



Friends of Essington Meeting
14th October 2021

Present: Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse, Tracey Taylor, Dot Radford, Colin Richards.

Apologies: Neil Wheeldon, Adrian Nicklin, Pete Ward.

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

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

Projects

Calendar 2022

Photographs are now at the printers using the same format as we have in previous years with the inside fly page referring to sponsorship as explained to the committee. JH commented that the photographs submitted to him were superior to the ones chosen. However all the photographs are still on record and can be looked at for future years. All the sponsors were willing to give us their full support with no one taking up the offer that we made last year and carried over to this year. We thank them very much for this. It was commented that locations could be added to the photographs and this will be achieved if possible.

Tree Planting

Further information was given re. Bovis sites and additional Bovis sites that have followed our lead. Other locations as described in the tree planting scheme "Greener Essington" were outlined but some of them may not get permission. (ie dual carriage way A460)

This is a long term project aiming to green up some areas in need of TLC with great benefit to the environment.

Bulb Planting

WW to resend bulb planting scheme. CR has contacted the district council re bulbs wild flower and yellow rattle seeds awaiting a reply.

Triangle

Timber structures have been removed. NW emailed a proposal for temporary planters and this was discussed. CR proposed that the three corners should be tidied up, rubble removed soil improver added and planted ASAP with winter pansies etc. Janet and John to be contacted - CR and DR. This will give us time for a longer term plan. All agreed but suggested that AN and NW should be contacted (CR).

Note: They have now been contacted and agree with the proposal to get the work done as soon as possible.

Windmill Hill Bench and Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

The Alstroemeria that was planted by the bench has been stolen CR and DR planted up with plants from their own garden.

Orchard

CR and DR visited school to arrange a convenient time to look at the orchard, awaiting their contact. TT said that she would give them a reminder.

Lock-up

More work needed. Rubble removed from outside number 11 and area tidied up.

Brownshore Crossing

Needs a tidy up - this to be arranged.

Side of crossing: - previous work done on this to try to encourage a wild flower area, now overgrown again. Area needs cutting back/strimming to establish this - CR will try to get work done.

Volunteer Hours

Could everyone who does not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW reported that they continue to update our web site.

Note: - www.friendsofessington.co.uk

Future projects

Annual Spring Clean

Everyone agreed to leave this on as a reminder for next year.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

All please keep reporting any incidents.

Banners

WW showed FOE banners that had been purchased.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted - PWA. Other areas could be investigated.

Wood Hayes Road/Old Hampton Lane junction

It was suggested that this area could do with a footpath, making it safer and tidying the area up. Everyone was asked to have a look and their thoughts please.

Horse Chestnut Tree Cannock Road

Since this was last reported it has now been removed due to its dangerous condition.

Wood Hayes Road damaged bridge

This has been ongoing as a serious problem but after much reporting this has now been repaired and the road improved.

Area by Methodist Chapel and Bursnips Road

This needs a tidy up but are awaiting the road junction works to be completed maybe this area could be incorporated in tree planting scheme.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz dates - Wednesday 27th October and Wednesday 24th November.

4. Correspondence

- PW announced at last meeting that he was standing down as Chair and confirmed this in an email. CR wished to thank Pete for all his hard work as Chair and this was endorsed by all of the committee.
- CR also wished to thank Paul for all his work over the years on the sponsored areas which he is ceasing to maintain on behalf of Ashmore Glass, this was also endorsed by all the committee.
- Letter from Gavin Williamson was read out thanking us for our commitment and dedication as a group re Westcroft litter pick and he fully supports our tree planting scheme and would like some input and has asked for a meeting with WW.
- CW informed the committee that Scott Brown, a bird and bat box enthusiast would be willing to give a talk at our AGM.
- CR and DR were invited to the Friends of Bilbrook 10th anniversary which they attended.

5. Any other business

- JH asked for a FOE membership form.
- FH suggested that we spend money in the village for the benefit of everyone. He also informed us that a working party would be at Fred's Bed at 9am Saturday 23rd October.
- CR informed everyone that there was Himalayan Balsam down the pools, confirmed by Forest of Mercia and reported to the county's Open Spaces Team. Himalayan Balsam is an invasive species and comes with all that it implies.

Date of next meeting - Thursday November 11th 7.30pm in Church Hall.