



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Before the formal meeting started:-**

Colin asked for a few moments reflection remembering loved ones lost and more recently Dave Mason, Dot Davis, Nell Charlesworth and in view of the date, people lost in conflicts around the world, also to Wayne who has recently lost his Dad. Thanks to Clem for representing the group on Remembrance Sunday.

**Present:** Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Tracey Taylor, Dot Radford, Colin Richards, Neil Wheeldon, Adrian Nicklin, Pete Ward.

**Apologies:** Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse.

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by CW, Seconded by TT.

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

**Projects**

**Calendar 2022**

The 2022 calendars were distributed around the committee and CR and DR will distribute to sponsors and our sales outlets: - Chemist, Post Office and Berry Brook Farm Pub. It was asked if anyone visiting these locations could keep a check and inform DR or CR if any more calendars were required.

Thanks to WW, CW and AW for proof reading the calendars at short notice and it was decided that locations were not known accurately on some photographs and would not be included for this year. It was also suggested that whoever takes photographs should send in the location with them in future. As usual we are asking for a minimum donation of £2 per calendar.

PWa suggested that the photographs submitted should be categorised every 3 months.

**Tree Planting**

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

Bovis Homes areas are going ahead and as a group we can have as much or as little input as we want. The Broadlands site has been visited by Forest of Mercia who have agreed to plant hedgerows which will be of great benefit to the area. The first area being looked at for planting on the Cannock Road, the original suggestion now difficult to achieve being transferred to the corner and down the Cannock Road towards the industrial estate island, 30 trees to be planted to screen and offset the carbon footprint of the new industrial development. All agreed that this was a worthwhile enterprise. This has been approved by Highways and Woodland Trust / Forest of Mercia.

PWa commented that the Council should insist that the developers included tree planting as part of the development.

Trees have been ordered. Next steps would be to cut back undergrowth to facilitate planting, soil improver to be obtained, holes dug and trees planted and staked. CR given approval to achieve the above.

### **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**

AN and JH bagged 12 bags of rubble this was added to by 4 bags being dug out CR and DR and taken to the tip and were charged a very competitive price. CR and DR purchased 180 winter pansies from Westcroft Nurseries who also gave us a competitive price. 4 boxes of winter pansies were donated by Dave (a friend of JH) and we thank him very much. AN looking at various timbers for the structures - he will keep us informed.

### **Windmill Hill Bench and Bottom of Old Hampton Lane**

CR and DR planted winter pansies and tidied up areas.

Tony Stanley has been cutting the grass for the last 9 months with a small charge being incurred and would continue to do so - all agreed. The grass on these areas has for about 3 years been cut by CR and DR but find it no longer practical to do so.

### **Orchard**

Thanks to TT a meeting was arranged with CR and DR (FH was also informed about the meeting) and Facilities Manager - Ian, who was enthusiastic to remind the school of the existence of the orchard with a view to tidying up and accommodate the information board. Photographs and history have been forwarded to Ian and hopefully this will encourage the school to take active ownership and all the educational benefits that this could have. TT to inform us of any information she receives. However Ian said that he would be in touch.

### **Lock-up**

More work needed.

### **Brownshore Crossing**

This area has now been tidied up thanks to FH and all who helped.

Side of crossing: - this is an area where we have tried to encourage wild flowers but is now overgrown again and needs cutting back.

### **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 and both .co.uk and .com can be used. Also in December our domain will be renewed.

### **Membership**

The membership form requested by JH was produced at the meeting but had not been used for many, many years. It was discussed by the committee that maybe a way forward would be to have an associate or helpers list- ongoing - NW.

## **Himalayan Balsam**

Open Spaces Team have been informed and we have been told that they are dealing with it. Everyone should be aware of this invasive species and report it if seen in other areas.

## **Future projects**

**Annual Spring Clean** (Reminder for next event)

**Laptop and projector**

All agreed that these were getting old and needed replacing, (endorsed by JH at last meeting). WW to obtain prices.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

**Fly-tipping**

All please keep reporting any incidents.

**Banners**

Will be stored in the lock up for everyone's use.

**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.

**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.

**Bird and Bat boxes**

CW informed us that the bird and bat boxes had been completed, thanks to all who helped. FH to compile a new map. CW also informed the committee that Scott Brown, a bird and bat box enthusiast would be willing to give a talk at our AGM.

## **3. Social Events**

**Quiz Nights**

Next quiz dates - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (TBC)

## **4. Correspondence**

- Email from Mary White - quote "Well done with the planting of the triangle- a 'Big Thank You' for all that you and the team do to make such a difference to the village and surrounding areas."

## **5. Any other business**

- AN will send out Local Plan Review consultation options and also a response to concerns about Broad Lane. Note- this is for information only and should be dealt individually if you so wish.
- CR suggested that due to current Covid upward trend and other commitments that people have at this time of the year we do not have a meeting in December and our next meeting will be in January - all agreed.

**Date of next meeting - Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 7.30pm in Church Hall.**

