



Friends of Essington Meeting
10th July 2025

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), James Parker (EPC), Fred Homer, Wilson Taylor, Jon Hanson, Neil Wheeldon, Ann Fowler

Apologies: Angie Whittle, Pete Ward (PWa), Clem Whittle, Tracey Taylor

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

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

Miners Monument

Grant application form was prepared by NW & PWo and submitted immediately after the EPC council meeting which PWo attended. The grant application has subsequently been approved and funds have been received into FoE account this morning. NW to send thank you letter to Louise for circulation to full EPC. Next stage is buying the blocks to begin building the base in liaison with the bricklayer.

Blackhalve Lane Gateway

Work is complete and they are now planted. PWo asked if people could water them occasionally during hot spell.

Calendar

360 entries for the new FoE logo were created by St Johns Academy pupils. The school selected the top 60 for judging by the FoE committee (an ad hoc meeting took place to select 12 finalists). The final 12 were presented at this meeting and a winner was selected. The committee were staggered by the level of involvement at St Johns Academy and NW was asked to pass on our gratitude to the head.

PWo will attend to present the winner with their prize. WT will design a certificate to be presented. WT & TT are also going to procure 'Haribo's' to distribute to all the pupils who participated.

It was requested that NW contact the printer to invite him to our next meeting to discuss initial design formats.

JH will circulate requests for photographs explaining we are soon to begin work on selection.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

School is interested in a beehive but FH explained that his contact is not available to provide these. He is happy to give verbal support to the school if they require it. PWO to arrange a housekeeping visit to the orchard to trim and tidy up as required.

Wombles Litter Picks

Date of next one is 17th July @ 10am.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

Supplier has agreed that letters can be produced deeper. The proforma invoice has been paid so that manufacture can begin. They will provide artwork for approval in advance.

FoE 20th Anniversary

Meal was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to PWO for organising.

Freds Bed

Freds Bed will now be looked after by the community service group. FH to speak to the group leader to see if they could also give attention to the Village Green area by the monument.

Hobnock/Bursnips Road Junction

Ongoing.

Pools LNR Work

PWO has provided some informal advice to EPC. He has also explained that this is not a FoE project and we already have many time commitments maintaining existing projects around the village.

Brownshore Crossing

Ongoing but it was suggested that a deadhead and weed is required.

Canal Boat Trip

This was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to PWO for organising

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

JH and others continue to monitor damage and repair if possible. PWO will speak to ERUFC to obtain timescale for car park extension. This will enable a timing for when to install sign and for a tree rescue take place before excavations take place.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz nights are on Wednesdays 16th July and 20th August at the Working Men's Club.

4. Correspondence

- VCSE newsletter

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Latest Bank Statement was shared with the committee by NW.

Expenditure

- New fingerpost has been paid for @ £720
- Materials for Miners monument to be purchased as required.

6. Any other business

- A resident has contacted FoE (via EPC) to see if we would be interested in taking over maintenance of the planter outside the old post office on Wolverhampton Road. NW to contact resident to obtain more information regarding current activity ownership etc.
- NW mentioned that the recent VCSE (Support Staffordshire) newsletter was offering training courses for various things. He thought the Adult safeguarding course could be useful. AF offered to take part in the Zoom training.

Date of next meeting - 13th August at 7.00pm in Council Chambers