, charities are usually something to do with Leicestershire. Previous chairmen have raised up to £10,000 for their charities. This year, and last year, the charity was LOROS and over £10,000 was raised last year alone. The following day, he was due at EM Airport from 5am – 9pm with 4 helpers with buckets on departure and return flights collecting money for LOROS. The Chairman's charity also sometimes has a presence in supermarkets and offers fashion shows etc. to raise money. There is no NWLDC officer support designated to work with the Chairman on charity issues. All help is given voluntarily. The Council, however, still act as stakeholders and bank the money to give to the charity at the end of the year. LOROS need money quite desperately, as they only receive £4 million from government, and it costs a further £3.5 million a year to run the operation.
4. Question – could the chairman stay for longer than 2 terms? Answer – the chairman is voted in by the controlling group on the council and there is no ruling on continuation of term. It is a fantastic honour to go and represent the district both inside and outside its boundaries and promote the facilities available in the district and places such as Snibston, Conkers, Moira Furnace etc.
5. Question – does the opposition party have a say in who is chairman. Answer – no. It was agreed by Leon Spence and Ray Woodward that Nigel Smith does a great job and he was congratulated on his fundraising efforts.



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Cllr Smith and his consort were thanked for attending the meeting and giving a presentation and several members said they had enjoyed his talk and he would be welcomed back at a future stage. He then had a tour round the Community Centre, which he enjoyed. He expressed an interest in being invited to the next Panto and also to the Carols Round The Tree.

### **Chair's report**

Discussion points:

**Walks** - Nita organizes and leads on all the walks with the help of Ann when she is available. We have committed the group to doing a Cademan/Swannymote walk on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 as part of the National Forest Walk Festival so that we can add our information to their publicity machine, but Nita wondered whether other walks need to be organized. Income from walks has dropped drastically, and there is some overlap with the Charnwood Railway and Canal and Priory walk we do as Friends of Grace Dieu Priory offer something similar. We stopped doing our blue badge walks this year having had nobody turn up to any of these in the previous year, leaving us really with the Cademan Walk which is different and a history walk of pubs of Whitwick and Thringstone which Nita did this year for variety, which attracted one person. In order to do the walks, Nita needs to revise history dates for at least a couple of hours before each walk, and often turns up to do a walk for a further 2 hours with only one participant and consequently wonders whether this is worth it. For information, Friends of Grace Dieu Priory's history walks have dropped in popularity, and they have reduced these to only 7 next year.

It was agreed that Nita spent a lot of time on these walks and should concentrate efforts in 2012 on the National Forest Walk Festival and any others that could prove useful from a promotional angle. It was suggested 4 seasonal walks per year might be an idea, and to vary the days of delivery away from Sundays. Nita will have a think about this and announce walk dates in January 2012.

**Thringstone Quiz.** This is taking place at Thringstone House Community Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. We need 3 other people to be part of the team. We need to tell the centre by the end of this month if we have a team of 6. There is a cost of £2 per person, which also covers a supper, and this is payable on the day.

Lis Muller said that she and Paul may be interested and Ann said she might. Bernard said that Pam Porter might be interested. Nita will continue to try to find other team members.

**Energy saving issues.** Nita received information from Local United about a scheme where community groups sign up to promoting green energy supplies to their local community, and receive money back every year for each member that remains signed up on with particular suppliers. These are Green Energy UK, Good Energy, Co-operative Energy and Ecotricity. One member had suggested that this is a non-starter and the group agreed that it was up to the individual to choose their energy supplier, and that there could be repercussions if people found that their new supplier was not what they wanted.

### **Letters Received:**



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## The Friends of Thringstone

- Two parcels of leaflets, programmes and badges for Reel to Reel event.
- From the Community Centre asking for user group information etc. as per usual this time of year
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire training programme for Autumn 2011 and AGM information plus Trustee Board Members' ballot forms
- National Organisation for Community Organisations report, financial statements, conference details and AGM notice
- Parcel from Community Volunteer Service of 2 tee shirts, posters, thank you certificates, stickers and other stuff to be used for litter pick on 29<sup>th</sup> October 10am The Green

### **Emails Received:**

- From Lady Gretton's office expressing thanks for an enjoyable evening last month and giving appreciation for the reception
- From NWLDC reminding people, as in Vision, that Thringstone's waste collection day changes from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November to a Tuesday. From 1<sup>st</sup> November, the council will also be taking unwanted clothes and shoes for reuse and recycling. Items need to be put into a carrier bag and left with the red box. These items will either be recycled or used for sofa filling. They will not take duvets, pillows or other household items, but will take clothes, shoes, handbags, coats, scarves and gloves and sheets and linen. Please also see councillors' report.
- Data capture form for National Forest Walk Festival (19-31 May 2012) sent with copy of our insurance, and information passed to Friends of Grace Dieu Priory so they may also be included.
- Via website from NWLDC about advertising Miner's Welfare Social Centre in Bauble.
- From NWLDC about Heritage forum and autumn heritage funding projects (passed to Ann)
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire's training programme for the winter and asking me to attend their AGM in Leicester. Apologies sent.
- Thringstone Live for Charity intend to donate about £200 to Thringstone Play Group and £1000 to Thringstone scouts. The other charity is Rainbows.
- Invitation to attend open evening of Ashby Speaker's Club. Unable to attend as already committed elsewhere
- From couple in Aspen Hollow looking for their lost cat which was found. Details circulated. Cat had been handed in to cattery in Loughborough.

### **Emails Sent:**

- Various to committee and membership regarding ongoing issues
- To NWLDC Heritage section asking if funding is available for graveyard booklet printing, and whether admin help is also available to put the text into publisher format. Funding is available, so funding bid for £350 put together and sent.
- To local scouts and 1188 Air Cadets asking if they will help with next litter pick on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Scouts have emailed they are OK with this. It is on their calendar.



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- Email from voluntary group in Kegworth asking for advice on planting on grass verges, insurance, risk assessments etc. Replied accordingly
- Various emails to NWLDC about litter, litter bins and dog poo. Someone is regularly depositing bags of dog poo by the entrance to the sustrans off Turlough Road and also throwing dog poo into bushes and trees on the 'new plantation' further up the road. Requested signage on dog fouling. This will be mentioned in the next Bauble
- Various to County Hall plus discussions with people on Village Voices project. See history report.

#### **Promotion:**

- Photos and details of the presentation by Lady Gretton sent to usual media outlets – printed Echo 9.9.11
- Article and interview with Rural Community Council for Village Voice and also their weekly newsletter (was in newsletter printed 5<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- Reel to Reel event added to BBC Activity To Do site. Was also promoted to BBC Radio Leics. and Oak FM as well as usual media outlets. In CV Times and Echo 22.9 and Echo 15.9
- Registered litter pick on Community Service Volunteers website, so it gets greater coverage. Posters done and put up in some areas, and press release to be done this week.
- Interview with lady from Queen's Awards for local publicity
- We are now being followed by Isaac Ashe from Lbro Echo on Twitter

#### **Other:**

- Letters sent to WI and to Joyce Gelsthorpe to thank them for their work on food and flowers for the Lady Gretton presentation
- Janet and David Stevenson attended the Miner's Social Centre opening ceremony and were very impressed with it and the housing there. Playgroup there has now reopened. Concerns were expressed over this new facility's impact on the community centre.
- Further photos taken for graveyard booklet.
- A public meeting is being held at the community centre on 27<sup>th</sup> October to discuss next year's Jubilee celebrations. See later in the minutes
- Member is holding a seed swap on 11Feb 2012. Have asked for more details to circulate
- Thanks to Bernard, Ray W, Janet, Lis and Rowena for helping with the Snibston Miner's Gala whilst Nita was ill.
- Promoted Full Circle Project (getting film transferred onto DVD and stored for social history archives) to Whitwick Historical Group and delivered various Media Archive for Central England leaflets to them to give to their membership. Also discussed this with member.

Geoff Walker and Bernard Lee said they hadn't had a copy of The Bauble delivered for some time. Nita agreed to talk to the person responsible for the delivery on that estate and ask what was happening.



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**Treasurer's Report**



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## SEPT

### FIGURES:

<b>Funds held 1st of month</b> (bank + petty cash + float)	<b>£3,264.60</b>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>expenditure</b>
membership	£ 10.50	ink (A Petty)
walk (from July)	£ 6.00	water and wine
Snibston stall	£ 64.02	newsletter
publications	£ 144.50	
meeting raffle/flowers sales	£ 28.60	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£ 253.62</b>	<b>Total exp</b>
		<b>Total funds</b>

### **INCOME**

The stall at Snibston did not do quite as well this year, raising £64 as opposed to £92, but it was good to be represented and to give out the Reel to Reel leaflets.

We have received a cheque for £141 for the monastery for publications for their shop, which is a massive boost to the publications income.

### **EXPENDITURE**

We are still waiting for the invoice from the Community Centre for the hall hire on Sept 1st. In addition, Ray Woodward has already bought items for the Meadows Care Home project in the hope that we get the funding to do the planting etc. through the Respect Challenge. He is keeping invoices etc. until he has bought all he needs.

### **FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE ACCOUNTS SUMMARY: YEAR TO DATE**

<b>Total monies 1/6/11</b>	<b>£3,327.95</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>2010- 11</b>
membership	£ 49.00	£



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		599.50
		£
Walks	£ 12.00	65.00
		£
events*	£ 297.62	508.31
publications*** inclvd	£ 214.00	242.50
		£
donations	£ 17.50	35.20
		£
grants/awards/spons* *	£ -	1,178.4 0
		£
Christmas cards	£ -	30.00
		£
meeting raffle income	£ 60.60	195.00
		£
adverts	£ 15.00	10.00
		£
Booth Book (donations)	£ -	5.50
		£
other sundries	£ 5.00	-
		£
<b>total income</b>	<b>£ 670.72</b>	<b>2,869.4 1</b>



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Roy Hill asked what plans the group had to use money in the bank account. Nita said that every January we prepare a business plan for the year, and this would be discussed again in January, but did point out that one of the items on the 'wish list' was a display cabinet at the centre in which to display artifacts found and all the FoT certificates and awards and this has been something we've wanted for years.

#### **Publications report – Roy Hill**

Through personal reasons I have not been able to contact the George and Dragon or Community Centre this month to check on sales. I can however report a sale of Memories 2 by Ann Petty and that we have received the cheque from the Monastery. The initial contact was made by Ann for which we thank her. You will recall we sent them six copies of each of our publications on a sale or return basis. Therefore, £144.50 has been passed to the Treasurer.

#### **Our stocks are:**

	<b>Community Centre</b>	<b>George &amp; Dragon</b>	<b>Nita</b>	<b>Anne</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Born and Bred 1</b>	3	3	0	2	14	22
<b>Born and Bred 2</b>	3	3	0	2	29	37
<b>Memories 1</b>	3	3	0	2	2	10
<b>Memories 2</b>	3	3	0	2	6	14
<b>Village Trail 1</b>	3	3	3	2	18	29
<b>Village Trail 2</b>	3	3	3	2	17	28
<b>Village Trail 3</b>	3	3	3	2	20	31



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Sub-totals	21	21	9	14	106	171
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**Annual Sales to date (June 2011- May 2012) are:**

Events	Heritage at CC	Community Centre	Nita	Anne	Internet	Other
Born and Bred 1	2	1		6		
Born and Bred 2	1			6		
Memories 1	1	1		6		
Memories 2	1	1		7		
Village Trail 1				6		
Village Trail 2			1	6		
Village Trail 3				6		
DVDs						4
Photographs						

Geoff Walker said he had sold a DVD and would give the money to Roy. Nita purchased two packs of heavily discounted Christmas cards.

**Web report**

John has a list of updates to carry out on the website and will be working his way through this shortly.

**Arts and Community Report**

- Every week from 14<sup>th</sup> September through to 14<sup>th</sup> December – **Ray Sutton** talks 2pm start. £3 plus 50p tea and coffee
- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Coalville Male Voice Choir** at Community Centre. Tickets £5
- 15<sup>th</sup> Oct – **fund raiser for Whitick Action Group.** Tramps supper at Black Horse, Whitwick at 7.30pm. Tickets £4 from Colledge's florist, Whitwick or direct from the Black Horse.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct – 7.30-9pm. **Thringstone Co-op Women's Guild** meeting at Thringstone House Community Centre – speaker Keith Pare



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- 28<sup>th</sup> October – **fashion show** at Thringstone Members Club organised by WI. 7.30pm start.
- 29<sup>th</sup> October – 10am The Green. **Friends of Thringstone litter pick** and environment morning, with chips afterwards for participants if they want them.
- 7<sup>th</sup> November - 7pm – Geoff Walker is giving a talk to the ladies group at St Andrew's on **the colony at Mount St Bernard Abbey**
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – **Thringstone House Quiz**
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – **Donington Archeology event** 11am-4pm.
- 26<sup>th</sup> November – **Christmas gift and craft fayre** at Thringstone House Community Centre. 2pm-5pm. FoT not having a stall as we have no crafts and are unable to take second hand DVDs etc .
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Friends of Grace Dieu Priory will be holding their **carol service at the priory**. Further details nearer the time.

Century Theatre, Snibston has asked us to promote what they have available in October:

**Friday 14 October 2011** - YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER GIRLS, CHRISSY. January 1945, Paris is liberated. Christiane waits at Gare du Nord railway station for a ticket to England to be reunited with her English fiancée. This is based on the love letters of the writer's grandmother, and stars Caroline Horton, winner of The Stage Best Solo Performer Award 2010. Doors open 7pm, show commences 7.30pm. Tickets: advance £6, door £8. Telephone: 01530 278444.

**Sunday 16 October 2011** - LAZY LUNCH WITH ANN DUGGAN. Ann Duggan has established herself as one of the most distinctive voices on the UK live music scene and will be joined by her guitarist Rob Hines for a seamless mix of country, blues and roots music. In foyer/bar, admission free. Refreshments and licensed bar, 12 noon - 2.30pm. Telephone: 01530 278444.

**Saturday 29 October 2011** - MERCURY. After a decade on tour, Mercury is firmly established as one of the world's most authentic tributes to Freddie Mercury and Queen. Tickets: advance £15, door £17. Telephone: 01530 278444.

### History report



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12 of us attended a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable tour round **Ravenstone Almshouses**, for which we thank Mary Danahar who gave lots of information and dressed in costume for our visit. £25 was given to the Almshouse fund and flowers to Mary, for which we thank Sue Colledge.

The **Reel To Reel** event put on at the Community Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> September was a huge success with standing room only. Various films were shown, some of which were supplied by the Media Archive for Central England, and included film of the Walkers and their St Bernard dogs, and the building of the Woodside Estate and Coalville precinct. Some films came from local sources. Thanks particularly go to the Bulmer and Johnson families for their films of the floods in 2002, and to Geoff Walker for his film of the steam engine hitting a house in the village. We would also like to thank David White for his entertaining slide show.

As a result of this event, at least two other people have said they will send **local film** to the archive for their records, and it is hoped these will be shared with ourselves. In addition, a local gent sent us a few old photographs of Grace Dieu Road in Whitwick, which have been shared with Whitwick Historical Group. In turn, we are trying to help this gent find other photos to add to his own archive of the area.

If anybody else has film of themselves, their families and the village which they would like to see on a DVD rather than film, please talk to Nita and she will tell you about **The Full Circle Project**, which runs for another 2 years and seeks to get local film protected and preserved for future generations. Any film sent in will be digitized and the owner of the film receives their film back in DVD format. Film which to you may just be family things may in fact be interesting from a social history angle, and show how children used to play, cars and dress of previous eras etc., and so form part of an overall picture of our village in the past.

Ann attended a training day in Birstall for the **Village Voices project**. This project is an accent and dialect project organized by Leicestershire County Council, in partnership with the East Midlands Oral History Archive, and aims to record up to 6 people per village speaking set words and a piece from Mr Tickle and detailing how they would say certain key phrases. Nita has managed to get a full complement of people from the 3 suggested age ranges to take part in this project. Forms are being filled in for this to secure our part in the project, and it is hoped to start taping people shortly.

Nita has contacted **Richard Boulton** to find if he has any other information about his family's involvement in the village in the 17 and 1800s, but he only has what he has published on the internet.

Ann will attend the **Donington archeology event** on 20<sup>th</sup> November and take along the FoT roll up banner. A recent Heritage Forum meeting brought to light the fact that the **Coleorton Heritage Group** now has a Heritage Walk leaflet. Nita is awaiting a couple of copies of this leaflet, which is actually on sale at Ashby Tourist Information Centre.

Ann and Bill Newton, thanks to Ray Neal, have been talking to Jon Coward, a county council archeologist and a structural engineer employed, we think, by Punch Taverns concerning the knocking down of **The Rose and Crown**. They have to decide the best way to take the pub down without damaging the listed property next door. The archeologist dug a trench in the car park and another across the lawn at the back, but only



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found a few Victorian walls and the skeleton of a large dog. Ray Neal subsequently arranged for the estate agent for the listed building to take Ann and Bill inside. They went all over the house, even up to the attic, and lots of photos have been taken, both inside and out. They also went into the Rose and Crown, even though they possibly shouldn't have been there, and again took lots of photos. The pub is like the Marie Celeste - there are photos still on the walls and trophies are still on the shelves there. We need to go in again to rescue some things before they disappear. We have been talking to John Colledge at Whitwick Historical Group and he has said to try John Crocker's papers at Ashby Museum. Jimmy Francis has donated another of his books, this time on Charles Booth, to the group.

### **Councillors report**

The past month has been a hectic one for Dave and I at the Council Offices.

Most notably, as I am sure you will have by now heard, is that the planning application pertaining to Stephenson's Green and the development of the Whitwick Green Wedge has now been considered by the planning committee and unanimously rejected.

This, however, is only a next but nevertheless significant step in the battle to prevent development of the Green Wedge. Our next challenge will be a full public inquiry in early 2012.

Although this matter does not directly affect Thringstone we suspect that the outcome will heavily influence the potential development of our own Green Wedge which would undoubtedly have a major effect on the future of our village.

Turning to planning applications and notifications Telefonica have notified the authority (telecoms do not follow the usual planning application route) that they intend to erect a new telecommunications mast at the top of Talbot Street, Whitwick. This will hopefully improve mobile telephone reception in the village which has to be a bonus given the current state of calls regularly failing in Thringstone (with some providers).

If you have not already been made aware 1 November will see the District Council make major changes to bin collections, which for many will see their collection day changing.

### **The collection day for Thringstone will be Tuesdays.**

As Nita has previously mentioned, the District Council will also start to collect textiles for recycling from the same date. One of the reasons for this, amongst several, is to tackle the issue of unauthorised bag collections which we understand cause local people a deal of annoyance.

Further information on the changes to waste collection can be obtained from the Council switchboard or website.

This week I had a meeting with Council Officers at the Melrose Road play area, to which Nita came along, to talk about anti-social behaviour and extending the play facilities.

Officers assure me that it would not be a good idea to remove the current shelter at the play area as this is likely to exacerbate any anti-social behaviour which takes place.



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I also queried the possibility of additional lighting at the play area but similarly was advised that this too was not a good idea. Although lighting makes any congregation of young people more visible officers advised that lighting does tend to attract more youngster than no lighting.

On the positive side I am delighted to say that officers agree with me that play facilities should be extended, particularly for the 8-11 age group. In the coming weeks officers have agreed to undertake a local consultation on additional play facilities as well as sourcing funding for new facilities.

Once again as determination for the Rose and Crown site draws nearer I would remind members that I intend to speak at the Planning Committee to reflect the views of the village. Any comments are very much appreciated.

Aside from this Cllr Everitt and myself have conducted casework in Main Street, Grace Dieu Road, Heathfield, Melrose Road and others.

Leon Spence - Telephone: 07828 194768 - E-mail: [cllrleonspence@gmail.com](mailto:cllrleonspence@gmail.com) Web: [www.leonspence.com](http://www.leonspence.com)

### **County Council**

On behalf of the County Council, we can report that they will be replacing lighting columns that have come to the end of their useful life. The County Council is not required by law to provide public lighting but does have a duty of care to regularly inspect to ensure structural and electrical safety of existing columns and replace them where necessary. The lighting columns will generally be replaced on a "one for one" basis although minor changes to the column positions or additional lights may be required to better illuminate junctions or to avoid trees.

In the majority of areas 6m steel street lighting columns will be installed to replace the existing 5m columns as these columns are no longer a serious option when undertaking road lighting design to the British Standard. On occasions 8m columns will be used. The new lanterns are designed to reduce the unwanted upward light pollution but, because of their design, an increase in height is necessary to achieve the required spread of light along the road to ensure an even light distribution.

High pressure sodium lamps, which emit a 'golden' light, will be installed in place of the existing monochromatic low pressure sodium (orange) lamps. The new lighting enables better identification of colours, such as the colour of clothing or cars and meets the British Standard.

As far as Thringstone/Whitwick is concerned, streets involved are Rosedale, Carterdale and Ashdale, plus Glebe Road, Swallowdale, Whitwick Moor, Rumsey Close and Grace Dieu Road

### **Police Report**

None received again. Nita reported that there had been some hub caps stolen from cars in Springfield, and that twice in one month someone had taken the plastic outer coating from the litter bin on the Melrose play area. This was replaced both times by NWLDC within days of being reported. This week someone had taken the contents of the dog foul bin and scattered it all over the football pitch at the rear of the Bowls Club. Nita had picked up most of this, but was unable to pick it all up and had reported it to NWLDC as a public health hazard. It had been cleared the same day.



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Stepping out for a greener district





### **From Previous Minutes**

#### **Gardening and environment**

Bernard said that he has 340 different plants in his greenhouse in plug form to plant in the village in the next month.

Bernard has done some pruning down by the church to stop overhanging branches.

The banking at Millhouse has collapsed, and it is not certain what can go on that area now, and that several heathers and others were lost through the drought. He might try ivy.

The natural area planted by 181 Main Street is now attracting a variety of wild life and birds.

Drury Lane just needs grass cutting and weeding is needed down Brook Lane.

Roy Hill asked what the stake on The Green was about. Ray Woodward explained that this was the plaque to David Taylor which has been inserted near a new tree, and that there would be a dedication service performed by Rev. Alan Burgess to which David Taylor's family were to be invited.

#### **Litter Pick 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Our next litter pick on 29<sup>th</sup> October will see (hopefully) Thringstone Scouts joining us. We have promised to buy chips for all those people who want them after the litter pick. Please come and help the group to keep the village clear of litter.

General discussion took place on the amount of litter in the village, where it usually is, efforts made to recycle bottles, cans and glass, and about dog fouling. Nita picks up 3 bags of litter a day and has been all summer and one day picked up 81 cans/bottles plus general litter mostly from one area. In another case, someone had left a bag of beer bottles for Nita to recycle for them as Nita recycles all bottles, cans etc. she collects. It was agreed that there will always be litter to pick up.

Lis mentioned that Nita had been verbally abused by youths recently whilst picking up litter, and that others had thought she was a criminal doing community service by picking up litter. Still others thought litter removal from streets should just be a council function.

#### **Golden Jubilee Celebrations 2-5 June 2012**

Thringstone House Community Centre is planning an open meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm to discuss their leading on celebrations for the Golden Jubilee. Friends of Thringstone have been asked what ideas we have. Another scarecrow event had been mentioned but this needed to be worked on with the centre if it were to be part of their celebrations and a group of people needed to commit to working on it before things were taken further.

Roy Hill said that he would have worked on the event in 2011, but it came at a holiday period, and if a date for 2012 were identified in the not too distant future, rather than closer to the event, he would try to be part of any group working on this. Having spoken with Mike Statham on this as chairman of the Management Committee at the community centre, it was agreed that no decisions be made on what FoT would do until after the open meeting, to see what other ideas came forward.

Both Lis Muller and Ray Woodward felt that the group should work with the centre on anything they put on.



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### **Carols round the tree 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – decorate prior to craft event in November**

There is to be a craft event at the centre on 26<sup>th</sup> November as previously reported, and it would be good to have the tree and decorations completed by then. Bernard agreed to talk to Margaret Staley about a tree and see if he could find help with decorating the tree and centre for 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Nita will talk to Jan Cufflin about the arrangements for 9<sup>th</sup> December and carol sheets etc., and presumes that there will be the usual lantern procession from The Church. Geoff Walker said that rehearsals were already underway on the carol singing side.

### **Respect Challenge with The Meadows**

Ray Woodward has already sanded down and re-stained the bench and chairs which Rowena Summers donated to The Meadows, and is working on similar for the planters taken from the site and will also do the gazebo. Nita understood from NWLDC that a decision on whether funding would be available to the group was imminent.

### **Any Other Business**

**School fete** – 3.30pm-5pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Friends of Thringstone has committed to having a stall at this event to sell DVDs, books and videos donated by Tony and Sandie Newton. We will not be taking or selling any brochures. If anybody is able to help Nita with the stall, please let her know.

**Volunteer helpers required** – Nita asked if anybody was able to help distribute the 29 sets of minutes to members not on email since Janet is incapacitated for the remainder of the year. Rowena will deliver to those on or near Springfield. Ray Woodward agreed to do Booth Road and Homestead Road, Mike Statham said he would do Whitwick Moor and Talbot Street, Ann Petty agreed to do Martin Close, and Roy Hill said he would do the remainder which are Main Street, Loughborough Road, Swallowdale, Henson's Lane, Kelso Court, John Street, and Melrose Road.

Concern was expressed about the future cost of copying and delivering minutes to those people who are not on email and whether a central source could be provided where people could read a copy. Nita explained that some people actively look forward to their minutes, but that maybe in some cases, people within the same family or social group could share a copy. Membership, at the moment, entitles all to receive monthly minutes.

It was agreed to bring this item up again for discussion in January as copying minutes is costly and time consuming, as is delivering to people who may not read them.

**Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.**



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