

'Working together to improve our village'

Chairman: Nita Pearson
20 Springfield, Thringstone, Leicestershire, LE67 8LT.
Telephone: 01530 223434
[mail to: nita.pearson@ntlworld.com](mailto:nita.pearson@ntlworld.com)

Visit our website at: www.friends-of-thringstone.org.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Ron Hill, Roy Hill, Bernard Lee, Ann Petty, Lorraine Whitehurst, Brenda Simpson

Apologies: Janet Stevenson, Cllr. Tony Gillard, Geoff and Jane Wilson, Tam Bream, Rowena Summers, Lis and Paul Muller, Sue College, Cllr Leon Spence, Cllr Ray Woodward, Cllr. Dave Everitt, Geoff Walker, Pam Porter

Decision to be made:

Movement of the flowerbed and sale of the 6 sleepers which were £125.73 to buy.

It was agreed that the flowerbed still be moved, and that adult volunteers could be attracted by the flyer which Janet Stevenson is trying to complete for distribution at the panto. The cost of running these off would be 4p per copy at the centre, with the users' discount, and these could be put on the seats at the panto for all to see. Nita will talk to Janet about these flyers. Bernard is happy for his telephone contact to be given, but wants it made clear that there are no gardening requirements until the middle to end of March, and he didn't want people ringing up beforehand and only wanted adult help.

The **extra topsoil** from the flowerbed re-siting will be removed, and some of it given to the community centre, who want to soil over a disused area and then turf over that. If, however, anybody should **need any top soil**, please let us know. We paid £60 for this 18 months ago. Bernard suggested that **seasonal planting** of the flowerbed on The Green will this year cost around £120 and Nita has already asked the local business network if they are interested in sponsoring this for another year.

The meeting agreed that, in an ideal world, it would be best to limit the amount of seasonal planting to a minimum so as not to overload Bernard with gardening.

It was agreed to try to **sell the sleepers** for £10 each. Ron Hill has a contact who could be interested and would report back to Nita on this, making it clear they were not available until March. Nita will then talk to Janet about the flyers and what went on these.



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Sale of wooden posts used for 2011 Scarecrow event. There are about 45 of these.

They are 2 x 2 and 5 ft long and cost £2 each. It was agreed that these be sold for **£1 each**. Again Ron Hill thought he might be able to find some interested parties and will report back. There are 2 interested parties already who have spoken to Nita direct on this. If the posts aren't sold before the next Bauble is done, Nita will advertise these and the sleepers.

Business plan for 2012

The business plan comprises of gardening costs for the year of an expected £300 and insurance cover for £80 plus newsletter printing of about £126. Nita went through details of events that we could attend

to enhance the bank balance, but it was clear that **expected outgoings** of £506 would not cause too much difficulty with the bank balance. If we agreed to do events, there was no real expectation placed on anybody to generate any particular level of sales.

Bernard said that he needs a new tyre for the wheelbarrow but was having difficulty sourcing one. Ron Hill said he would have a look as he might be able to source one for Bernard. Nobody had any other requirements for expenditure outlay expected during 2012.

Graveyard booklet

The cost of these is expected to be about **£84 per hundred** for a full colour booklet with hard cover from Teamprint which is considerably cheaper than had been expected. We have sponsorship sufficient to **print about 350** and the meeting agreed that this be done. Janet has been proof reading what has already come through and made some alterations.

It was agreed that there be a **donation levied against each booklet** of £1.50 which would be kept in a separate account if at all possible or at least identified in a separate way. This would then be donated to the church to be spent ONLY on the renovation of the **Charles Booth grave**. That then ensures that all the money goes to the churchyard rather than the village as a whole, and is in keeping with the theme of the booklet.

It is hoped that all our outlets would stock these booklets, plus the church and maybe Whitwick Historical Group.

A business page advertising local businesses on facebook/elsewhere

One of our members mentioned getting a facebook (or other) web page set up for **Thringstone businesses**. There are others around that basically give people the chance to advertise all on one page what is offered in a particular area. The George and Dragon are thinking of setting up their own facebook page, which may solve this problem.

It was suggested that the FoT website had a page dedicated to local businesses where people could either pay to advertise, or conversely just put their telephone contact. Nita will talk to the webmaster about this in due course.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

- From Rural Community Council enclosing updated copy of their **Green Directory 2011** in which we are featured



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- From NWLDC confirming **£350 grant** for production of the graveyard booklet with terms and conditions and acknowledgement signature required. Sent off form and discussions begun on printing and circulation of finished booklet. Still waiting payment from NWLDC.
- From Community Matters enclosing **magazine** for Winter 2011.
- From Voluntary Action Leics. about a **funding workshop** at Margaret Street Church on 25th Jan. Information sent to interested parties.
- Letter from NWLDC inviting us to a **funding fair** in Coalville which has been declined as it duplicates the information given above from VAL.

Received:

- From NWLDC saying that they can only check on **people collecting scrap metal** if they have a company address to go from, and they can then check the licences issued, meaning anybody in an unmarked truck can never be traced. Residents are, apparently, responsible for checking to whom they give their unwanted items for disposal.
- Planning appeal to consider the **lorry loading area** opposite 25 Grace Dieu Road, Whitwick has been dismissed. This area was to be used by lorries to remove trees from Cademan and Swannymote woods.
- Collection for **Christian Aid** at the Carols Round The Tree raised £49.10. Thanks to all who contributed.
- From Whitwick Action Group saying they have now managed to raise all but about £90 for their **fighting to save the green wedge fund**, which is excellent news

Emails Sent

- Various regarding ongoing issues and forwarding of information, including reporting various things to NWLDC.
- To **Helping Hands**, an organization specializing in dog foul pick-up sticks which have bags on the end so fouling can be removed without it being necessary to then wash equipment used. We are waiting for further information. The meeting agreed that dog fouling is a nuisance and on the increase in the village and also in the surrounding woodlands, and that there are a lot of people who collect up their dog poo and then leave the bag. Nita has already addressed this issue with NWLDC.

Promotion

- Helped **promote the village** generally by uploading photo of the Carols Round The Tree to Leicestershire Villages site, Litter Action UK site and putting on facebook to show the depth of community spirit.
- Linked FoT to the **Queen of Easy Green's** Facebook page after invite from site owner.
- Completed form on line to add our group to the **community groups' information** kept by County Hall under infolinx which then also means we get added to the map showing community groups on the Leicestershire Villages website.
- Have been asked by **Coalville Eye**, a new monthly free magazine coming out on 10th February initially in Coalville and eventually in surrounding areas, for articles on Whitwick and Thringstone. This will be an ideal opportunity to promote the village and 3 articles have been sent

Other

- Completed survey for **Rural Community Council**



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- Sent a lot of **Christmas cards** to other groups/organizations, venues etc. We got a card this year again from Squire de Lisle and from our MP.
- As mentioned earlier, Nita has sent a letter to **local business network** thanking them for sponsorship of the flowerbed on The Green in 2011 and asking if they would consider sponsoring for a further year, to cover the plans we have for the Jubilee celebration planting.
- Nita has done lots of litter picking and over the Christmas/New Year week alone, 27 bags of rubbish were collected, mostly chocolate/crisp wrappers, cans and bottles, but including Christmas wrapping paper and cards dropped in the street and half a cooked turkey left on the football pitch. A further 21 bags of rubbish were collected during and just after the last bin day due to high winds blowing stuff all over the village. It was agreed that people not putting rubbish in bins with lids did contribute to a lot of the problem, and overfull bins also did not help.

Treasurer's Report

DEC FIGURES

December 1/12/11	£3,350.58		
Income		Expenditure	
christmas cards	£ 7.50	The meadows	£ 33.39
School fete stall	£ 33.70	stamps	£ 4.32
membership	£ 3.50	newsletter	£ 32.60
photos	£ 24.00	ink	£ 19.98
dvd	£ 10.50	raffle prizes	£ 4.50
raffle income	£ 10.00	plates for party	£ 4.46
total income	£ 89.20	total exp	£ 99.25
		Total funds 31/12	£ 3,340.53

You will notice that we spent more in December than we received. We will be expecting an invoice for renewal of the insurance at the end of January - this will be approx £75-£80. We are also seeking new sponsorship for the bed on The Green. At this point in the year, we are showing a small excess of £12.58 (difference between what we have received and what we have spent). I feel it would be useful to look at the figures for the year so far, to compare them with totals for last year. However, please remember that our 'year' is to be a 10 month year ending on 31/3/12 (as we are changing the accounting year end for admin purposes). Therefore I have also put a column to show what 10/12 (83.3%) of last year's figures would be (ie ten months worth, instead of 12 months). However, income and expenditure not spread evenly over the year and where such a % is irrelevant, I have adapted the figures and these are shown in a shaded box. e.g in the case of Membership, the year will end before we receive the renewals and so we can expect little more than the total showing to date.

INCOME: - Income from raffles and walks is down, but publications are up considerably (books, dvds and photos).

EXP: Although expenditure for the beds is low, we are spending again to restock this. You can see how much we are saving on the newsletter now that we have changed the printing to Teamprint!

Total monies 1/6/11 £3,327.9



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5							
INCOME	YTD	2010-11	83% (where relev)	EXPENDITURE	YTD	2010-11	83% (where relev)
membership	£ 52.50	£ 599.50	£ 55.00	newsletters	£ 65.20	£ 203.82	£ 65.00
walks	£ 12.00	£ 65.00	£ 53.95	admin	£ 165.23	£ 170.94	£ 141.88
events*	£ 331.32	£ 508.31	£ 421.90	events	£ 98.58	£ 122.82	£ 101.94
publications*** incl dvd	£ 268.00	£ 242.50	£ 201.28	publications	£ 10.00	£ 31.68	£ 10.00
donations	£ 17.50	£ 35.20	£ 29.22	litter picking etc	£ 10.26	£ 178.45	£ 148.11
grants/awards/spons **	£ -	£ 1,178.40		plants/bedding etc	£ 123.92	£ 288.83	£ 239.73
christmas cards	£ 14.00	£ 30.00	£ 24.90	christmas cards	£ -	£ -	
meeting raffle income	£ 76.60	£ 195.00	£ 161.85	raffle prizes	£ 10.80	£ 7.52	£ 6.24
adverts	£ 15.00	£ 10.00	£ 8.30	advertising	£ -	£ -	

Booth Book	£ -	£ 5.50		insurance		£ 75.72
				equipment	£ -	£ 116.33
				meeting room use	£ 100.00	£ 165.00
other sundries	£ 5.00	£ -	£ -	other	£ 195.35	£ 134.19
TOTAL INCOME	£ 791.92	£ 2,869.41		TOTAL EXP	£ 779.34	£ 1,495.30

Publications report – Roy Hill

Roy has not attempted to make contact with our various outlets over the Christmas period and therefore was unable to report on publication sales for the last month. However there have been other sales:

One pack of Christmas cards. (£1.50)

One complete set of eight photographs (£24)

6 DVDs (£21)

Therefore, £46.50 has been paid in to the Treasurer

Roy has given the remaining stock of Christmas cards to Nita for use by her as Chairman of the group. We have one copy of the Old Rose and Crown photograph left and two of each of the others.

Our stocks are:

	Communit y Centre	George & Dragon	Nit a	Ann e	Stoc k	TOTAL
Born and Bred 1	3	3	0	2	14	22
Born and Bred 2	3	3	0	2	29	37
Memories 1	3	3	0	2	2	10



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Memories 2	3	3	0	2	6	14
Village Trail 1	3	3	3	2	18	29
Village Trail 2	3	3	3	2	17	28
Village Trail 3	3	3	3	2	20	31
Sub-totals	21	21	9	14	106	171
Photographs					15	15
Christmas cards					0	0

Annual Sales to date (June 2011- May 2012) are:

Events	Heritage at CC	Community Centre	Nita	Anna	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			5			7
Photographs						9

Nita was given £3 by the centre for a sale of a book donated by Friends of Grace Dieu Priory, and will give this to the treasurer, as previously.

Web report

The webmaster has some updates to do from December onwards, and some backdating updates to do. These will hopefully be done shortly.

Arts and Community Report

Community Centre things

Cinderella, The Panto starts on 20th January – 9 performances including 3 matinees.

Thringstone Co-operative Women's Guild are going on 21st January to see Lesley Smith in the role of Ann Boleyn at Century Theatre, Snibston. They have a full list of talks in February, which will be given next month. It is believed that the trip to Snibston is already full, but interested parties need to talk to Pam Clayfield about this.



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Tete a tete, the French conversation group, meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 8pm in the bar lounge of the Community Centre, and any people with a reasonable command of French are welcome to join in the conversations.

Ray Sutton's talks start again on 4th January at the Community Centre. £3 plus 50p for tea and coffee.

Saturday 25th February at Thringstone House Community Centre there will be a concert by Annie Duggan, well known folk, jazz, blues and country singer. Tickets are £7.

In April **New Perspective Theatre** are returning to Thringstone House Community centre with The Honeyman. More details later in the year.

St Andrews –

Ladies group will recommence on 5th March.

Capellis – this hairdressers on Main Street has closed and will reopen with its original management on 6th March. In the meantime, Debbie and the girls have transferred to 'Head Office' in Whitwick.

History report

Nita has received information from the County Council on their war memorials site and on the Remembrance Day site, and forwarded these on to interested parties. Nita has also received updated information from the East Midlands Oral History archive, and again forwarded this on to interested parties.

It is understood that a recent archeological survey in Brook Lane has shown that there were probably 16th century timber framed properties in the village.

Ann has received a copy of the archeological report on The Rose and Crown. This is available to view on request. Nita has taken this home to get copied. The original will then go back to Ann. There is to be a January network meeting of the museum and heritage group connected to NWLDC to which Ann has been invited.

Councillors' report

No councillors present – they were all at another meeting

The County Council has replaced the broken bollard to stop people riding down the pavement at the junction of Shrewsbury Walk and Loughborough Road. County Cllr. Tony Gillard has sent an email to say that he is currently waiting for a decision on providing more lighting down Millbank. The improvements to the highway are now complete. This will help light the way to the George and Dragon although it was uncertain whether there would be a footpath.

Our village councillors had emailed to say that the planning application for the Rose and Crown has been delayed, and the de Lisle family's appeal against the hard-standing application on Grace Dieu Road has been rejected by the planning directorate as already reported.

Police Report

Following a series of emails sent by Nita to the police, our local constable is going to set up Thringstone specific beat surgeries. Previously, we were advised to go to Broomleys Road or Bardon surgeries. Nita felt this was not fair on locals, especially those with no transport. PC Broomfield is proposing to come up with 3 dates and monitor attendances. Nita suggested that attendances would improve if these were at times when people who work are at home i.e. weekends, and that the beat surgeries need more advertising generally.



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We have yet again received no report for the last 30 days, despite 3 emails asking for this information for the meeting. On the Police website, there is nothing for December. The latest is their happiness that crime for the area (not village), as far as November 2011 went, was down 8% on the year, vehicle crime was down 15%, they were happy with low burglary figures but wanted people to use their website more and were considering whether to use twitter.

From Previous Minutes

Gardening and environment

Bernard has ordered more seasonal planting and will give an invoice to Lis shortly for about £51. Bernard is taking the lights and the tree down from outside the community centre this coming Saturday.

AOB

None

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

The next meeting is Thursday 2nd February at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.



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