



Friends of Essington Meeting
12th February 2025

Present: Neil Wheeldon, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Paul Woolley (PWo), Wilson Taylor, Tracey Taylor, Pete Ward (PWA), Jon Hanson, James Parker (Essington Parish Councillor) Ann Fowler (Non-Committee)

Apologies: Fred Homer

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

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

Miners Monument

No change- Alan waiting for improvement in weather before bringing heavy plant onto grass to excavate foundation.

Jubilee Planter

PWo to contact Jamie to arrange date to deliver all prepared wood to site.

Pools Monument Stone

Awaiting notification of completion of plaque from supplier. Installation will be coordinated by PWA.

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

As per Jubilee Planter.

Staffordshire Lottery

Payments from Lottery are steadily increasing. Many thanks to all new ticket holders.

Windmill Bench

No Change- Bench just needs a coat of varnish when weather improves. Action JH.

Calendar

This year's calendar raised over £600, which will help fund projects around Essington. Many thanks to all people who purchased a calendar.

Around 50 copies were unsold so a smaller print run will be considered next year. It was also discussed that a different design for a poster may be more effective.

Birdbox Cleaning

FH reported that several Robin boxes were missing. NW made 4 new Robin boxes (open front) and a Blue Tit box (small hole). All boxes were installed over the pools

by FH, NW & WT. It was also discussed that the new 'Nature Habitat Posts' around the pool's car park have numerous nests in them suitable for small birds.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

The replacement fruit trees have been collected by PWo. They will be planted on 14th February. PWo has purchased compost, bark and tree wash ready for the work to be undertaken.

Spring Clean 2025

Date is Saturday 5th April. JH discussed his action plan and all seems under control. He will check stocks of litter picking equipment and decide if we are short of anything. Ryan at SSDC will be contacted to donate/loan equipment. It was agreed that if any items need purchasing (such as gloves) then he has approval to proceed.

Silent soldier outside St Johns Church

PWo & WT installed the new backing to the soldier.

Wombles Litter Picks

JH identified a few trolleys and it was discussed that the festival trolley might be best as it can be folded for storage. NW explained that the public liability insurance policy doesn't specifically mention litter picks so it was agreed we should create a risk assessment. This would then identify areas where there is a greater danger and how we should proceed (i.e. display signage, ask Street Scene to pick fast roads etc)

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

PWo has obtained a few quotes. It was agreed that 'The Wood Saints' charity looked the best quote (£680) and it helps support them. NW & PWo to visit them to discuss quote and obtain a view on their quality. Also discussed how best to show the 'Friends of Essington' name on the post so people get an awareness we have supplied it.

Celebration in the Community Event

The event was a great success and the FoE were given an award in recognition of their work around the village. A couple of individuals also received awards. Many thanks to the parish council for arranging the event and inviting and recognising FoE members.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

This event took place on 9th February. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Approx 950 trees were planted. Many thanks to PWO for the coordination, Forest of Mercia, Essington Rugby Club and all volunteers. PWO has discussed with ERUFC what to call the wood, and 'The Jones-Nicklin Wood' was proposed and everyone agreed. It was thought once the carpark extension has been completed a sign should be installed.



3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz is 19th February at Working Men's Club. Future dates will be circulated once confirmed.

JH Holiday Photo Presentation

Event was well attended. Many thanks to JH and CW for organising and presenting.

4. Correspondence

- An email was received from Ryan replying to NW question about the annual grant from SSDC. He apologised for the oversight and arranged for the grant (£250) to be paid into our account immediately.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Latest Bank Statement was shared with the committee prior to meeting by NW.

Expenditure

- CW explained there was a forthcoming charge of £33.58 from GoDaddy for the FoE domain name. He will pay it and NW will ensure he is repaid immediately.
- JH to purchase litter pick truck as discussed earlier.
- PWO was reimbursed for supplies for the Orchard project

6. Any other business

- AW highlighted that this year marks 20 years since FoE was created. Discussion was had on what should be done to mark this milestone. Many ideas were proposed and further discussions will take place before any decisions are taken.
- CW explained that due to various reasons the Twitter account will no longer be used. WhatsApp and Essington Live are now the preferred means of communications.

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