



Friends of Essington Meeting **19th August 2026 (delayed from original date)**

Present: Pete Ward (PWa), Paul Woolley (PWo), Angie Whittle, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson, Wilson Taylor, Fred Homer, Paul Bosworth (Regular Attendee & Volunteer)

Apologies: Tracey Taylor, Clem Whittle, Ann Clay, Steve Jones

Record of last meeting:

Approved by PWa Seconded by JH

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

Miners Monument

- Ongoing-Alan Degg will look into creating a path etc around the monument once year end works reduce at his business. Alan Degg and Essington Surfacing are looking at a possible proposal regarding design and material.

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)

- Ongoing-PWo explained that discussion was had during the visit about cutting back the overhead canopy and reducing the height of the hedge to make it more accessible and welcoming. PWo will reach out to contractors to discuss.
- Ongoing-A replacement sign for the entrance is currently in design and PWo will keep the group updated.

Wombles Litter Picks

- Next Litter Pick will be confirmed by JH by the usual 'WhatsApp' group.
- JH explained that some members would like an extra trolley for larger collections. The committee agreed and gave him permission to source one.

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Brownshore Triangle

- The area has recently been cut by Anna (thanks from all) but the weather has greatly affected the plants.
- Ongoing-NW and PWo met with Belvoir to discuss their sponsorship of the island. They seem keen and both parties agreed next steps and NW documented and circulated them. Further updates will be shared as progress develops. NW will ask for updates when he contacts them regarding calendar sponsorship.

Brownshore Lane Pavement

- PWO has identified a more robust post support for approx. £10. The committee discussed this and decided a support should be purchased and installed to test the concept. If successful then we will contact EPC to discuss who is responsible for purchasing more.

Committee Social Events

- Canal barge trip was an excellent day out and thanks to PWA and PWO for coordinating.

EzzFest

- PWA attended the 'mop up' meeting and explained the issues discussed. It looks like a repeat event will take place next year.

Broad Lane Planter

- Ongoing-AC is attending to this area. PWO has new plants which will be planted once the hot spell subsides.

Strimming/Hedge cutting

- Fingerpost at junction of High Hill and Kitchen Lane completed.
- Footpath to Steadings estate. Completed
- Windmill Hill Bench. JH plans to do in the near future. Ongoing.
- New St entrance to the pools. Completed

Decorative Sign for Village signs

- NW contacted Ryan at SSDC for information on this. It is not something they would provide but he did ask for the supplier details to be forwarded in case we wish to proceed in the future.

2027 Calendar

- A small group of the committee met prior to this meeting to review all the submitted photographs and compile a shortlist for review.
- NW compiled a catalogue of all photographs and presented them to the meeting.
- The photographs for the 2027 calendar were agreed upon.
- PB explained that a calendar he had been involved in designing had a selection of unused photographs on the inner cover with a thank you. This will be adopted into the calendar design
- NW compiled a list of holidays/events to be used. TT checked document and highlighted some errors which were corrected.
- AW explained that her daughter Emma will again design the layout. Many thanks to her from everyone.
- The print run will stay at 300
- The selling cost will stay at £3
- NW will write to the regular sponsors for confirmation of ongoing support

2. Environmental Activities

- DEFRA contacted PWO to ask for an audit on how the new trees at the Jones-Nicklin wood had taken. He has replied and explained that a large number of failures due to the extreme weather mainly.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

- Next quiz nights are on Wednesday 26th August 2026 and 30th September at the Working Men's Club. Further dates are under discussion with the club.

Fundraising night

- Both the band and the venue are now confirmed.

4. Correspondence

- SSDC communicated the opportunity of Grants for our projects around the village. See Any Other Business section for more details.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

- Latest Bank Statement and recent transactions were shared with the committee by NW.
- NW presented details on the South Staffs Community Lottery. We currently have 20 live tickets and have generated £204 so far this year. Thanks to everyone who has tickets.

Expenditure

- PWO to purchase support for Pools fence post.
- JH to purchase additional trolley for wombles
- AW explained about upcoming 'GoDaddy' invoice which was approved
- CW to confirm RBL wreath
- Renewal of Public Liability insurance

6. Any other business

- WT suggested the wooden Village Gateway on Blackhalve Lane would look good painted white. A lengthy discussion took place which resulted in the conclusion it would require too much preparation and ongoing maintenance.
- AW has been contacted by RBL about this year's wreath. It was agreed we would like to continue.
- NW explained he has chased Ryan about the coloured bags but he has not made any progress as he thinks the costs had gone up.

- FH mentioned that the emergency gate access to the pools at the bottom of New Street looked in need of attention. Discussion was had about if this is still required. IT was agreed that NW should highlight to the EPC clerk to draw attention in case this has been overlooked.
- NW explained that nothing has been heard from Hilton Main regarding Public Liability insurance, which is due for renewal at end of August. If nothing is finalised then he will renew with current provider.

Date of next meeting - 9th September at 7.00pm in Council Chambers