



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Present:** Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Dot Radford, Colin Richards, Pete Ward, Wayne Whitehouse, Freddie Homer, Tracey Taylor.

**Apologies:** Jon Hanson, Adrian Nicklin, Neil Wheeldon.

**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 has now numbered the photographs with the initials of the person who has taken them with sequential numbers.

**Tree Planting**

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

The table that was in the last minutes will be transferred to the project list that was started by JH and completed by DR, CR.

WW then went on to explain Phase 2 of tree planting scheme which would be the extension of some of the areas already planted. This was the original idea and a start had to be made with a small number of trees at each site, bearing in mind planting season, time and people available. This will have to be tied up with the Forest of Mercia and Highways Department.

**Bulb Planting**

WW to reassess bulb planting areas. Planting crocuses in the central grassed area near where the trees have been planted. This will need further investigation.

A decision to be made early so bulbs can be ordered in good time.

**Triangle**

AN reported assembly and wood treatment of the planters would be completed next week. Transport of the planters to triangle and soil PW organising. Thanks.

Prep work on triangle Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and installation Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The finger post needs a repaint.

WW has emailed Ashmore Glass regarding a suitable contractor - WW to chase.

**Orchard**

Information board installed, thanks to all involved. Photos on our web site. NW to liaise with Ian the Facilities Manager to get the school more involved with such a valuable asset.

### **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.

### **Golf Course Burnsnips Road**

Concerns over the materials being tipped and traffic through village.

NW and PW attended a meeting at the Parish council where concerns were raised and they will keep us updated.

WW reported that he had been in touch with South Staffs Council Environmental Department and is awaiting a reply. He will keep us informed.

FH commented on landscaping in the area looked very good.

### **Brownshore Crossing**

The area looking good with the cowslips now appearing, ready for the wild flower plugs CR & DR sourcing. The area at the bottom of Windmill Hill adjacent to the Toploc site also to be planted with wild flower plugs.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Volunteer hours completed and included all the people's hours on the 2 litter picks. 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 and CW reported that they continue to update our web site and any new photos of our activities etc. would be appreciated. A place map of active bird boxes maintained by FOE in the Brownshore Pools area has been added.

### **Membership**

NW has produced a contact form and they were available at both litter picks. NW reported most people at the centre litter pick were already known to the group - no forms completed. The Westcroft litter pick, a similar response, local residents wanted to keep to their own area - no forms completed.

### **AGM**

A date to be sorted, would everyone start looking at their contribution to the committee report.

### **Invitation for write up from the church**

Awaiting a reply.

### **Start-up group in Shareshill**

The money that has been held for this will now be sorted and if the money doesn't go to a new group a suggestion was made that it would go to the Forest of Mercia to buy more trees. All agreed. CR to contact.

### **Room Hire**

6 meetings have been paid for with no increase. Should we reduce the number of annual meetings, Key holder to open and close meeting?

### **Future projects**

#### **Laptop and projector**

WW to go ahead with purchase - £850 budget.

## **Annual Spring Clean**

Both litter picks in the centre and Westcroft were very successful and a large amount of litter was collected. Thank you to the Street Scene Team for litter picking the Burnsnips Road and part of Broad Lane. Jamie Harper was very pleased with the results and comments were made that it was a vast improvement.

Thanks to Sir Gavin Williamson MP who attended both litter picks and to Jane Stevenson MP who attended Westcroft.

Thank you to the organisers and everyone who supported and helped.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **Fly-tipping**

Please keep reporting any incidents, website to inform South Staffs Council:-

[www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/sstaffs](http://www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/sstaffs).

WW reported that the government have recommended that rubble from DIY projects from householders would be free of charge at the council tips to try and reduce fly tipping incidents.

DR reported that there have been prosecutions for fly tipping in Moseley Road.

### **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**

Successful quiz night last night £68 raised.

Next quiz date Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at WMC.

## **4. Correspondence**

- Press release from Bovis Homes was received will email to CW & AW to be included on our web site.

## **5. Any other business**

- WW suggested a discussion on electric cars for next meeting. Everyone agreed it was a good idea.
- The project list is to be updated with the tree planting scheme and sent out to everyone. Also send to Highways and District Council so we can reference each site with them.

**Date of next meeting - Thursday May 12th 2022 7.30pm in WEB.**