



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Present:** Paul Woolley (PWo), Freddie Homer, Adrian Nicklin, Wilson Taylor, Tracey Taylor, Neil Wheeldon, Pete Ward (PW), Jon Hanson

**Apologies:** Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by TT, Seconded by FH

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

**Miners Monument**

AN explained that the EPC clerk will prepare a planning application and investigate ownership, under his guidance.

PWo has met an expert on gluing the bricks but he wants to view the entire brick layout to offer the best advice.

AN has obtained a bag of broken bits which may allow the small repairs to be carried out.

**Triangle**

The planters have had plants and fertiliser put in them. It looks very good. Many thanks to PWo and PW. Also, thanks to the volunteers on the watering rota.

Quote for a metal sign from Black Country Metal Works received, £1,070 total for fingers and post.

PWo will obtain a quote from a contractor he deals with. Ongoing

An Invoice has been sent to PIA/Broadlands Golf.

**Lock-up**

Mower has been collected for investigation/repair.

**Volunteer Hours**

Ryan Taylor explained that collecting volunteer hours from all the local groups helps him justify funding. He requested we start collecting from start of April. Hours will be submitted to him quarterly by NW. Can everyone send hours for the quarter at end of June.

### **Laptop**

No communication from WW. Concern was raised both about the return of the Laptop for FoE use and also the Data protection issues with it being outside the control of the group. A formal letter will be sent requesting the return of the laptop or reimbursement of the expenditure.

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

AN and PWO will continue to communicate with Kath Perry to pursue action.

### **Fred's Bed**

Recent work was carried out and thanks to all the volunteers who attended. The 'Community Payback' team will hopefully cut the grass going forward.

### **Constitution**

Signed by all present at meeting. WT will follow up on the final signatures.

CW will post the new copy of constitution to the website once signed.

### **New Pedestrian Gate at St Johns School**

TT gave a summary of the events from the initial conception of the gateway through to present day. It is a saga of 'table tennis' regarding actions and accountability.

All present are very concerned at the potential for a serious injury if nothing is put in place to improve the situation.

AN and TT will continue to push the issue.

Ongoing

### **Calendar**

AN provided a list of last years sponsors. He will contact them to confirm they will continue with the next calendar.

### **Bovis Site Improvements**

No work has yet started on the 'no mans land' fence or the barbed wire/old fence/construction litter removal. NW will contact for update.

### **Local walks**

Reintroduction to be discussed at a later meeting. Ongoing.

### **Broken Fence Larchmere/Brownshore**

Fence has now been repaired and strengthened. There was some cost for materials and FoE have paid this. Thanks to all involved.

### **Damaged/Missing Trees**

PWO will contact Dave Knowles at Forest of Mercia to discuss best action

## **Jubilee Planter**

AN presented pictures showing poor state. He also provided various costed options for replacements. PWO to contact Jamie at Alvaston to discuss his thoughts and wishes as the sponsor.

## **Cannock Road Island**

As above- PWO to contact Jamie at Alvaston

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **Grass cutting**

PWO spoke to Ryan Taylor about this. He is investigating the replacement of areas that are no longer cut with the areas that are recharged to EPC.

## **3. Social Events**

### **Quiz Nights**

Next quiz nights: 21<sup>st</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July.

## **4. Correspondence**

- None received

## **5. Finance**

### **Bank**

Bank is now fully operational on-line. Currently PWO and NW have permissions but TT and JH are in the process of also getting permission.

### **Bank Balance**

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

### **Expenditure**

The following expenses were approved for payment:

- Replacement Keys PW £14.00
- Gravel for Fred's Bed FH £8.28
- Geraniums for Triangle PWO £108.00
- Fertiliser for Triangle PWO £16.98
- Padlock for Lockup PWO £20

## **6. Any other business**

- AN will investigate if the EPC Insurance is adequate to cover the work the FoE carries out
- WT will create Method Statements to cover the regular work carried out around the village.

- Adrian's Wall will be given some TLC on Saturday 24th June at 9am. JH will use the volunteer WhatsApp to communicate.
- PWo proposed the purchase of a good quality 'Stihl' hedge cutter. It was unanimously approved by the committee. However, discussion was had on the concerns regarding safe storage and all agreed an 'owner' of any new assets will be assigned.

**Date of next meeting- 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7.00pm Council Chambers**