



Friends of Essington Meeting **8th October 2025**

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), Tracey Taylor, Neil Wheeldon, Fred Homer, Jon Hanson, Pete Ward (PWa), Wilson Taylor, Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle

Apologies: Ann Clay

Record of last meeting:

Approved by AW, Seconded by TT

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

Miners Monument

The memorial bricks have now been moved near to the base, ready for installation. PWo has laid four courses using the adhesive. Results look very promising, but it was noted some of the bricks are irregular sizes but the surround bricks will compensate for this. The bricklayer will return in the next few weeks to build some of the surround. The surround bricks are to be collected from Ibstock this Friday. Some materials for the mortar will probably be required and it was agreed these should be purchased as required.

WT has purchased the time capsule and showed it to the meeting. People need to give thought to what documents should be placed in it.

Calendar

Several committee members reviewed the initial designs and suggested corrections. Emma Whittle has incorporated these into the completed design and sent it to the printer. Everyone asked CW & AW to pass on our gratitude and it was unanimously agreed that PWo should purchase some wine for Emma to show our appreciation. NW explained that eight sponsors have already paid their money into our bank account.

NW will talk to James @ 1911 to see if we can have some type of presence at his Xmas fayre to sell calendars. CW will contact Cherry Tree to see how we can sell calendars there. TT will contact St Johns Academy about us attending their Xmas fayre. PWo has already confirmed a stall at the Rugby Club event.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

A small group attended the orchard and did an inspection and some housekeeping of the trees and surrounding area. Howard has offered his knowledge and time to prune the trees ready for next year.

TT has spoken to Sarah Jane at the school and she is going to ensure all teachers are made aware of the orchard and hopefully visit the resource. We can then get feedback as to whether they believe it is a project we should continue to maintain. PWO will arrange a new sign over the coming months in conjunction with our printer contact.

Wombles Litter Picks

JH explained that the litter picks are getting more people attending. He will continue to coordinate future events. He also explained the invitation from SSDC to a 'Thank you' event for the regions volunteer litter pickers. JH will coordinate attendees for the event.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

The completed sign is due for delivery on 9th October. PWO will accept and store the sign awaiting installation. NW has purchased the godfather posts ready. PWO will coordinate installation date in the near future.

Hobnock/Bursnips 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. PWO will apply weedkiller to tidy up area.

Planter @ Old Post Office

NW completed the build of the planter. NW, PWO and WT installed it on site. With the agreement of Margaret (the resident from the property who maintains the existing planter) they dismantled the old one and transferred soil and plants to the new one.

An email was received from Margaret expressing her gratitude and a promise to 'look after it and ensure that it continues to be a welcome sight as you enter our village'.

Blackhalve Lane Planters

PWO planted them up. One planter is showing a sign of distortion and this will be attended to ready for the spring.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

Ongoing: JH and others continue to monitor damage and repair if possible. JH explained that some new canes are required and he will liaise with PWO to obtain these.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz nights are on Wednesdays 15th October and 5th November at the Working Men's Club.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Margaret Spanton regarding planter as mentioned earlier.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

Expenditure

- Calendar will need to be paid for when ready for collection.
- Additional materials to be purchased for the miner's monument (covered by the council grant which NW will track).
- British Legion to be paid for wreath when delivered.
- Materials to be obtained for installation of fingerpost.
- GoDaddy invoice expected for website.

6. Any other business

- AW mentioned she had spoken with RBL to arrange collection of the wreath.
- NW mentioned that the neighbour who carries out our account audits is moving out of the village. He has said he is happy to continue giving his time to carry out the audit so no concerns currently.
- FH explained that the annual Bird Box clean is due. The 18th October was proposed as a date and CW will communicate this to the wider volunteer group once confirmed.
- JH asked if we wish to carry out a 'Spring Clean' event next year. All agreed we want to and he agreed to organise again.

Date of next meeting - 12th November at 7.00pm in Council Chambers