

Friends of Essington Meeting
21st October 2026
(postponed by a week due to unavailability of high number of committee members)

Present: Pete Ward (PWa), Paul Woolley (PWo), Angie Whittle, Neil Wheeldon, Wilson Taylor, Paul Bosworth (Regular Attendee & Volunteer) Tracey Taylor, Steve Jones, Jon Hanson, James Parker (EPC councillor), Ann Clay

Apologies: Fred Homer, Clem Whittle

Record of last meeting:
Approved by PWa Seconded by WT

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

Future Generation Orchard (St Johns Academy)
- PWo has spoken with several contractors. The best time to do this is probably Christmas school break so it will be held until then.
- New sign is with the printer.
- TT explained that the school children had picked some fruit and a crumble had been made.
- PWo has spoken to the nursery that supplied the failed tree but the warranty is only 3 months. He will look into sourcing a replacement.

Wombles Litter Picks
- Next Litter Pick is 5th November. To be confirmed by JH via the usual 'WhatsApp' group.

Brownshore Triangle
- Roger Bateman (Gardenrite) has kindly agreed to replace the turf as he is unhappy with the poor appearance currently. FoE will pay for materials and help as possible.
- Belvoir still wish to sponsor and maintain the triangle. Further meeting to be arranged once work is complete.
- Many thanks to Anna Hanson for continuing to cut the existing grass. She has suggested that maybe more grass and less plants could be a good option going forward.

Brownshore Lane Pavement
- PWo has obtained a sample support and it will be installed on 27th October at 9.30am.

Committee Social Events

- Nothing to report

Broad Lane Planter

- PWo has planted new plants.

Strimming/Hedge cutting

- Windmill Hill Bench. JH plans to do in the near future. Ongoing.
- Adrians Wall needs attention. Completed
- The path from Wolverhampton Road to Church Crescent is extremely overgrown. This has been reported to SSDC and Housing Plus with no success so we will attend to it ourselves in the near future. Planned for Tue 27th October
- The emergency entrance to the pools has been cleared by JP and some volunteers. Many thanks as several commented it looks very good.

2027 Calendar

- NW explained that 2 sponsors are not doing calendar sponsorship for this edition. MVS and Minerva have kindly agreed to sponsor pages in their place.
- NW has sent out invoices and 5 have been paid already.
- Discussion was had about events to sell the calendar at:
    - 1911 Café 22nd November
    - Essington Farm 21st November
    - Cherry Tree 21st November
    - Essington Rugby Club 29th November
- PWa will again coordinate distribution to all the usual outlets and individuals

Bryns Mound Flag Pole

- CW has printed a new finial but some remedial needs doing on the actual pole. PWa will liaise with CW about this task.
- JP gave AW a new flag to fit once the work is complete.

Birdboxes

- Blackcat Wood-5 boxes cleaned- All used
- Pools-19 tit boxes cleaned- 13 used. 3 Robin boxes cleaned -1 used.
- A further visit is required over the Pools to clean remaining boxes. CW to coordinate with FH.

Daffodil Bulbs

- PWo has received the bulbs. Agreed to meet by the chapel on 31st October @ 9am. Jon will circulate via volunteer WhatsApp group.

2. Environmental Activities

- Nothing to report

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

- Next quiz nights are on Tuesday 27th October and Tuesday 24 November. Both are at the new venue of Essington Rugby Club.

Fundraising night

- Ongoing-Both the band and the venue are now confirmed for February 27th 2027.

4. Correspondence

- Ryan Taylor sent email concerning a meeting of volunteer groups he would like to organise. In mail he asked if we have anything to discuss and if we want to present anything about our group. NW was asked to reply to Ryan stating we will likely attend if the agreed date is convenient. We are leaving the agenda to be sorted by the council as it is their meeting.
- NW received a reply from Mark Keeling to the email asking about Bursnips Road & Hobnock Road junction works. He stated that he can't see any planned work on this junction in the near future. He said he will inform us if he hears anything.

5. Finance

Bank Balance

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

Expenditure

- RBL wreath (AW passed over the invoice)
- CW presented an invoice for the '.com' part of our website. NOTE: it was discussed if we need '.com' and 'co.uk' for our website. CW will investigate if we can drop the '.com' next year to avoid some cost.

6. Any other business

- PB mentioned the 'Litter Lottery'. He felt this could be a good way to raise the awareness of using litter bins. It was agreed all would read up on this topic so a more meaningful discussion can be had at next meeting.
- PB asked if we knew who oversaw the area to the left of the pools entrance (Mushroom Garden) as it needed some TLC. It was explained it was not really owned by anyone now so he will tidy it up.
- TT expressed a concern that the planter outside the shop on Brownshore Lane was becoming dangerous due to the collapsing hanging basket pole. NW wrote to the parish council who have subsequently had it removed.

Date of next meeting – 11th November at 7.00pm in Council Chambers