



Friends of Essington Meeting
13th September 2023

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), Freddie Homer, Wilson Taylor, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Tracey Taylor

Apologies: Adrian Nicklin, Pete Ward (PW)

Record of last meeting: Approved by WT, Seconded by JH

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

Miners Monument

Bricks have been moved in the Community Centre lock up to allow development of the new one-way system.

AN explained that full planning application is about to be submitted- Ongoing.

PWo to fetch broken bits from Betty Mason- Ongoing.

It was agreed that PWo purchase some brick glue to allow trials to be undertaken with similar bricks.

Triangle

It was commented on how good the island looks with the flowers. It was suggested that maybe a photo could be taken for consideration for 2025 calendar. NW & WT to organise.

Volunteer Hours

As per email from Ryan (see Correspondence section) hours are to be submitted for the quarter so that they can be collated and communicated.

Laptop

Ongoing.

Fred's Bed Bus Stop

Ongoing.

Constitution

The signed copy has been given to NW for filing in the FoE folder.

New Pedestrian Gate at St Johns School

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

Seven sponsors have already sent us their donations. Many thanks to them Phil McGlynn attended meeting and discussed his photographs for the calendar. He is happy that we use some of his pictures for next years calendar and will continue to submit any relevant ones he takes going forward. The committee would like to thank Phil for his support.

AN is preparing pictures to send to the printers.

Bovis Site Improvements

NW and WT met with Daniel from Vistry. He shares our views on what work needs completing to make the public footpath area look good and easy to maintain by the gardening contractors. He will organise completion.

NOTE: He mentioned that the new houses on the corner are no longer going ahead. He explained that the land had been offered to St Johns Academy but they declined it. TT will discuss this with St Johns to get understanding of the facts.

Local walks

PWo will investigate- Ongoing.

Damaged/Missing Trees

Ongoing.

Jubilee Planter

Jamie at Alvaston was expected at meeting to discuss plans for new planter but he couldn't make it. He has pledged to attend next meeting. PWo to continue dialogue.

Cannock Road Island

Ongoing.

Public Liability Insurance

New policy obtained from Zurich at a much lower cost with improved cover. CW to add Policy document to website for transparency/information.

Method Statements for Project Work

WT has submitted documents for review. Some small changes were proposed and he will update accordingly and recirculate for approval. Many thanks to WT for his time preparing these.

Hedge Trimmer

Purchased and already used on projects around the village.

Future Generation Orchard

A small team from FoE attended and cut down grass/nettles and trimmed hedge. Thanks were received from Emma at St Johns.

Pools Monument Stone

PW mentioned that the graffiti still needs removing from the stone over the pools. AN will liaise with EPC to see if it needs professional attention- Ongoing.

Remembrance Wreath

Wreath has been ordered from British Legion. NW to contact Bloxwich British Legion to confirm.

2. Environmental Activities

Grass cutting

No update on the EPC areas getting included in SSDC budget- Ongoing.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz nights: 25th October & 15th November.

Committee reiterated its thanks for the amount of work JH undertakes to make these events a success.

4. Correspondence

- McDonald's replied to our letter thanking them, and said they welcome the chance to help.
- Email forwarded by AN which he received from Ryan Taylor at SSDC in relation to the annual funding grant of £250. He requested an update on our projects (completed and proposed) and our volunteer hours for last quarter. This would hopefully allow him to authorise the payment to us. NW to action.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

Expenditure

The following expenses were approved for payment:

- Purchase of brick glue
- Purchase of Strimmer cord and fuel

6. Any other business

- St Johns Academy have asked FoE to consider any upcoming projects that school children could get involved in. PWO suggested clearing the area over the pools in front of the commemorative benches and planting wild perennial

flowers. The school children could help with the planting and then ongoing maintenance.

- Bob Firmstone contacted committee to pass on his thanks on behalf of 'Pools Occasionals' for all the help FoE members (and the recently purchased power tools) give to them in clearing paths etc.
- Andy Morris contacted JH to ask if he could obtain a publicity photo to support his sponsorship of the calendar. JH to coordinate.
- JH presented an article he has written (in conjunction with Bob Firmstone) about the 'Pools Occasionals' for inclusion in the next church magazine. Thanks to JH for his efforts on this article.
- NW mentioned that Key Factory public footpath is getting overgrown again. It was agreed a team would attend on Tues 19th September to address this. NW to publicise via WhatsApp.
- PWo suggested that 'Adrians Wall' needs attention. Team will attend on Tues 26th Sept. PWo to communicate via WhatsApp

Date of next meeting- 11th October, 7.00pm Council Chambers