



Friends of Essington Meeting
14th August 2024

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

Apologies: Neil Wheeldon,

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

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

Miners Monument

Meeting has been organised for 18th August with Alan Degg, PWa, PWo & AN to discuss project.

Jubilee Planter

PWo to co-ordinate next stage of construction at the carpenter's shop.

Pools Monument Stone

AN has a quote for the engraving of the replacement plaque (an VAT invoice is required for EPC to pay the expense). Further quote to be obtained by PWa/NW. Old plaque to be removed by PWa & NW

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

As per Jubilee Planter.

Fence Damage

Final full session completed the major replacement of the fence. A further post is to be installed to form a narrower entrance to prevent unauthorised access. PWo, PWa and NW will do this. Ongoing.

Staffordshire Lottery

So far £15.50 has been raised. An article appeared in church magazine so hopefully additional people will join. JH to advertise lottery at the next quiz.

Railway Path

Railway walk at bottom of nicket across to Blackhalve lane was cut back along a considerable length on 10th August. Thanks to JH for organising and all who participated.

Brownshore Crossing

FW asked if the saplings at the crossing can be removed. Ongoing

Windmill Bench

AW & CW asked if the area around the bench on Windmill Hill can be cut back. It is not possible to see the bench due to the overgrowth. JH and Anna have completed this work. Many Thanks.

Calendar

Financial details were presented showing predicted revenue if sponsors charge was increased and new printer used. It was agreed to produce a calendar this year with sponsors charge increasing to £75 and utilising new printer. NW to contact printer to gain timelines. The idea of showing bin collections was discussed but decided to be an additional complication so was declined.

FH asked if the FoE meetings could be shown bigger. To be investigated.

CW & JH to contact people about wildlife pictures/continue to advertise in mag and communications.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

Layout plan has been received from Forest of Mercia, very comprehensive plan. PWO has presented the plan to the EPC and they are happy. Only proviso is that access is allowed to existing trees for maintenance (about 4 m wide). Ongoing.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quizzes 4th September, 2nd October & 6th November at Essington WMC as usual.

Local walks

PWO has scheduled the walk for Saturday 5th October at 9.30am meeting at The Platform Café, Bratch Lane, Wombourne WV4 4HJ. Walk is approximately 6.5 miles

4. Correspondence

- Monthly bulletin received from 'SupportStaffordshire' and circulated to everyone.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Latest Bank Statement shared with the committee by NW.

Expenditure

See below

Insurance Renewal

EPC were contacted by NW but their insurance only covers projects directly controlled by them. Therefore, they advised we should still obtain our own insurance but that EPC may be able to make a contribution to cost. All agreed insurance should be renewed. NW to renew.

6. Any other business

- RBL contacted regarding Wreath. NW confirmed we still wished to purchase one. CW to contact them about slightly changing design.
- JH gave update about recycling presentation at WMC. One of the items was Organic waste and JH will provide more info.

Date of next meeting - 12th September, 7.00pm Council Chambers