



Friends of Essington Meeting **10th September 2025**

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), James Parker (EPC member), Tracey Taylor, Wilson Taylor, Neil Wheeldon, Ann Clay, Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle

Apologies: Fred Homer, Jon Hanson, Pete Ward (PWa)

Record of last meeting:

Approved by CW, Seconded by AC

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

Miners Monument

Ibstock have supplied the bricks for the monument surround. Two courses have been laid by a local bricklayer who has agreed to help us. The special shaped bricks are currently in production. The memorial bricks are to be moved from the community centre on Sunday 14th September. PWo has organised the loan of a van for the transport. All help gratefully received with the manual work.

WT suggested putting a 'time capsule' into the footings. This was discussed and all agreed it was a good idea. WT was approved to purchase a suitable unit.

Calendar

NW has written to all sponsors asking if they wish to support this edition of the calendar. So far 1 has declined, 11 have agreed and 1 has not yet replied. AC is to contact the outstanding sponsor for clarification. NW has issued 11 invoices and 3 have already been paid into the bank. A couple of sponsors are still to supply new logo artwork.

AW & CW daughter (Emma) has done a tremendous job on a design format. The printer attended the meeting and this was presented to him. He is happy with everything and will formalise a quote along with option for a comb wired spine. Emma will liaise with the printer about formats etc to allow him to organise printing. It was agreed to keep the print run quantity the same with the hope that the 'logo competition' and fresh photo contributors will increase sales.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

TT explained that there is a lot of fruit on the trees so it was agreed to visit to pick it. PWo to arrange and communicate details.

PWo explained to the printer that he may have artwork for a new sign and could he produce a more weather resistance sign. He is happy to assist and PWo will liaise with him.

Wombles Litter Picks

JH will circulate the next event via the Wombles WhatsApp group. NW has spoken with Ryan Taylor at SSDC to either supply coloured bags (as per example supplied of Walsall Council bags) or labels to apply to current black bags to differentiate 'wombles bags' from fly tipping.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

PWo explained that all engraving of writing is now complete. The paint is on order and completion should be within a couple of weeks. PWo explained his thoughts on using 2 godfather posts to secure and all agreed he should source these in anticipation of sign completion.

Hobnock/Burnsips Road Junction

Ongoing: Awaiting an update from SCC on status on junction improvements.

Brownshore Crossing

Ongoing: It was suggested that a deadhead and weed is required.

Planter @ Old Post Office

NW has used wood from the lockup to build a frame. NW & PWo have collected 'Log Lap' timber from a builder's merchants to clad the outside. The merchant was in Cradley Heath so all agreed NW should be reimbursed £10 towards petrol. No feedback yet from James Slim about a contribution from the surplus 'Essington in Bloom' funds.

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 17th September and 15th October at the Working Men's Club.

4. Correspondence

- None

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

NW confirmed that the Public Liability Insurance has been paid and is now in place for next 12 months. As per last year a grant application will be made to EPC for support with this cost as it covers all volunteers who assist FoE projects.

Expenditure

- Plants for Broad Lane planter to be purchased
- Godfather posts for the new finger post to be purchased
- NW to claim £10 for petrol to collect timber
- WT to source suitable 'Time Capsule'
- CW submitted invoice for Go Daddy website which NW will pay asap.

6. Any other business

- PWo mentioned the 'Carl Sinclair' event been organised in memory of Adrian Nicklin with proceeds going to a Brain Cancer charity. He will contact Ade's family to get exact details and circulate.
- AW mentioned how plain the Blackhalve Lane planters look. It was agreed PWo would obtain some plants for the new planters now they are in place.

Date of next meeting - 8th October at 7.00pm in Council Chambers