



Friends of Essington Meeting **11th February 2026**

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

Apologies: Ann Clay, Steve Jones (volunteer)

Record of last meeting:

Approved by TT, Seconded by PWa

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

Miners Monument

- The brickwork is now complete apart from the capping. PWa is obtaining some special bricks to allow this to be finished off.
- WT has completed the time capsule and it has been installed into the brick structure. Thanks to WT.
- A dry mix is required to allow the cavity to be filled prior to the capping going on. PWo will coordinate this. As many volunteers as available will be required (at short notice) to transfer this material into the structure.
- Wording and font have been agreed for the plaque and AW relative will hopefully manufacture this. He volunteers at Chasewater Railway so once complete it was discussed that a donation could be made by way of a thank you.
- PWo will discuss with bricklayer about constructing a small column for installing the plaque.

Calendar

- NW has sent a 'Thank You' note to the events that allowed us to sell calendars.
- Thanks to PWa for coordinating the distribution of calendars for sale.
- NW requested any remaining money be paid into the bank or given to him for paying in.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- The 2 new trees have been paid for and PWo will collect in the near future.
- Representative from Academy has asked if we could do some housekeeping work around area. TT will coordinate.

Wombles Litter Picks

- Next Litter Pick 19th February which will be confirmed by JH by the usual 'WhatsApp' group.

- NW wrote to Ryan regarding the reaction to fly tipping reports. No streamlined solution was apparent so the protracted process of witness statements via the Parish council will continue.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

- PWA has added the missing 's's. They need infilling with black paint once the weather improves.
- The old sign is now removed and the Godfather posts are in rough position awaiting concrete.

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

- Date is set at Saturday 14th March.
- JH has communicated to SSDC for rubbish collection and Sir Gavin for his usual attendance.
- JH continues to work through his action list as per last event.

Bird Boxes

- The outstanding new birdboxes are planned to installed in Blackcat Wood 14th Feb under the supervision of FH.

Annual Community Service

- NW and PWA presented the FoE activities presentation at the recent service. Thanks were given to NW and PWA.

Bryn's Mound

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

Brownshore Lane Pavement

- Ongoing: 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.
- Rebar was suggested as option for above.

Hi Vis Vests

- New vests have been received for both FoE and Wombles. Distribution to take place as required.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

- PWO has confirmed March 8th Feb @ 9am to plant the new trees. JH will inform the wider volunteer group via WhatsApp.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

- Next quiz nights are on Wednesdays 18th March and 15th April 2026 at the Working Men's Club.

Annual Committee Evening

- Taking place at the Three Hammers Bistro on 12th Feb.

4. Correspondence

- A letter was received from HousingPlus Group regarding the continued use of the lockup on Hill Street. NW will write to them explaining our use of this.
- EPC clerk sent PWO details regarding this years 'Best kept village' awards. A discussion was had and due to our already heavy workload with projects, it was agreed the FoE group could not commit to additional work and associated project coordination.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

- Latest Bank Statement and recent transactions were shared with the committee by NW.
- It was noted that the £250 volunteer support grant has been received from SSDC.

Expenditure

- NW has put in receipt for new saw blades and tools worn out on various recent projects (£35.07)
- PWO purchased a raffle prize for recent event at community centre as a tribute to Ade. (£28.50)
- NW purchased fixings for new fingerpost (£21.40)
- NW purchased clamps and drills for installation of fingerpost (£26.23)
- Hi Vis vests were paid for (£200)
- PWO to obtain concrete for installation of fingerpost and infilling of miner's monument.
- Sleepers will be required for Brownshore crossing planter refurbishment

6. Any other business

- See correspondence.

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