



Friends of Essington Meeting
8th December 2023

Present: Wilson Taylor, Neil Wheeldon, Tracey Taylor, Pete Ward (PW), Paul Woolley (PWo)
James Parker (EPC member attending as guest)

Apologies: Jon Hanson, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Adrian Nicklin, Freddie Homer

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

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

Miners Monument

The planning permission is progressing.

Laptop

FoE have been reimbursed the purchase cost. Need to discuss if replacement is required at next meeting.

Fred's Bed Bus Stop

AN has received a communication from Kath Perry asking for details about the bus company etc. These have been sent previously so slightly disappointing to be asked for this information so long after the initial complaints.

New Pedestrian Gate at St Johns School

The whole committee would like to register their ongoing concern over safety issues and the lack of interest shown by the parties that are involved in this!! AN and TT will continue to push the issue- Still Ongoing.

Calendar

Calendars have been distributed to outlets around the village for sale. The sponsors have also been sent a couple of complimentary copies each. Again, we would like to record our thanks to sponsors. Once sales have finished, over next few weeks, NW will provide full financial update for next meeting.

Bovis Site Improvements

NW sent a request for progress from Daniel at Vistry, on behalf of FoE and EPC. No response has been received. A discussion took place as this is unusual as Daniel has always been good at communicating. It was agreed NW to send a gentle reminder in case there are personal reasons for his non response.

Local walks

PWo gave some thoughts he has on this topic and will continue to investigate possible walk routes- Ongoing.

Damaged/Missing Trees

PWo has spoken with Dave Knowles at Forest of Mercia about obtaining replacements. Need a full inventory of missing trees to feedback. NW to prepare this for next meeting.

Jubilee Planter

Jamie from Alvaston gave his apologies for not attending this meeting. He will come to the next meeting so discussions can take place on an action plan.

Pools Monument Stone

Graffiti has been almost completely removed by a cleaning contractor, in liaison with PWA. Many thanks to PWA for all his time and effort on this topic.

Remembrance Wreath

Presented on behalf of FoE by CW & AW. Many thanks to them both for carrying out this role.

St Johns Academy Projects for Children

TT has spoken with the staff at the Academy and they indicated that the Environmental Club would like to be involved in this project. PWo will continue to develop ideas for this ready for the spring when it can begin.

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

This needs further discussion and action in the spring when work can take place.

Pools Birdboxes

All boxes cleaned and repaired as required. As usual a very positive count on boxes that had been nested in. Thanks to FH for continued leadership on this project.

Google Drive

At next meeting, when more attendees present, need to discuss structure of Google Drive and approve payment details

Lockup

As agreed, items have been disposed of. Thanks PWo.

2. Environmental Activities

None currently active

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

None currently planned

4. Correspondence

- Invite from Support Staffordshire to attend VCSE meeting
- Invite to attend South Staffs Green conversations

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

Expenditure

- Nothing presented for approval

6. Any other business

- PWO, FH & NW attended local VCSE meeting (AN attended-on behalf of EPC)
Update given to committee with highlights as follows
 - Offer of visit to Four Ashes waste disposal plant
 - Guidance offered on some policies FoE should have. WT volunteered to follow up on this topic
 - Insurance broker present who specialises in volunteer groups. He will be contacted closer to renewal date to tender for our insurance.
- PWO & PWA attended Green Conservations Forum and gave update
- NW suggested we cut back overgrowth around fruit trees at pedestrian entrance to pools by carpark. Agreed this is a job for early next year.
- NW mentioned that Telford Park has Lifesaver ropes around the pools and maybe this would be ideal for Pools. To be discussed with AN at next meeting.



- JP asked what could be done to reinstate the Wulfrun Way sign that has fell down on Brownshore Lane. To be discussed more at next meeting

- JP explained that a load of wood chippings will be dropped at the Pools carpark in the near future and help will be required to spread around the area.

Date of next meeting- 10th January, 7.00pm Council Chambers