



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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We are also on facebook/twitter. Twitter address @Thringstone2

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2017 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, John Reddington, Pam Porter, Pat Darby, Bernard Lee, Bill Enser, Ron Hill, Julie and Dave Everitt, Mike Statham, Ann Petty, Janet and David Stevenson, Kath Ingall
Apologies: Geoff Walker, Ray Woodward, Tracy Foulds, Jane and Geoff Wilson

Discussions/Decisions.

Carols On The Green –. Many thanks go to everybody who came and supported this event on 9 December. We reckon there were over 60 people walking through the village and gathering on The Green to sing 18 carols, and many came back to the chapel hall to enjoy the singing with the U3A choir, and the wonderful (free) spread put on by the Methodist Chapel team. £55.25 was raised for Christian Aid. It was a wonderful evening and showed great community spirit. Thanks to all involved including Val Baxter for her accompaniment on the piano accordion. *Kath wondered why people had gone to the Methodists Chapel after the singing when in the past not so many had come in from the singing outside the centre round the tree. No answer for this could be given other than there was free food and tea.*

School Crossing - the lady who does the school crossing near the Members Club in a morning and afternoon has told us that, about 2 weeks ago, she got a letter from County Hall telling her that the council needs to make savings, and that they intend, over a period of time, to put cameras on every crossing where there is a paid crossing warden to monitor vehicle numbers and numbers of children crossing. As far as our one is concerned, they are going to monitor between 8.15am and 9.15am every 5 minutes but not in an afternoon. Children don't tend to come to the crossing until at least 8.25am and there are never any children going to school after 8.50am. The number of people using the manned crossing depends on the weather, the time of year and whether the parents are up in a morning in time to walk or go in their cars. There are a lot of children who use the crossing and are unaccompanied, and many mothers take their children to school in the car, but because of working part time, then walk back with them in an afternoon, which won't be part of the survey. As such, there is a wide variance in numbers of



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children and families using the crossing, which might not be reflected in the study the council intends to undertake. This matter has been referred to our county councillor for discussion. *David wondered we could enquire of the people doing the monitoring would also monitor bad driving practice, as there have been incidents of people standing on crossings and cars continuing to drive up the road and round them. David also wondered what the police view on this was. Nita said she would enquire.*

It was pointed out that it is not a statutory responsibility of councils to have a warden, and the only way in the past that wardens have been 'saved' from being laid off is due to publicity, like once before the Mercury got involved.

The new housing estate from Bellway Homes is unlikely to increase the use of the crossing, but could increase the number of cars turning from Loughborough Road onto Henson's Lane.

Proposals for shrubs and benches on the edge of the football pitch at the rear of the Bowling Club - Cllr. Everitt and Nita met with two ladies from the council to discuss planting of bushes/shrubs and a bench or benches on the Melrose Sports field. It is also possible that the existing dog foul bin might be replaced by a multi-use bin, as the council could be unable to afford a new litter bin.

We were told it costs £2.84 each time to empty a litter bin or dog fouling bin and about £300 for any new bin to be installed.

The idea is to put the bench or benches near to the sports changing facility, which is also where the new planting will go. The provision of other shrubs and/or trees was discussed, with a view to possibly putting bushes/trees near the existing car park area. This whole matter is now going to be further discussed, and we will keep everybody updated

Installation of adult fitness equipment on Melrose Road - at the same meeting as above, we were told that a meeting is taking place on 6 January to discuss the positioning of the adult fitness equipment near the existing Melrose Play area. There are two areas being considered for this equipment – close to the existing rails facing into the play area, or facing into the play area from the other side of what the council call the desire line access to the woods – the walkway that has been created across the grass at the end of the play area which goes down the banking to end up near the bridge on the Sustrans track. The equipment will be installed this month. We also discussed whether it might be possible, at some point in time in the future, to create a green walkway from the desire line, and put in some steps down the banking to the sustrans, but this is not a definite by any stretch of the imagination.

There was general discussion on this, and Kath said in other areas it had been reported that there had been a drop in the amount of vandalism in an area because of having adult fitness equipment in use.

Monthly litter pick total – 157 against 164 last year. Yearly litter pick total was 2017 of which Dave and Sharon Astill have picked up 624. This yearly total of 2017 is less than 2015 when the figure was 2053. This information, together with a photograph of 22 bags to compare our totals against, was put on facebook, sent to members on email, and also shared with one of the officers at NWLDC who deals with litter issues, with the portfolio holder for Communities at NWLDC and the chairman of the council. We had a lovely email back from NWLDC thanking us for helping them in their battle against litter.

We also posted this information on our Litter Action UK webpage, and sent details to Zilch, who are an anti-litter group with whom we are registered.



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Zilch commented on this impressive total and asked us if we would like to engage with them in educating people not to drop litter. This has involved several lengthy email discussions, and it would seem that Zilch feel that working with schools is not the way forward, as it will take a generation before any changes are noticed. They feel we should target one particular type of litter and try to eradicate it by 'working with local businesses to look at normative and positive signage'. Nita has explained how many bins there are in the village (16 in total excluding the Friends of Grace Dieu Priory bin near the Bull's Head and the dog fouling bin mentioned above), their position and size, and how often they are emptied. She has also explained about the lack of local businesses, and the amount of fast food litter being brought to the village by people from Coalville and thrown from vehicles or eaten in cars and then discarded on car parks. She also explained about previous discussions with local landowners, the good relationships we have with local shops and the chip shop in particular, and about discussions with local pubs and others. Zilch feel efforts should be made to engage with businesses to discuss sponsoring a bin for volunteers to then empty. They also feel that we should go around the Bull's Head car park at night, where there is always fast food stuff left in a corner area, and tell them where the bins are. Nita feels this is not something to take up, especially since we also find drug paraphernalia there on many occasions.

Nita asked whether people felt we should work with Zilch to tackle the litter problem or just concentrate as we have in the past on working with schools and the council.

There was a lot of discussion on this issue, ranging from people not being willing to change to others feeling shamed into stopping littering once pointed out. Nita discussed several instances where she had spoken to people about their littering.

David agreed to talk to the Bull's Head about littering on their car park and enquire whether they might also think of erecting CCTV to monitor it.

John suggested we talk to the Co-op about sponsoring signage in the village dissuading people from dropping litter. Nita said she would talk to the council about this, as they had been reluctant in the past to let us put up any signage, but if it were sponsored, maybe the council would be able to then do it.

Chairs Report

Letters received:

- Christmas cards from Thringstone Community Centre, Fanny Hugill (Charles Booth's granddaughter) and The Squire de Lisle

Emails received:

- Various from people with whom we regularly share information
- Two from Mark Stephens who is **Charles Booth's great grandson** thanking us for the work we put in to the Charles Booth event, congratulating us on getting 200 people through the door, and how pleased him and his aunt Fanny Hugill were at hearing that someone had come forward with copies of postcards from the Booth shipping line. The family would particularly support an event to commemorate the work of Mary Booth, whose work the family, and ourselves, feel is somewhat overlooked when talking about the Booth family.
- Various emails sent, and received, following facebook messages regarding the Coalville and Ashby Lions' **Santa Sleigh** not stopping on Loughborough Road. This was not part of the route approved by NWLDC detailing where they could stop, but several families contacted us after we published details of the route earlier in the month, saying their children were very upset because Santa didn't stop as he had last year. Following lots of discussions with the Lions group, people have now



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calmed down a bit, and the Lions are investigating whether they can add Loughborough Road to their route next year.

Emails sent:

- Various to groups and individuals as usual.

Promotion:

- We have **428 twitter followers**, which is an increase of 4 from last month and **346 facebook followers**, which is 7 more than last month. We regularly post information on both these sites.
- Article on the village and FoT written by Nita for **Vine Magazine's** December edition was printed in full. *Daivd suggested Nita contact the people at The Vine magazine and ask them to list Whitwick and Thringstone as villages in the area, as many people had not heard of The Vine Magazine or seen copies. Nita said a copy always came to the centre.*
- CV Times 9 December printed details of **Carols On The Green** and 16 December printed photos from the event with a short write up supplied by Nita.

Other:

- Nita has written a report on what the group achieved during 2016, which has been sent to the webmaster to add to what is available from the home page.
- We are sorry to report that our member Wendy Wileman died at the end of December. Condolences go to her friends and family. People might remember Wendy and her husband Alan as they ran the shop near the Fox Inn on Main Street for a while.

Finance Report

An internal audit over Christmas showed an arithmetical error in our accounts in August of 2p. This has now been rectified, so the figures below reflect this.

| | | | |
|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float) | £2,069.83 | | |
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| Publications | £57.65 | Broadband | £10.50 |
| Raffle | £16 | Community centre printing | £56.20 |
| | | Ink for Ann | £18.99 |
| New members | | Petty cash vouchers | £7.21 |
| total income to general fund | £73.65 | Total expenditure | £92.90 |
| | | Total general fund at month end | £2,050.58 |

Publications Report

St Andrew's Church sold several graveyard trails on the Charles Booth open day raising £7.65 for us.

Nita sold 1 x TAIP with 1 Scottish discounted, 1 WW2, and full sets of the Born and Bred and Memories books for £23.50. She then sold a photograph of the George and Dragon for £3.50.

The Community Centre sold 3 pubs books for £18 and also 3 village trails for the discount of £5.



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An end of year stock take has now been carried out. We now seem to be very short of the Durham miners books and Scottish in Thringstone. At some stage, we need to consider whether we order 10 or 15 more of these.

Web Report

The December minutes have been added to the website. There are still photos to go on there.

Police Report – PCSO Mark Ball

Our information below was sent to PCSO Mark Ball and agreed. He also wished to point out that there was a spike in daytime break ins during December in the run up to Christmas due to people leaving presents in clear sight, but someone was apprehended and many of the presents returned.

- We understand that the New Lives charity box kept on the counter at Thringstone Co-op was taken in the first week of December by persons unknown.
- On 3 December, a number plate was stolen from a moped on Swallowdale. The registration number was YK55 AMX
- A woman from the Woodside Estate was recently taken to court for not having her dog microchipped. She had also failed to keep the registration details of her dog up to date and was fined £1,179. The dog had been taken to kennels as a stray, and the lady in question was prosecuted when she came to collect her dog as the scanning of the microchip had brought to light an incorrect address. The fine was made up of £220 for failing to keep her details up to date and £959 to NWLDC. It became law in April 2016 for all dogs to be microchipped.
- From the Neighbourhood Watch Group – a car was scratched on Melrose Road. No suspects.
- We understand that a man from Ravenstone fired a BB gun at a girl in Thringstone (twice at her face and once in the back of the head) and then fired once at her mother in her chest on their doorstep in Thringstone just before Christmas and then went on the run. Police have the name of the person responsible, as he is known to the family concerned.

Community Report and What's On

The Ride and Stride annual event, which always comes to **St Andrew's**, raised £176 of which £88 comes back to St Andrew's. Thanks to all who supported this event. The Children's Society Boxes raised £675.25. Again thanks to all who supported this.

A collection at the carol service at **the priory** on 4 December raised £108.03. Thanks go to all who supported the event and to members of St Andrew's and Val Baxter for the musical accompaniment.

Thringstone Panto and Drama Society is looking for men and women over the age of 16 to join them for their May production of White Christmas. Auditions will take place on 2nd Feb at 7.30pm at the centre.

£250.76 was raised at the **Primary School** for LRI by collections taken during the Christmas period. This money will go towards helping babies and their families on the clinical unit. Thanks have been sent from the hospital to the school.

Samara's Aid Appeal for Syria Rhona Passey from St Andrew's is collecting winter clothing for Samara's Appeal. Please donate any good quality winter clothing (men's, women's, children's and babies'). These will be stored at The Vicarage on North Street for Rhona to collect. Deadline



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Stepping out for a greener district



Sunday 15th January 2017. The side door of the vicarage garage will be left open from 3rd January for deliveries. For more details go to: <http://www.samarasaidappeal.org/> Thank you. The raffle held at The Bull's Head at Christmas for a hamper was won by someone called James and **raised £236 for Adapt**, the baby charity. Thanks go to everybody who took part.

A Boxing Day charity football match at the Miners' FC raised £368.30 for Gail's Wish cancer charity. Thank you to all who took part and contributed in any way at all.

Congratulations to Thringstone's Linda Montgomery for winning the **Hayes Close** carer of the year award and her daughter Heather who won the carer of the year award at **The Old School House**.

The Woodstock in Whitwick **Woofers Walk** raised £110 for Woodstock 2017. Thanks to all who came with their dogs.

The Christmas Fayre at **Thringstone Primary** raised £960 for the PTA. Thanks to everybody who came and supported the event. The school will now be able to buy a water cooler for Key Stage 1 students, and a new PA system for the school to use at outside events.

- 6 Jan - Soul and Motown night at **Black Horse, Whitwick** with Eleanor Matley from 9pm.
- 6 Jan – Megaslam Wrestling at **Hermitage Leisure Centre**. 7pm. Tickets from the centre. Ringside seats at £15.50, others are £12. Children's tickets are £10, with a family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children coming in at £39.
- 8 Jan – Marilyn Monroe in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes at **Century Theatre**. Starts at 2.30pm. Tickets £3.50
- 13 Jan – Thringstone Members Club – **Thringstone Soul Night**. Starts at 8pm. £3 on the door. All welcome. Resident DJs are Steve Storer, Tony Hipwell and Colin Douglas.
- 13 Jan – I Daniel Blake (film) at **Century Theatre**. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50.
- 20 Jan – **Century Theatre** – Paul Jones (ex Manfred Mann) and Dave Kelly (founder member of The Blues Band). Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £22.
- 20-28 Jan – Thringstone Panto and Drama Society production of **Beauty and the Beast**. Tickets can be bought from the Panto's website or ordered from the centre office. This year's charity collections will go to the LRI baby unit.
- 30Jan – **Film Night** at Thringstone Community Centre. Film is Race and starts at 7pm Raffle is £2 to cover costs..
- 10 Feb – Bridget Jones' Baby (Film) at **Century Theatre**. Starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50.
- 18 Feb – Hats off to Laurel and Hardy with **Lucky Dog Theatre Productions** at Century Theatre. Tickets £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Starts at 7.30pm.
- 25 Feb – String quarter at **Thringstone House** performing Haydn's Op 77 no. 2 in F major and Debussy's Op 10 in G Minor. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/thringstone or from the centre during office hours..
- 17 March 2017 – Centre Stage Production at Thringstone House of **Tim Kliphuis Trio Goes Grappelli** – a classical violinist and his group perform the music of Stephane Grappelli. Tickets £9 from www.ticketsource.co.uk or from the centre office which is open Monday-Friday 9am – 12 noon.

History report

- Edmund Alfred Holmes, mentioned in our last minutes as running **The Bull's Head** before moving to run the Waggon and Horses in Whitwick we now know to have been called Alf, and suffered from poor eyesight. It is because of this that the couple left the Waggon and Horses on Church Lane and went to Woodhouse Eaves. We are now pretty certain that Alf



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footprints
Stepping out for a greener district



and his wife Caroline Sylvia, known as Sylvia, had a daughter called Constance Sybil (known as Sybil) born in 1919 in this area somewhere. She would therefore have been brought up at The Bull's Head, as Alf and Sylvia went there in 1921 until around 1928. It is known that she also had eyesight problems, and went blind in later years. Sybil married Joseph T Hawkins in 1942 and then Sidney Cooke in 1947 and lived in and around Barrow Upon Soar where Sidney had been born on 11 May 1915. They had two children – Howard and Christine. Sybil died in Leicester on 23 June 2010 aged 90, with Sidney having died in Leicester in 1993.

- Leon Spence wrote an article about Thringstone in his youth which was printed in the **Your Community Voice** magazine for December. This article is being saved to our archives. The current magazine contains an article by Leon on the Panto Society.
- A press release written by the centre on the trip to the LSE to meet up with the **Charles Booth family** was in the Lbro Echo on 9 December.

Councillors' report

The Public Inquiry into proposals put forward by NWLDC for a development plan for all the District took place today at 10am at Heartwood Conferencing Ltd, Rothley House, Coalville Business Park, Jackson Street, Coalville (on the old Palitoy site)

The development plan is known as the Local Plan and will guide development planning in NWL until 2031.

NWLDC is known as the Local Planning Authority (not Leicestershire County Council) and they have been working on the draft development plan (Local Plan) since 2013.

Public Consultation took place on NWLDC draft proposals between 4th July and 15th August 2016 and the draft was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2016.

HM Government Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities Sajid Javid MP has appointed Brian Sims BSc CEng MICE MRTPI as the Independent Inspector for the Inquiry.

The Inspector will make recommendations to the Secretary of State if the proposals put forward by NWLDC are valid and meet HM Government planning requirements.

Details on the result of the public inquiry will be published shortly.

Gardening and environment

Nothing to report

AOB

- John Reddington informed the meeting about the changes to **Capelli's on Main Street**. This had been bought by his family, and a lady called Jayne who is a men's barber will be working there from next Wednesday. Kat Atwood from Whitwick who is known as Impressive Hair and has won several wards is joining in about a month and will be doing ladies' styling with others of her team. The present nail bar at the back will also be used, and Kate Reddington will have her office also at the back of the shop.
- John said he was fairly sure he could get sponsorship from a local builder to give money for a **defibrillator for the village**. This would be free to FoT, and would be battery powered with batteries running for 4 years. He wondered whether Nita could approach the Old School House and the Meadows about having the unit there, as that would be open 24/7. David wondered what medical professionals felt, after Nita explained why we hadn't gone



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with a defib before – which would have been one powered by mains electricity anyway and sited on The Green. Julie said as a district nurse, she would support a village defib because her team would then always have one to access if they needed it if there were signage outside wherever it was situated saying it was there and available. There was considerable discussion about the use of these and people's views previously that they weren't necessary, but it was confirmed that the new ones were very reliable, easy to use and talked the operator through using it. They could not be used on people with a heart beat as the machine would pick this up and fail to operate. Nita agreed to talk to the Meadows and Old School House and get back to John who would then take over the organization.

- **Bellway Homes site** – Janet asked why all the social housing seemed sold. John explained how this works, and that it had probably been done through a social housing provider like EMHA, but people would not probably move in for some time. Mike asked when people were moving in and why lights were on, and it was explained this was a security issue.
- Mike spoke about **the centre** situation, about the fact that County Hall have still not signed off on the issue, and as such we were still in a state of limbo. There was considerable discussion about events, how to get the centre more easily marketed, about hall hire and the type of hire currently experience, how and where it is marketed, about the need for more volunteers, how these were being encouraged to apply, maintenance costs and the need to run as a business but within a community centre methodology. If people have any ideas on things they would like to see at the centre, they are encouraged to contact the centre with these ideas. In the meantime, the centre will continue to be run by part time staff and volunteers, with the management committee taking all decisions on operation of the centre, until such time as the trustees take over from that committee.

Next meeting is 2 February 2017 at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre



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