



Friends of Essington Meeting **14th January 2026**

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), Neil Wheeldon, Tracey Taylor, Pete Ward (PWA), Wilson Taylor, Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, James Parker (Essington Parish Councillor), Jon Hanson, Steve Jones (volunteer)

Apologies: Ann Clay, Fred Homer,

Record of last meeting:

Approved by WT, Seconded by PWA

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

Miners Monument

- The MOT 'hardcore' has been delivered. The hole around the concrete base has now been filled with this material.
- Due to the recent bad weather, the bricklayer has been postponed until the coming weekend.
- WT and PWo have completed the "letter to the future" for the time capsule and it was agreed he should spend money having it printed.
- Ongoing- 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

- PWA explained that 276 calendars have been sold and 28 gifted to sponsors. This means that we would have sold out completely if it hadn't been for the extra copies the printer provided to replace faulty copies. Thanks to everyone involved. Special mention to JP who personally sold 44 copies.
- NW provided a financial breakdown that showed we had made £792 from this year's calendar. This will go to support our ongoing projects.
- NW was asked to send a 'Thank You' note to the events that allowed us to sell calendars.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- PWo waiting on a delivery date for the outstanding tree.

Wombles Litter Picks

- Several 'wombles' attended the SSDC 'Thank your' event. Some equipment was given to the attendees.
- Next Litter Pick 29th January which will be confirmed by JH by the usual 'WhatsApp' group.
- Much discussion was had about the Fly tipping that JH reported which had several items with a persons address on. He explained this on the report. Unfortunately, SSDC replied saying they couldn't proceed with any potential prosecutions as the land it was on belonged to EPC. As EPC don't have the resource to prosecute people they have asked for support from SSDC. Everyone at the meeting (including JP, a Parish Councillor) thought this situation was very frustrating. The committee asked NW to write to Ryan asking for his guidance/support in streamlining this process for the future.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

- PWA is still planning to add the missing 's'.
- PWO was approved to buy the materials ready for installation
- The old sign needs taking down and the ground preparing ready for installation of new sign. A provisional date of Saturday 24th Jan was agreed and JH will communicate to the volunteer group nearer the day.

Brownshore Crossing

- Ongoing: It was suggested that a deadhead and weed is required. PWO will apply weedkiller to tidy up area.
- Expenditure will be required shortly to replace the rotten wooden sleepers. Various designs were discussed but further talks are needed.

Annual Spring Clean

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

Bird Boxes

- The new birdboxes have been installed. We now have 46 boxes in place that we will monitor and maintain. CW explained that our plan to record the locations on 'WhatThreeWords' is in jeopardy due to modifications to the Apps functionality (unless we upgrade to the paid version).

Annual Community Service

- Ongoing: 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

- JP will coordinate with Louise to obtain a new flag.

Brownshore Lane Pavement

- A great turnout on 27th Dec to complete this task. The results look amazing and many favourable comments were noted on Essington Live.
- It was discussed that many of the fence posts are leaning and without some intervention it risks falling in some places. Whilst ultimately this need replacing by SSDC (very unlikely) it was agreed we should look at adding some reinforcing to the affected posts.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

- PWo explained that replacement trees are expected from Woodlands Trust between 24th Feb and 6th March.

Tree Planting @ Steadings Estate

- Forest of Mercia attended and replaced many trees. They explained that much of the damage to the trees had been caused by the ground's maintenance personnel using a strimmer. The details of the company will be passed to FoM so that they can contact them about this issue.

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 people's availability and a date was agreed as 12th Feb @ Three Hammers Bistro.

4. Correspondence

- A letter was received from Ryan at SSDC explaining that if we sent details of our completed projects and volunteer hours, we could get a donation from them of £250. NW explained he has already responded with requested info.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

Grant request

- PWo explained that he had received feedback that our request was under the current £2000 threshold. There is a good chance this will be reduced in the coming months if funds are undistributed so PWo will continue to liaise with Warren

Expenditure

- Materials to be obtained for installation of fingerpost.
- CW presented an invoice for £176.85 from GoDaddy for the website hosting/Domain. NW will arrange payment asap.

6. Any other business

- It was agreed we should begin the process to obtain new Hi Vis vests for our committee and regular volunteers. The reason is twofold as we have a new logo but also many of the existing vests are discoloured and worn due to regular use.
- PWa explained that Adrians Wall is in need of some TLC. It was agreed to attend on Sat 17th Jan @ 9am.

Date of next meeting - 11th February at 7.00pm in Council Chambers