



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

Present: Paul Woolley (PWo), Neil Wheeldon, Pete Ward (PWa), Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Fred Homer, James Parker (Essington Parish Councillor), Jon Hanson, Ann Clay, Steve Jones (volunteer)

Apologies: Wilson Taylor, Tracey Taylor

Record of last meeting:

Approved by WT, Seconded by CW

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

Miners Monument

- PWa has obtained some special bricks to allow the capping to be finished off.
- A dry mix has been filled into the cavity to give the structure added strength. Thanks to all who completed this task.
- AW relative is working on the plaque.
- A small foundation base has been created and PWo will discuss with bricklayer about constructing a small column for installing the plaque.
- Alan Degg will look into creating a path etc around the monument once year end works reduce at his business.

Calendar

- Final monies have been paid into the bank.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- The 2 new trees have been planted by a small team who also tidied up the area.
- TT to coordinate the joint FoE & Academy walk round to discuss future plans/tasks.

Wombles Litter Picks

- Next Litter Pick will be confirmed by JH by the usual 'WhatsApp' group. The current focus is on the Spring Clean event.
- JH provided a statement to the council regarding the fly tipping (after Chris Steel had officially asked SSDC to act on their behalf). To the committee's great frustration, a response was received explaining that no prosecution would take place. JH has sent a response with further questions.

Brownshore Triangle 'Finger Post'

- The finger post has now been installed. Thanks to all who participated in the various tasks to achieve this.
- The area is in need of a tidy after the concrete delivery etc.
- NW discussed contacting Belvoir! about sponsorship to help with the reurfing of the area to make it look more appealing.

Brownshore Crossing

- Ongoing: It was suggested that a deadhead and weed is required. PWO will apply weedkiller to tidy up area.
- Ongoing: 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 had confirmation that SSDC will arrange rubbish collection on the Monday after.
- Sir Gavin has confirmed his attendance.
- JH has purchased a bottle to thank the Hilton Main Vehicle driver who assists with the collection around the village.
- JH has prepared a list of safety guidelines for reference at the event.

Bird Boxes

- The outstanding new birdboxes were installed in Blackcat Wood under the supervision of FH.

Bryn's Mound

- The Parish Council clerk has confirmed the purchase of a new flag is in process.

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.

2. Environmental Activities

Tree Planting Areas (behind the allotments)

- The trees were planted under the guidance of Forest of Mercia personnel. Good turnout and enjoyable morning.
- PWO has defined the positioning of the sign in conjunction with the Rugby club.
- Whilst there was availability of the majority of the committee, after the tree planting, 200 snowdrop bulbs were also planted on the village green ready for next year.

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

- The evening was a great success. Thanks to PWA for coordinating.

4. Correspondence

- Correspondence was circulated and discussed, regarding an SSDC presentation of the new food caddy process getting rolled out shortly.
- EPC clerk confirmed the flag purchase was in process.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

Expenditure

- JH purchased a gift for the Spring clean driver (£15.49)
- Concrete for installation of fingerpost and infilling of miner's monument was purchased (£216).
- A plastic tub was purchased by NW to store the logoed Hi Vis vests in, and it was agreed a couple more should be purchased to store the other litter picking equipment in. Tubs will be kept in the Garage lockup.
- CW has an imminent bill from website name from GoDaddy. Agreement to pay upon receipt was obtained.
- Sleepers will be required for Brownshore crossing planter refurbishment
- PWO proposed the purchase of a new concrete mixer as a thank you to the bricklayer. All agreed and PWO will coordinate.

6. Any other business

- The date of the AGM was discussed and agreement reached on May 12th prior to our usual meeting. CW & AW will publish date in Church mag.
- SSDC food caddy discussion.
- PWO proposed dates for a canal boat trip for the committee and partners, (11th, 18th or 25th July). Everyone was asked to forward their availability if they wish to participate.

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