



Friends of Essington Meeting **13th August 2025**

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), James Parker (EPC), Fred Homer, Wilson Taylor, Jon Hanson, Neil Wheeldon, Ann Fowler, Angie Whittle, Pete Ward (PWa), Clem Whittle, Steve Jones (volunteer)

Apologies: Tracey Taylor

Record of last meeting:

Freds Bed: FH asked for the minutes to show that the community service group will assist but not look after solely.

Approved by FH, Seconded by WT

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

Miners Monument

PWo purchased the blocks, which have now been laid on the base by PWo & PWa. PWo is talking to a bricklayer who may be able to put an initial course of bricks down so that the 'monument bricks' can be installed. PWa has agreed the donation of all bricks required from Ibstock in Cheslyn Hay, and is liaising with them.

Calendar

PWo attended St Johns Academy to present the winner with a certificate and prize. The runners up also received a certificate. All participating pupils also received a 'thank you' packet of Haribos. An article on the above was in this month's Essington connection.

A group of committee members had a pre meeting session to shortlist photographs for next year's calendar. These were presented to the meeting and some small changes were made. We now have the 12 pictures for inclusion in the calendar. After a discussion it was agreed that we should include a location and the person's name for each picture. NW will circulate these details for feedback. NW will also circulate the 'special occasion' dates for feedback.

NW will contact sponsors to see if they will support next year's edition. The cost for this will still be £75.

The printer was on holiday and sent his apologies but intends to come to the next meeting.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

A small team attended and strimmed the weeds and grass. It was very overgrown which was disappointing. NW will remind the contact at the school to ask us when attention is required.

The new trees look healthy and the majority of trees have fruit on them. One of the older trees looks like it will need replacing in the near future.

PWo explained that he may be able to get new artwork done for the sign as it is showing signs of water damage. The printer for the calendar will be asked if he can print it on a more weather tolerant material.

Wombles Litter Picks

JH will circulate the next event via the Wombles WhatsApp group.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

The supplier is due to start production shortly.

Freds Bed

The community service group have done some work on Fred's bed. They will also assist in looking after the village green.

Hobnock/Bursnips Road Junction

Ongoing, awaiting an update from SCC on status on junction improvements.

Brownshore Crossing

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

Planter @ Old Post Office

NW shared email details with PWo who visited the couple involved. He has agreed with them we will construct a new outer as an interim until flowers have died down. PWo has contacted James Slim to see if the remaining 'Essington in Bloom' funds could be utilised.

Adult Safeguarding Training

AF attending the online training and commented that it was useful. She has recommended some modifications to our safeguarding policy, which everyone agreed with. AF also agreed to be our safeguarding 'champion'.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

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

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz nights are on Wednesdays 20th August, 17th September and 15th October at the Working Men's Club.

4. Correspondence

- Thank you received from acting Head mistress thanking us for involving the pupils in logo competition.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

Latest Bank Statement and recent transactions were shared with the committee by NW.

Expenditure

- New strimmer head has been purchased (£29.54)
- Blocks for Miners monument have been purchased (£238.74)
- Narcissus bulbs for Fred's bed and Brownshore triangle.

6. Any other business

- NW explained that the annual insurance is up for renewal. It was discussed if we should keep the public liability at £5M and consensus was we should. NW to circulate new quote for comment before purchasing.

Date of next meeting - 10th September at 7.00pm in Council Chambers