



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Present:** Pete Ward, Neil Wheeldon, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Wayne Whitehouse.

**Apologies:** Freddie Homer, Paul Woolley, Jon Hanson, Adrian Nicklin, Tracey Taylor,

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

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

**Projects**

**Orchard**

Design/graphics team are working on the art work and they will keep us informed.

**Calendar 2020**

PW reminded everyone to keep taking photos and the deadline is our September meeting. Please send all photos to WW ASAP for collation.

**Top of Old Hampton Lane**

More top soil needed, CR has contacted the council for supply. CR and DR have plants ready.

**Our sponsored projects**

We have a draft document highlighting some recommendations that we think will benefit the companies and the FOE and the sponsors will be contacted shortly. With PW reducing his work load at the end of July the maintained areas would be up for consideration and this needs to be given some serious thought for the future. We are also working on a document with guidelines for both the FOE and the sponsors.

JH is continuing to compile our project list.

**Cannock Road Island**

The black and white finger post manufactured by Jamie Harper is ready for installation - date to be arranged.

**Future projects**

**Corner-Brownshore Lane area**

Having looked at this area again and discussed further it was noted that the area was looking very tidy and that the local residents involved were doing a fine job having also encouraged the involvement of the local council. It was also thought that any plantings in this area may be vandalised and therefore leaving it in its natural state would be the obvious solution and it would also give us time to move onto other projects.

**Website and Event Calendar**

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

**Data protection update**

WW suggested that we purchase a portable hard drive and a high capacity flash drive to store all our information. All agreed.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **Fly-tipping**

Everyone please keep reporting. Two main hot spots, Blackhalve Lane unofficial layby and quarry entrance in Bognop Road, these will be given further thought.

### **High Viz Jackets**

High viz jackets with Friends of Essington lettering and logo - CR to investigate.

### **Grassland Restoration and Management**

The land between Bovis homes and the motorway is owned by a property holdings company and is at the moment grazed by horses, therefore this seems an unsuitable area for wild flower planting. The open land behind the new Bovis houses may be an opportunity for our involvement and maybe incorporate a project to complement Essington in Bloom - Bovis homes to be contacted.

A suggestion was made that some areas of the grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted.

### **Inappropriate Signage**

Email from Staffs Council outlining the procedure WW/CR to reply with amendments. 1 photo of inappropriate signage to be sent as a test case.

### **Volunteer Hours**

DR explained the volunteer hour form and all agreed to state at each meeting the number of voluntary hours given the previous month. People not attending the meeting could email hours to DR. CR telephoned Ryan Taylor with the number of hours for April (which included the Annual Spring Clean) this amounted to 380 hours and at even £10 per hour this comes to £3,800 of value added to our area. CR informed that we had received a grant from the District Council and the above information assists us in gaining such monies. It was suggested that with the grant we buy some litter pickers and materials for litter picks etc.

### **Wood chippings**

Available from South Staffs Council as and when required.

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

### **Quiz Nights**

Email from JH stating that the quizzes were going well and that the dates for the next quizzes were Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The July quiz raised £64.

### **AGM**

Our AGM was well attended and everyone found Chris Shaw of South Staffordshire Beekeepers Association very entertaining. Thanks to everyone for their input on the evening.

### **Summer Parish walk**

Starting at The Masons pub on the A34 on Friday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.

### **Bilbrook Friends Walk**

DR and CR attended, very enjoyable and interesting to see what had been achieved since we were last there. Thanks very much for their hospitality. We were asked to consider hosting a return visit.

#### **4. Correspondence**

- WW received an email from Whittington and Fisherwick - an update on their current activities - WW to email out to committee.
- CW has received photos of Essington from a local resident.

#### **5. Any other business**

- NW commented that inappropriate signage seems to be on the increase.
- CR informed that Malcolm Barnett was reducing his work load and becoming a consultant with a company he had amalgamated with but he would hopefully continue to audit our accounts privately and many thanks to him.
- The bench area needs cutting back of the overhanging hedge before new planting goes in - volunteers required - date to be arranged. The bottom of Old Hampton Lane could be tidied up at the same time.
- Future projects suggested by CR - 4 silver birch trees to be planted at the rear of the Jubilee Planter and maybe tubs removed. All agreed. CR to contact Jamie.
- CR asked if we could purchase Daffodil bulbs for planting where it was suggested on our walk about - all agreed.
- CR suggested that each committee member select an area for a tree of their choice to be planted (which will be purchased by the FOE). Any area considered will be investigated and permission gained - all agreed.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday September 12th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.