



Friends of Essington Meeting
10th April 2024

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

Apologies: N/A

Record of last meeting: Approved by FH Seconded by AN

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

Miners Monument

Design expected from Engineer end of this week.

Fred's Bed Bus Stop

Council have agreed to move the bus stop to the lamp post on the car park area outside St Johns church. However, this lamppost has since been demolished in a car accident!! It is planned to be replaced and then the move will continue as agreed. Thanks, Ade, for continued pressure on councillors.

Bovis Site Improvements

The Stile has been opened up with the consent of the Bovis management contact. All other actions, including fitting a suitable kissing gate, are outstanding.

Local walks

Ongoing PWo.

Damaged/Missing Trees

New 'whips' planted by NW & WT on Bovis estate.

Jubilee Planter

New design completed by AN taking into account Jamies comments. AN will liaise with Jamie to share revised plan and confirm adequate stock of the timber.

Pools Monument Stone

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

St Johns Academy Projects for Children

The planting has taken place with the pupils. It was an event enjoyed by all parties involved.

Thanks to WT for preparing a risk assessment and liaising with the relevant school staff.

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

As per Jubilee Planter.

Additional Policy Creation

It was discussed, and subsequently agreed, that the Data Controller Role should be part of the secretary's function.

Lifesaver Ropes for Brownshore Pools Area

This item is now with EPC to progress as they feel appropriate.

Missing Wulfrun Way Signage

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

Spring Clean

Event planned for Saturday 13th April 9am-11.30am meeting at Scouts. AN has invited Sir Gavin, who confirmed he will attend, and also purchased the safety equipment as approved by the committee.

Fence Damage

The posts for High Hill are ready for installation and an initial event will take place on Saturday 27th April. JH will communicate to the wider volunteer base to ask for support.

Tree Planting Areas

Dave Knowles and KKat from Forest of Mercia are very happy with the site and will produce a project plan.

Maintenance Schedule for Projects

Ongoing.

Staffordshire Lottery

It was discussed, and agreed that the next stage should be to create an account so we can ask people to support us. NW to undertake this action.

AGM

Due to unavailability of the current officials for the May meeting, it was unanimously agreed to hold the AGM at the meeting on June 12th. CW to communicate this via next Parish Magazine article.

2. Environmental Activities

None currently active

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz's 1st May and 22nd May at Essington WMC as usual.

4. Correspondence

- A resident had contacted the group concerning a blockage on the storm culvert at the Kitchen Lane junction area of the pools. As this is an ongoing issue and not easily/safely remedied it was agreed that it is a council/water company issue.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Balance and recent transactions shared with the committee.

Expenditure

No items presented for approval

Year End Accounts

NW explained that accounts are prepared and will be given to Accountant to review and sign off as he feels appropriate for our type of group.

6. Any other business

- WT presented a 'Safeguarding Policy' for review. This will be circulated and discussed at next meeting. Thanks to WT for taking the ownership of this topic.
- AN suggested FoE could hold a small social event both for entertainment and maybe an opportunity to generate some additional funds.
- Next Wombles event is planned to be 25th April.

Date of next meeting- 8th May, 7.00pm Council Chambers