



Friends of Essington Meeting
10th March 2022

Before the formal meeting started:-

There was an informal reflection about all that is happening in the world at the moment especially in the Ukraine and other war torn areas. As one member said, "and we didn't think it could get any worse."

Our hopes and prayers go out to all the people affected.

Present: Angie Whittle, Dot Radford, Colin Richards, Pete Ward, Neil Wheeldon.

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Wayne Whitehouse, Jon Hanson, Adrian Nicklin, Clem Whittle, Tracey Taylor.

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

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

Projects

Calendar 2023

A suggestion was made that everyone could view the collection of photographs and vote for their best 8 or 10, this would at least start the selection process and any photograph that was voted by a majority of people could go on to a definite list. NW said that he would start the process by numbering the entries.

Tree Planting

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

Site	Number of trees	Estimated value	Comments
Cannock Rd / Moseley Rd	30 trees (mixed)	£2,300	More trees could be planted.
Bognop Rd opposite Rugby Club	5 trees	£400	Ditto
Broadlands Golf	2 hedgerows		Next season (private site)
Hobnock Rd-sides of entrance to old tile works.	10 trees	£800	To be completed
Bovis Homes - Essington	130 trees		Private site
Bovis Homes - Wombourne	162 trees		Spin off from Essington site
Hobnock Road - Chapel		Future project	When new road works are completed.

CR & DR wish to thank everyone who has helped especially the Forest of Mercia.

Bulb Planting

WW to resend bulb planting scheme but basically this is following the tree planting scheme with suitable bulbs for the different areas. The first area where the trees were going to be planted down the Cannock Road would lend itself to the planting of crocuses. This needs further investigation - CR.

Bulb planting this season

Thanks to everyone that planted bulbs for this season and it is uplifting to see all the bulbs in flower and our hard work coming to fruition, not only from this season but from many years of planting.

Triangle

Looking good with daffodil bulbs coming up.

Planters - AN to order the timbers and will keep us informed. The finger post needs a repaint, obviously wait for the better weather.

Orchard

NW to collect information board from CR. NW to liaise with Ian the Facilities Manager to get the school more involved with such a valuable asset. A thank you to all helping with the maintenance.

Lock-up

More work needed. PW to reinstall the repaired Yale lock. Number 11 lock up to be returned to SSHA. CR to send an email.

Brownshore Crossing

The area looking good, ready for the wild flower plugs CR & DR sourcing.

Volunteer Hours

Could everyone who does not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR. Please include people whom you know who give their time freely and should be recorded in the volunteer hours.

Website and Event Calendar

AW reported that they continue to update our web site and any new photos of our activities etc. would be appreciated.

Membership

NW produced a helper's form - everyone approved - to be distributed at all our events. AW contacted lady who was interested in helping - she is coming to the litter pick.

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.

Essington Show

Discussed email from AN about a stall - thanks for the offer but this was declined by all.

Invitation for write up from the church

John Peterkin Church Warden contacted CW & AW to inquire if we wanted to produce a write up to be included with other information about Essington for distribution to the residents of the new Bovis Homes site, a document was produced and sent to him.

Future projects

Laptop and projector

All agreed that these were getting old and needed replacing. WW to obtain prices.

Annual Spring Clean

Saturday 9th April Essington 9am and Westcroft 9.30am.

AN's email to committee was looked at highlighting a few items.

- Jamie Harper asked for help with litter picking Bursnips Road - difficult as committee are clearing other areas. A suggestion was made to get in touch with SSDC Street Scene Team to see if they could help around the time of the Spring Clean - CR. It was also stated that it was a busy road 40mph with few footpaths and the council would be more equipped to do this.
- Thanks to all who litter pick outside this event, it is much appreciated. Thanks to AN for arranging.
- Gavin Williamson MP asked last year at the Westcroft litter pick to be reminded of this year's event. WW contacted him and he agreed to come. However CR suggested that due to the start times of the Westcroft and the centre litter pick being half an hour different maybe he could open the centre litter pick at 9am and be down to the Westcroft litter pick at 9.30am. Everyone thought that this was a good idea but Gavin must be consulted as he may have other plans. WW to contact Gavin and he will keep us informed.

Westcroft Litter Pick

DR sent email to committee with details of Westcroft litter pick, flyers have been distributed to local residents and interested parties who think that they can support us. We would also like to thank the people who litter pick all year round. (Litter pickers anonymous!)

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Please keep reporting any incidents, website to inform South Staffs Council:- www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/sstaffs.

Moseley Road at least 6 incidents of fly tipping reported to SSDC (CR & DR).

NW concerns regarding landfill on new golf course.

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.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz dates - Wednesday 13th April and Wednesday 4th May at WMC.

£66 was raised at last quiz night.

4. Correspondence

- AW contacted Scott Brown re. talk on bat boxes, no reply to date.

5. Any other business

- PW asked about contractor to maintain sites sponsored by Ashmore Glass. A contractor known to us couldn't fit in the work. WW/CR sent email to Ashmore Glass asking if they know of a contractor they could use. Awaiting a reply.
- AW asked about our AGM-a date to be sorted. We need to start looking at the committee report with everyone's contribution.
- Some years ago we were asked to hold £600 for the start-up of another group in Shareshill. This has been ring fenced and with the lockdown we have continued to hold the money. It is now time to find out whether the new group is starting, if not a suggestion was made to donate the money to the Forest of Mercia to buy more trees as we have had very great support for our tree planting scheme - CR to contact- all agreed.
- Room hire due shortly, reduce meetings to 8? Key holder to open up and close for meetings?

Date of next meeting - Thursday April 14th 2022 7.30pm in WEB.