



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Present:** Neil Wheeldon, Pete Ward (PWa), Jon Hanson, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Adrian Nicklin, Wilson Taylor, Freddie Homer

**Apologies:** Tracey Taylor, Paul Woolley (PWo)

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by AW Seconded by FH

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

**Miners Monument**

PWo has met structural engineer on site and discussed requirements. Awaiting detailed design of base and support.

**Fred's Bed Bus Stop**

AN has supplied pictures of the situation to Kath Perry for her to address. Ongoing.

**Calendar**

NW provided a new quote for calendar which will save money. Discussion was had about increasing sponsorship cost. Also discussed about need for new photographs so articles will be placed in Church mag and on Essington Live. Initial opinion is to produce next years calendar but final decision will be taken later in year.

**Bovis Site Improvements**

Response received from Dan explaining he was unaware of new stile and will ask for it to be removed. Local resident had contacted several committee members expressing her concern at invasion of privacy as people can see into her garden when climbing over the stile.

**Local walks**

Ongoing PWo.

**Damaged/Missing Trees**

New 'Whips' collected from Forest of Mercia by PWo. Awaiting planting.

**Jubilee Planter**

A meeting was held with Jamie to discuss the design and project planning. As he needs clearance for ride-on mower the design will be modified by AN.

### **Pools Monument Stone**

PWa has obtained a stainless-steel blank. AN will liaise with him about engraving.

### **St Johns Academy Projects for Children**

PWo has made plans with St Johns for a date to carry this out. Planting with children will be at 10am on 21<sup>st</sup> March. He has purchased the wildflower plugs ready. WT to prepare Risk Assessment for event.

### **Blackhalve Lane Gateway**

As per Jubilee Planter.

### **Google Drive**

Unable to use FoE bank details as GoDaddy need card details, therefore CW will continue to pay and be reimbursed asap.

### **Additional Policy Creation**

WT discussed the Data Protection policy he had created. Discussion was had about the requirement to explain to people about how their data will be used, e.g. WhatsApp group displays their phone number to whole group, and request consent.

### **Visit to Four Ashes Waste Disposal Plant**

Visit enjoyed by all. Thank you email sent to Hilary by NW.

### **Fruit Trees at Pools**

Completed by NW & PWo. Local resident thanked them for vast improvement to appearance.

### **Lifesaver Ropes for Brownshore Pools Area**

AN to discuss at next pools meeting. Ongoing.

### **Missing Wulfrun Way Signage**

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

### **Spring Clean**

AN gave further details of event. Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 9am-11.30am meeting at Scouts. He will invite Sir Gavin. He also proposed purchasing long reach pickers, gloves and over glasses.

### **Fence Damage**

Funds for new timber given by EPC. PWo has purchased and taken delivery of timber. Planned to install at same time as doing foundation for Miners Monument.

## **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. Ongoing.

## **Maintenance Schedule for Projects**

Ongoing.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

None currently active

## **3. Social Events**

### **Quiz Nights**

Next quiz's 27<sup>th</sup> March & 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## **4. Correspondence**

- Reply received from council regarding flyposting and how they deal with it. Email address for anyone to report it to is **EnviroCrime@sstaffs.gov.uk**
- Email received from Ryan discussing Litter recycling options (very limited!) and also concern he had observed someone picking litter in village without Hi-Vis.

## **5. Finance**

### **Bank Balance**

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

### **Expenditure**

- AN to purchase litter picking equipment
- CW to pay GoDaddy

### **Year End Accounts**

NW explained that a neighbour, who is a qualified accountant, will sign off this year's accounts for completeness.

## **6. Any other business**

- NW gave the 'Wombles' Hi Vis vests to JH for distribution.
- AW asked the committees opinion on the Staffordshire Lottery. It was agreed that NW would circulate the details for discussion at next meeting.

- AW asked about AGM. WT consulted constitution and it is required to take place during May.
- PWA asked if council have a schedule for the Street Scene litter picks so we can plan Wombles picks around them. NW to contact Ryan for details if available.
- Cannock Road Island has been replanted into a smaller centre area. Jamie will arrange new turf to reduce area that requires weeding.

**Date of next meeting- 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm Council Chambers**