

**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Present:** Paul Wooley (PWo), Neil Wheeldon, Adrian Nicklin, Clem Whittle, Freddie Homer, Pete Ward (PW), Angie Whittle, Jon Hanson, Wilson Taylor.

**Apologies:** Dot Radford, Wayne Whitehouse, Tracey Taylor, Colin Richards.

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by AN, Seconded by PW

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

**Strimmer**

Item ordered from TFM but not yet collected.

**Miners Monument**

Dry build arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.30am @ Community centre.

**Tree Planting**

PW and NW presented a short video showing the trees and their condition. Initial inspection showed an array of issues. Many were unsupported and hence bent over and many had the protective cover or ground mat missing. Many of the canes, covers and mats were scattered around the area. Several trees were completely missing! It was difficult to decide if this was vandalism, animals or weather (probably a combination tbh). However, the majority of trees were tidied up by replacing canes etc. Approx 12 trees are missing so it was suggested that CR could seek advice from Forest of Mercia as if/when these could be replaced.

**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. Ongoing.

**Triangle**

WW to update committee on sponsor and ongoing maintenance arrangements.

AN advised that the planters will need a coat of wood treatment once the weather improves. He will coordinate this and ask for volunteers as appropriate. Ongoing.

AN suggested a metal sign be purchased in the future to replace the rotting wooden one. This will give better durability and allow improved signage. He will investigate and feedback in the future. Ongoing

### **Orchard**

AN is currently repairing the sign. He may incur some expense purchasing new Perspex etc. This was approved.

### **Lock-up**

PW has looked at lock and it needs a complete refit to improve function, which he will carry out shortly. Ongoing.

### **Brownshore Crossing**

FH & PWO will do some fresh planting in the near future.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Could all please send their hours to NW for collation and communication to DR.  
NOTE: Hours have not been collected since November meeting so please cover the missing periods.

### **Laptop and projector**

Projector was used at meeting and is very good. WW to arrange method of getting Laptop (and Hard Drive?) to CW & JH for use on quizzes and website activities.

### **Christmas Lights**

AN will discuss this with the parish council and feedback. Ongoing

### **Fred's Bed Bus Stop**

FH expressed concern that the school buses have started stopped directly outside Fred's Bed instead of using the layby. This has resulted in the children inadvertently trampling all the plants. AN will ask the secretary to contact the county council to alert them that fresh instructions need to be given to the coach companies. Some communication has taken place. AN to follow up.

### **Spring Clean**

Meeting took place with 'Essington Wombles' litter pickers. All agreed to play an active role in leading groups on the day. Date confirmed as 1<sup>st</sup> April. AN to send poster to CW for inclusion in Church Magazine and communicated around village.

### **Constitution**

Several people asked questions concerning the Constitution. There was some discussion and it is apparent that it needs a revisit and modifications. A new revision can then be issued to all committee members (including updated Committee members) and added to website etc for wider communication. A copy has been circulated so everyone can read and comment on modifications for discussion at next meeting. Ongoing

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **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. Ongoing.

### **Grass cutting**

AN has completed his exercise to document which grass is maintained by which party. He will present this to the Parish Council and then update the FoE at a future meeting. Ongoing

### **3. Social Events**

#### **Quiz Nights**

Next quiz nights - Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March & 12<sup>th</sup> April

### **4. Correspondence**

- None

### **5. Any other business**

- Committee discussed the Community Thanksgiving Service. All enjoyed it and asked NW to pass on thanks to the council secretary
- It was discussed that a 'WhatsApp' group for the committee would be beneficial to communicate between team (for instance the Miners Memorial build). NW to create.
- NW mentioned that the signpost on the Brownshore/Kitchen Lane junction is also in bad condition. If replacement is investigated for Triangle, then maybe this can also be considered.
- PW raised the dangerous crossing conditions by the recently created school gate. Instead of using the Lollipop person, people are crossing between parked cars. AN to discuss at council meeting.
- Several people asked if the meetings could begin at 7.00pm and finish at 8.30pm in future. Vote was taken and all agreed the change.

**Date of next meeting- Thursday March 9th 7.00pm in WEB.**