



Friends of Essington

Friends of Essington Meeting 10th December 2025

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), Neil Wheeldon, Tracey Taylor, Pete Ward (PWa), Wilson Taylor, Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, James Parker (Essington Parish Councillor)

Apologies: Ann Clay, Jon Hanson, Fred Homer,

Record of last meeting:

Approved by CW, Seconded by PWa

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

Miners Monument

- The monument bricks have now all been assembled. The bricklayer is due after Christmas to build the surround with the standard bricks.
- WT and PWo have completed the "letter to the future" for the time capsule.
- PWo has compiled a few versions of wording for a plaque. After discussions the final wording has been agreed. What type of sign was discussed and it was decided that a separate small brick column will look in keeping and be the most robust solution. AW has a relative who may be able to advise/assist in producing a sign.

Calendar

- NW explained that all sponsors have now paid. PWa is monitoring the outlets selling the calendars and replenishing if required. Several Xmas fayres have been attended with just the Rugby club remaining. Overall sales are going well. Feedback received from people is that the calendar design and printing are the best for a long while.
- NW asked if all monies could be paid into bank, or given to PWa, by 9th January to allow him to do the financial analysis ready for next meeting

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- It's been established that the plum tree that we intended to replace is a victim of the local conditions and any replacement would probably suffer the same fate, so it was decided not to proceed.

Wombles Litter Picks

- Several 'wombles' are going to the SSDC 'Thank your' event.
- Next Litter Pick 18th December coordinated by PWo.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

- PWa has offered to add the missing 'S's. Installation to be arranged when weather improves.

Brownshore Crossing

- Ongoing: It was suggested that a deadhead and weed is required. PWo will apply weedkiller to tidy up area.

Annual Spring Clean

- Ongoing: JH has agreed to coordinate the annual Spring Clean. Date is to be agreed.

Bird Boxes

- NW has completed the construction of 13 new birdboxes. 5 have been distributed to a volunteer for installation in Black Cat Wood. The other 8 will be installed over the pools. It is planned to do this on 27th December in conjunction with Brownshore Lane hedge clearing morning.

Annual Community Service

- JP discussed the idea that FoE could do a 5-10min speech at the annual community service awards at the Church, highlighting our activities. NW and PWa agreed preparing a speech and presenting it together.

Bryn's Mound

- The flag on Bryn's Mound needs replacing. JP explained that Louise will order a new one when it is required.

Brownshore Lane Pavement

- The last planned activity was rained off, so now the new date will be 27th December. PWo to communicate via WhatsApp nearing the date.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

- Ongoing: JH and others continue to monitor damage and repair if possible. PWo has requested 420 replacement trees from the Woodland Trust.
- It was noted that construction has begun on the carpark extension at the Rugby club which borders the Orchard.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

- Next quiz nights are on Wednesdays 21st January 2026 and 18th February 2026 at the Working Men's Club.

Annual Committee Evening

- PWa discussed venues and it was decided that the Three Hammers Bistro is an ideal venue for a group our size. He will investigate dates for further discussion.

4. Correspondence

- See EPC grant request below.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

Grant request

- NW submitted a small grant application to the Parish Council for support with our running costs. It was discussed at their meeting and their rules only allow for a single grant per year so it was refused.
- Warren contacted PWo and explained that we may be able to get a grant from Staffs council. JH compiled a 'wombles' equipment list and PWo will follow up with Warren for next steps.

Expenditure

- Additional materials to be purchased for the miner's monument (covered by the council grant which NW will continue to track).
- Materials to be obtained for installation of fingerpost.
- It was agreed by the committee that NW should purchase replacement printer inks to cover the printing he does as secretary/treasurer.

6. Any other business

- PWo explained that Forest of Mercia are attending The Steadings Estate to replace some trees they planted, @ 10pm on 16th December.

Date of next meeting - 14th January at 7.00pm in Council Chambers