



Friends of Essington Meeting
9th September 2021

Present: Pete Ward, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse, Adrian Nicklin, Neil Wheeldon, Clem Whittle.

Apologies: Tracey Taylor, Angie Whittle.

Record of last meeting of 8th October 2020

Approved by WW, Seconded by AN.

Due to the pandemic it was agreed that last year and this year's committee report, accounts etc. could be merged culminating in an AGM in June 2022.

(Please note that our last AGM was delayed until 10th September 2020).

This was accepted by all as during this period there was less activity.

It was suggested that an open general meeting could be held before the AGM.

Insurance

This has been renewed and a small reduction negotiated by CR.

Calendar 2022

WW informed the committee that the laptop and projector were showing signs of their age and needed replacing. This was generally agreed by all but no decision made.

WW then presented 54 photographs on his laptop that had been submitted by local residents. 15 were chosen bearing in mind our sponsors and prospective sales audience and trying to give interested variations.

Production cost of calendar has increased by a small amount - approved by all.

Sponsors to be approached the same as last year.

WW to collate photographs ready to be taken to the printers.

Tree Planting

WW gave an introduction to the tree planting, various comments were made and it was generally accepted as a good thing to do. This will be pursued as trees need to be ordered and the first phase being the Bovis Homes site. Other locations to be pursued with the necessary permissions etc. already one site has been declined for planting trees this is the Cannock Road dual carriage way but a suggestion by WW this to be replaced with bulb planting.

Please note that this is a long term project.

Bulb Planting

WW outlined the bulb planting plan and he was asked if he could send this out again. Bulbs do need to be ordered for this scheme as and when the areas come up for development. It is not yet known if the District Council will be offering bulbs, wild flower and yellow rattle seeds.

Triangle

All agreed that a tidy up was needed and as stage 1 - timber structures to be removed. Date to be arranged.

Any other business

Time constraints only allowed 2 items, although members had many more.

- PW informed us that he would be stepping down as chair and would be sending an email out to members but would wish to remain on the committee.
- PW also informed us that Paul Woolley would be ceasing to maintain the areas for Ashmore Glass from next month.

Date of next meeting - Thursday October 14th 7.30pm Church Hall

Please find below matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2020 that have not been discussed.

Orchard

The information board to be installed - WW to contact Ms Price - Half Term was suggested. 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 - see minutes of 9th September 2021

Windmill Hill Bench and Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

Alstroemeria purchased and planted and both areas tidied and litter picked - CR & DR.

Jubilee Planter

Area looking good.

A suggestion was also made could more trees be planted in this area.

Lock-up

More work needed.

Daffodil Bulbs - see minutes of 9th September 2021

Brownshore Crossing

Decided to meet on Saturday 9am as many people as possible, to tidy up the area, repair the post and repair the black and white sign post the corner of Brownshore Lane / High Hill. Maybe at a later date some railway memorabilia could be added.

Volunteer Hours

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

Our sponsored projects

Triangle was discussed see above.

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW reported that they continue to update our web site including more up to date photos etc. and the Annual Spring Clean.

Future projects

Tree Planting - see minutes of 9th September 2021

Trees chosen by committee will be incorporated in tree planting scheme - Greener Essington.

Annual Spring Clean

Reminder for next year.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

All please keep reporting any incidents.

High Viz Jackets and Banners.

Banners will be brought to the next meeting.

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 - CR to chase. The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

3. Social Events and Walks

Quiz Nights

Next quiz dates -

4. Correspondence

5. Any other business

- CR sent an email to the Highways with a few concerns:-
 1. The damaged bridge in Wood Hayes Road - been in this condition for over 12 months - dangerous and unsightly.
 2. Horse Chestnut tree close to road needs some attention.
 3. The area by Methodist Chapel Bursnips Road looks very unsightly and asked when the road junction works were going to be completed. So maybe this we could reinstate as one of our projects.
 4. Wood Hayes Road to Old Hampton Lane could do with a footpath, area tidying up making it safer, cleaner and easier to litter pick. This could be one of our future projects.