



Friends of Essington Meeting
14th February 2024

Present: Neil Wheeldon, Pete Ward (PWa), Jon Hanson, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Adrian Nicklin, Paul Woolley (PWo)

James Parker (EPC member attending as guest)

Apologies: Wilson Taylor, Tracey Taylor, Freddie Homer

Record of last meeting: Approved by PWa Seconded by JH

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

Miners Monument

Planning approved so PWo is meeting with Structural Engineer to finalise design. John Webb will be contacted to take up his offer of equipment for footing etc.

Laptop

JH has decided best option is to utilise private PC.

Fred's Bed Bus Stop

Layby has been used recently by coach but it is not sure if this is a coincidence or a positive improvement. Situation will be monitored.

Calendar

NW provided a full financial summary for review. Proposal is to have a full and frank discussion at next meeting and vote on future of producing calendar.

Bovis Site Improvements

A stile has been erected across entrance to Key Factory footpath. AN mentioned complaints have been received at the council office as this constrains dog walkers, pushchairs, wheelchairs etc. This is not what was discussed. Dan at Bovis to be contacted for update.



Local walks

PWo discussed travelling to a walk location. All agreed this is not a problem.

Damaged/Missing Trees

Forest of Mercia has replacement 'Whips' ready for collection. PWo & NW will organise collection and planting.

Jubilee Planter

AN, PWa and PWo attended Alvaston yard to evaluate timber. AN subsequently produced drawings and a cutting list. This will be forwarded to Jamie for review.

Pools Monument Stone

PWa to investigate obtaining a Stainless-Steel blank that can be engraved to replace damaged plaque.

St Johns Academy Projects for Children

PWo has spoken with pools bailiff's and EPC and all happy for project to proceed. Committee approved expenditure for PWo to purchase wild flower plugs at suitable time for planting.

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

As per Jubilee Planter.

Google Drive

NW & CW to meet to update payment details.

Additional Policy Creation

WT produced some documents for review. This was delayed until next meeting to allow him to present in person.

Visit to Four Ashes Waste Disposal Plant

Visit organised for 5th March at 10am. Spare places will be offered to wider volunteer group.

Fruit Trees at Pools

Planned for 15th February.

Lifesaver Ropes for Brownshore Pools Area

AN to make enquiries if a similar scheme operates in our area. Ongoing.

Missing Wulfrun Way Signage

Relevant department have confirmed they have a replacement sign which they plan to install in future.

Spring Clean

AN confirmed detail of event. Saturday 13th April 9am-11.30am meeting at Scouts.

Fence Damage

NW sent presentation to EPC showing damage in various locations around the village. JP explained it was discussed at last EPC meeting. PWO estimated cost of materials at approx. £1k. Discussion took place about various types of replacement posts. AN & JP to investigate EPC funding costs.

Tree Planting Areas

Forest of Mercia are initially happy with location proposed by PWO for new trees (behind allotments on High Hill). Contact needs to be made with landowners for their approval/commitment.



2. Environmental Activities

None currently active

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz 21st February.

4. Correspondence

- Email from 'Support Staffordshire' confirming membership and providing various documents which have been circulated. CW will update website with membership badge.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

Expenditure

- PWO to purchase wildflower plugs
- CW to pay GoDaddy

6. Any other business

- AN suggested that we make a 'Maintenance Schedule' for village projects
- PWo explained that 'Adrians Wall' needs tidying up. Date agreed for 24th Feb at 9am. PW to communicate via volunteer WhatsApp.
- JH suggested that we need to obtain trolleys for litter picking. Hopefully this can be discussed with other groups at upcoming Networking Event,

Date of next meeting- 13th March, 7.00pm Council Chambers