



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Present:** Pete Ward, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Tracey Taylor, Wayne Whitehouse, Adrian Nicklin.

**Apologies:** Neil Wheeldon

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by CW, Seconded by AW.

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

**Projects**

**Orchard**

A date to be arranged for installation with Ms Price - WW to contact. A suggestion was made that it would be appreciated if we could have a children's report on the orchard in spring and autumn engaging both the school and FOE.

**Calendar 2021**

WW screened photographs and 13 were selected and he thank all who had contributed.

CR suggested, due to the current situation, that a new approach to sponsorship for this year only would be an appropriate gesture. All agreed, CR to contact all sponsors and thanked everyone for their support.

**Windmill Hill Bench**

No new Alstroemeria purchased at present - bench planted with Alstroemeria from CR, DR garden.

**Bottom of Old Hampton Lane**

No new Alstroemeria purchased at present.

**Jubilee Planter**

Jamie Harper has provided supports for the new trees.

A suggestion was also made could more trees be planted in this area - to be investigated further.

**Cannock Road Island**

Island looking good apart from a few bare areas, this will be sorted by Alvaston Loft Conversions.

**Lock-up**

Partially sorted out, more work needed.

**Daffodil Bulbs**

WW to add bulb planted areas to the map that he is producing.

**Brownshore Crossing**

Area still needs some attention. PWA contacted Severn Valley Railway to see if they could help with any rail equipment.

The black and white sign - corner of Brownshore Lane will be given some TLC.

## **Our sponsored projects**

The triangle was discussed and everyone to submit their ideas to WW by October 8th - later involving Janet and John when a scheme has been formulated. This will then be taken to the sponsor.

Blackhalve Lane was also discussed.

## **Projects list**

This has now been added to and will be distributed.

## **Future projects**

### **Website and Event Calendar**

CW and AW continue to update our web site including more up to date photos etc.

### **Tree Planting**

Many of the committee have chosen their trees and areas to be planted. WW is continuing to update the map with possible locations and permission has to be obtained - CR.

### **Annual Spring Clean**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. AN has distributed equipment etc. DR & CR having a discussion with Stacey from Westcroft about doing a mini litter pick when tidying up the bottom of Old Hampton Lane.

### **Proposed memorial**

PWa presented a drawing on behalf of the RBL showing a proposed memorial on the area at the junction of High Hill and Wolverhampton Road. The committee agreed that we would help with some planting but the general opinion was that a memorial of this stature should be located in the centre of the village and it was thought that the Parish Council should consult the residents by way of a survey. AN stated that a fund had been set up to help with the cost.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **Fly-tipping**

Generally Bognop Road has improved but there is significant fly tipping in other areas, one in particular being Moseley Road as confirmed by JH. All please keep reporting any incidents.

The Green bin charges - outcomes of this are that no favouritism can be shown by the council. Residents cutting the grass verges and using their own green bin for the waste will have to continue to do so or not cut the grass. It was also thought by many around the table that grass verges were being cut less by the council and encouraged by many groups including Friends of the Earth and the Blue Campaign advocating the planting of wild flowers as AN pointed out in Bilbrook.

### **High Viz Jackets and Banners.**

3 Jackets still to be distributed and banners will be brought to the next meeting.

### **Grassland Restoration and Management**

Grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted - PWa. Other areas could be investigated. CR has contacted Bovis homes and they would be happy for some involvement - meeting to be arranged - ongoing. Committee to think of areas where this could be encouraged and bring ideas to the next meeting.

### **Inappropriate Signage**

Some signs have been reported to the council and this is now ongoing - CR to chase. The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Volunteer hours were recorded. Could everyone who does not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

### **Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace**

This is been developed by the Forest of Mercia and WW informed us that the bee hives are soon to be installed.

## **3. Social Events and Walks**

### **Quiz Nights**

Next quiz dates - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Public Liability Insurance**

This has been renewed and CR negotiated a reduction in our premium.

## **4. Correspondence**

- Email from Ryan Taylor asking what the group had been doing during lockdown so he could hopefully enter something in the Review magazine. The reply was read out.
- W&F sent email to WW about their forthcoming AGM.

## **5. Any other business**

- PWA thanked residents and the committee for their various efforts during the last few months, litter picking, cutting back hedges and planting etc. This should be applauded and a thank you put in the church magazine.
- CR sent an email to the Highways with a few concerns:-
  1. The damaged bridge in Wood Hayes Road - been in this condition for over 12 months - dangerous and unsightly.
  2. Horse Chestnut tree close to road needs some attention.
  3. The area by Methodist Chapel Bursnips Road looks very unsightly and asked when the road junction works were going to be completed. So maybe this we could reinstate as one of our projects.
  4. Wood Hayes Road to Old Hampton Lane could do with a footpath, area tidying up making it safer, cleaner and easier to litter pick. This could be one of our future projects.

CR will keep committee informed of any progress.

**Date of next meeting -to be confirmed.**