



Friends of Essington Meeting
9th June 2022

Present: Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Dot Radford, Wayne Whitehouse, Tracey Taylor, Adrian Nicklin, Colin Richards.

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Pete Ward, Neil Wheeldon.

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

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

Projects

Calendar 2023

NW sent out chart of favourite photographs, this was discussed and a couple were judged as inappropriate. It was stated that there weren't enough to judge from and they were pretty much the same mainly based on the pools area. It was suggested that archive photographs would be entered into the mix and also more photographs could be entered up until August and viewed as we have done in the past. It was also suggested by NW in email that this was not the BBC Countryfile calendar and he would be happy to revert to a subcommittee as we have used in the past. All agreed that this had worked. WW to liaise with NW. September meeting for final judging.

Tree Planting

This is a long term project aiming to green up some areas in need of TLC. Plant naturally, less maintenance and best for the environment. All permissions and advice needed from the Highways Department and Forest of Mercia.

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 had asked for £200 to be allocated for plants - all agreed but only £60 was needed. WW contacted Ashmore Glass and mentioned to them the £400 promised to help in refurbishment and the sponsorship signage moved and replaced as necessary (at a cost). When Ashmore Glass responded to WW they explained that they had a rates bill dating back to their original sponsorship date and they felt it no longer cost effective to carry on with their sponsorship. WW wished them all the best and said that he would keep in contact with them in the future and that there were no hard feelings.

New sponsorship has been obtained for 2 definite areas and the third area under discussion and WW's gardening company will maintain the areas with the approval of the new sponsor. Highways department will be contacted with regard to the above and also the repositioning of the signage. WW's gardening company will start maintenance programme immediately. NW will repaint the finger post.

Orchard

TT updated us and said that the school safety officer wanted to inspect and advise what needs doing to create safe paths so that the pupils can start to visit.

Lock-up

More work needed. PW to reinstall the repaired Yale lock. AN to deliver bags to Matt on Swynnerton Drive and we thank him for cutting around the newly planted trees.

Golf Course Burnsnips Road

Ongoing - AN awaiting a reply from a county councillor as it is the county's responsibility.

Brownshore Crossing

Wild flower plugs now on order. Foxglove plants have been planted along the back fencing.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours completed.

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

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. Our project map is now on, CW and AW to number the areas.

AGM

A date to be sorted when committee report and audited accounts are available.

A reminder - Please report all activities since the last committee report and send to WW. This is a useful document to send to sponsors, county councillors, council officers etc.

Start-up group in Shareshill

The ring fenced money to be allocated when we hear from the donator.

Room Hire

Along with no meeting in August the December meeting will also not be held, further reductions may be decided.

NW is now key holder to the WEB, opening and locking up after our meeting, Kath Grantham notified of this.

Future projects

Laptop and projector

WW has purchased laptop at a cost of £329.99p and will purchase Office Suite. WW to get projector when there is a good deal on.

Millennium Stone

£1000 granted by the Parish Council for the improvement of the area. £730 has been spent on plants and soil improver (looks good thanks to all who helped).

The jet washing was suggested to be paid out of the remainder of the grant - all agreed, price and contractor to be sorted.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

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

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. This will be on hold as we are informed that the gateway across the road will be moved further down to try to eliminate various problems in the area.

At the bottom of Old Hampton Lane adjacent to the Cannock Road the tree needs replacing.

Fred's Bed

WW has commenced grass cutting.

AN explained that he had a map on grass cutting and he would identify who cuts what grass and when.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz nights - Wednesday 15th June and Wednesday 13th July usual place and time.

4. Correspondence

- Email received from Clerk of Parish Council confirming grant of £1000.
- Emails received from Kath Perry, Mark Jenkinson, Dave Heywood and Mark Keeling thanking us for the updated project list and complementing us on all our work and achievements.

5. Any other business

- AN distributed leaflets inviting everyone to the annual meeting of the Parish council on Monday 13th June 6-7pm.
- AN also informed us that 4 disabled fishing pegs will be installed down the pools.

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

