



Friends of Essington Meeting
12th March 2020

Present: Pete Ward, Clem Whittle, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse, Adrian Nicklin.

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Angie Whittle, Paul Woolley, Tracey Taylor, Neil Wheeldon.

Record of last meeting: Approved by PWA, Seconded by CW.

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 2020/2021

CR produced the account, very successful financially.

Everyone agreed to keep taking photographs.

Windmill Hill Bench

Alstroemeria to be purchased - all agreed.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

Alstroemeria to be purchased - all agreed.

Jubilee Planter

Silver birch trees ready for collection - to be planted Saturday 21st March 9am.

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

After planting the trees, litter pick equipment to be sorted out at the lock up which also still needs some sorting out.

Daffodil Bulbs

WW to add bulb planted areas to the map that he is producing. These areas are looking brilliant and a suggestion was made that photos should be taken and kept on record - action JH.

Brownshore Crossing

A centre piece relating to the railway is not attainable due to availability and cost. Other suggestions were made and a plan will be put together for the area to be refreshed as our contribution to Essington in Bloom.

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

Our sponsored projects

We have received a reply from a sponsor and will take this matter further when we have assessed what we need and what we envisage our requirements are for the future.

JH is continuing to compile our project list.

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 4th April 2020 9.30am start.

AN circulated an itinerary of the day's events, areas to be covered and jobs to do. A decision will be made nearer the date as to any actions we need to take due to the virus also no refreshments will be available on the day for the same reason. New gloves and refuse sacks to be purchased AN and CR to liaise.

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.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

The quarry entrance continues to be a problem. Is there anything we can do to prevent rubbish being tipped in the first place?

Green bin charges as discussed previously and a letter to be sent to the CEO, everyone to send in their comments to DR and a letter will then be compiled.

High Viz Jackets and Banners.

Jackets were distributed.

WW to order 2 banners as discussed.

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.

The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

Volunteer Hours

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

Wood chippings

Available from South Staffs Council as and when required.

Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace

This has 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

Essington Show

Saturday 2nd May 2020 - Golf game to be organised by PWA and JH.

Quiz Nights

Date for the next quiz is Thursday March 19th usual place and time.

Friend's Walks

We were asked to consider hosting the next friend's group walk. A suggestion was made for the date to be after Essington in Bloom (July) and an easy walk to show our projects.

AGM

Our AGM is planned for Thursday June 11th with our normal meeting on the 4th. Arrangements to be made including a speaker - any ideas please?

4. Correspondence

- WW has received an email from Whittington and Fisherwick which he will circulate.

5. Any other business

- CR made reference to the letter in the church magazine about Bognop Road and responded with a reply that we had circulated a similar letter which we had composed about two and a half years ago. He also pointed out that we as a group had tried to make a positive difference to this area. This seems to be ongoing and we will see where it goes.
- JH has been invited to attend a meeting about VE Day celebrations, he will keep us informed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday April 9th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.