



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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

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

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

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

**Projects**

**Calendar 2023**

Final judging: - all the required photographs were chosen and put in order to reflect each month and the date they were taken with captions noted. These will be collated on a stick and delivered to the printers.

Print costs have risen significantly and the sponsors need to be contacted. It was agreed to print the same amount and charge the same as last year.

**Tree Planting**

Some of the trees planted last season haven't survived, grass was left around to give some protection and when it dies away will provide a mulch. Strimming and tidy up to be carried out later on in the year. The areas already planted to be extended where possible and Highways department and Forest of Mercia have been contacted.

**Bulb Planting**

Planting crocuses in the central grassed area near where the trees have been planted on the Cannock Road, Broad Lane chicane area, bottom of Old Hampton Lane and some other areas - these will be discussed with Highways Department-WW to arrange a meeting.

**Triangle**

The new sponsors for the triangle and the gateway on Blackhalve Lane are having the signage manufactured and will be installed when ready in the new positions. Highways Department to be contacted. WW's gardening company continuing to maintain both areas.

NW will repaint the finger post.

**Orchard**

Update from NW:- Myself, Jon, Ade & Paul had several hours trimming back the hedge and the undergrowth to give better access for the children to use now the paths have been improved. We also cut a path through from the orchard to the woodland classroom.

Thanks to all who have helped. PW commented that the sign was showing signs of deterioration and should we use plastic in the future?

## **Lock-up**

More work needed. PW to have a look at lock.

## **Golf Course Burnsnips Road**

Ongoing - AN awaiting a reply from a county councillor as it is the county's responsibility. Discussion regarding many aspects - material being land filled, number of HGV's going through the village. However this was checked by the district council and all the paper work was in order. Another concern was the continuing extensions of the land fill operation, however it was thought that council officials and all councillors should be representative of what the population of the village feel.

## **Brownshore Crossing**

FH stated his concern about the planted bed and gathered some local residents and himself to tidy it up. Thanks Freddie.

A suggestion was made that all areas should have a designated person for ownership. To be discussed further.

The area at the side that has been prepared for wild flower planting will be strimmed again and the wild flower plugs which have now arrived will be planted on Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm.

## **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. A security certificate for our web site has been obtained and paid for at a cost of £89.99p. Kate Risbrook was thanked for her editing of the church magazine for 10 years.

## **AGM**

A date to be arranged.

**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 has now been donated to the Forest of Mercia supporting all the good work they achieve throughout the area.

## **Future projects**

### **Laptop and projector**

WW has purchased laptop at a cost of £329.99p and a projector has now been purchased at a cost of £429.99 and was used to view the calendar photographs.

### **Millennium Stone**

Brick work to be completed and paid for out of the remaining grant money from the Parish Council.

## **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).

### **Wood Hayes Road/Old Hampton Lane junction**

Could do with some work but on hold due to information from AN that the gateway across the road will be moved further down.

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

### **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 - TBA

JH presented £282 for banking from 5 quiz nights. Thanks Jon.

## **4. Correspondence**

- Email received from Lynn Evans about a project that we may be interested in. This has been now checked out and in fact was an engagement project with young teenagers with an environmental bias, this has now been centred around Landywood station and she has a group from Great Wyrley involved. She will keep us in mind of any future projects that she may think we would be interested in.
- An email from Matt regarding collection of 4 bags of green waste that he had trimmed from the general area. Many thanks to him for all his hard work and thanks to the District Council for collecting the bags so promptly.

## **5. Any other business**

- AW reported sign for our oak tree was lying on the floor. PW said that he would fix it.
- FH explained that the church was taking over the distribution of the wreaths and it was suggested that our wreath could be put directly on to the memorial as no one is available.

**Date of next meeting - Thursday October 13th 2022 7.30pm in WEB.**