



Friends of Essington Meeting
13th February 2020

Present: Pete Ward, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Neil Wheeldon, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson.

Apologies: Paul Woolley, Tracey Taylor, Wayne Whitehouse, Adrian Nicklin.

Record of last meeting: Approved by CW, Seconded by AW.

1. Matters arising from the record of the last meeting.

Projects

Orchard

Perspex layer has been added and the board has been repainted. A date to be arranged for installation with Ms Price. A suggestion was made that it would be appreciated if we could have a children's report on the orchard in spring and autumn engaging both the school and FOE.

Calendar 2020/2021

Now all monies received CR will produce an account. CW has already received some photos from a resident who had seen our article asking for photos in the church magazine. Everyone agreed to keep taking photographs.

Windmill Hill Bench

Alstroemeria to be planted in the spring.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

Alstroemeria to be planted in the spring.

Jubilee Planter

4 silver birch trees have been ordered. Saturday 22nd February 9am - commencement of work.

Daffodil Bulbs

A suggestion that bulb planted areas to be added to the map that WW is producing.

Brownshore Crossing

PWa and NW reported that one of the sleepers needs replacing. Several suggestions were made for a centre piece relating to the railway, CW and AW to make enquiries. This could then be planted and would be our contribution to Essington in Bloom.

The black and white sign - corner of Brownshore Lane will be given some TLC.

Our sponsored projects

We have a draft document highlighting some recommendations that we think will benefit the companies and the FOE. PWa emailed a sponsor and is awaiting their reply.

JH is continuing to compile our project list.

Lock up needs sorting out.

Future projects

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW continue to update our web site including more up to date photos etc.

Tree Planting

Many of the committee have chosen their trees and areas to be planted. WW produced a map and possible locations were marked on it. Any committee member who has not chosen a tree please let us know what tree you require.

Annual Spring Clean

Saturday 4th April 2020. Self-sufficient in litter pickers, high viz. Gloves and bags to be ordered. DR read out an email from Ryan Taylor about registering the event and offered help as in past years.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Many areas are still a problem, the most recent being the quarry entrance, this has now been cleared but needs to be reported by anyone who sees it. Is there anything we can do to prevent rubbish being tipped in the first place? As reported in the press fly tipping has doubled in the last 8 years. Green bin charges were also discussed and the green bin is a good way of recycling green waste but would the charge lead to more fly tipping for various reasons?

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the CEO. Everyone to send in their thoughts to DR and a letter will then be compiled.

High Viz Jackets and Banners.

Jackets will be ordered at a competitive price from Club Kits Direct Ltd.

WW will order one roll up banner which was advertised at a competitive price with our logo and appropriate wording.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted - PWA. Other areas could be investigated. CR has contacted Bovis homes and they would be happy for some involvement - meeting to be arranged - ongoing. Committee to think of areas where this could be encouraged and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Inappropriate Signage

Some signs have been reported to the council and this is now ongoing with planning enforcement. The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours recorded. Could everyone who does not attend a meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

Wood chippings

Available from South Staffs Council as and when required.

Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace

This is been developed by the Forest of Mercia and WW will keep us informed.

3. Social Events and Walks

Essington Show

Saturday 2nd May 2020 - Golf game to be organised by PWA and JH.

Quiz Nights

Dates for the next quizzes are Thursday February 20th and Thursday March 19th usual place and time.

Friend's Walks

We were asked to consider hosting the next friend's group walk. Date to be arranged. CR suggested some forward planning where and what to include.

4. Correspondence

- DR had circulated email from Ryan Taylor re. Place Narrative document from Chief Executive Dave Heywood.
- CW has received email from a local resident of photos of Essington to be considered for our 2021 calendar.

5. Any other business

- FH reported that with the help of local people they had recently completed the annual survey of the bat and bird boxes, cleaning out, repairing and replacing. There are 26 boxes on site and 21 used by Great and Blue Tits, Robins and Tree Creepers, several as roosting sites.
- PWA presented a drawing on behalf of the RBL showing a proposed memorial on the area at the junction of High Hill and Wolverhampton Road. The committee agreed that we would help with some planting but the general opinion was that a memorial of this stature should be located in the centre of the village and it was thought that the Parish Council should consult the residents by way of a survey.

Date of next meeting: Thursday March 12th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.