



Friends of Essington Meeting
12th September 2019

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

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Paul Woolley, Jon Hanson, Tracey Taylor.

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

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

Projects

Orchard

Almost completed.

Calendar 2020

Photographs chosen, sponsors to be contacted. Cost of printing approved and to go ahead with Printmonster.

Top of Old Hampton Lane

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

Windmill Hill Bench

The bench area needs cutting back of the overhanging hedge before new planting goes in.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

This could be tidied up at the same time as the bench.

Volunteers required - date to be arranged.

Jubilee Planter

4 silver birch trees ordered to be planted at the rear of the Jubilee Planter and tubs removed.

Daffodil Bulbs

Daffodil bulbs to be ordered ready for planting in the autumn.

Brownshore Crossing

Some sleepers need replacing and the post to the gate is loose and needs some repair.

Our sponsored projects

We have a draft document highlighting some recommendations that we think will benefit the companies and the FOE. Jamie Harper will maintain Cannock Road Island and Jubilee planter via his company (in house).

PWA to contact other sponsor to arrange a meeting.

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.

Data protection update

WW will purchase a portable hard drive and a high capacity flash drive when he can obtain a competitive price.

Tree Planting

Committee to look further into their choice of tree and where it is to be planted. One suggested area was the bottom of Windmill Hill by the fence of Topblock, obviously permission to be obtained.

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 - AW to investigate.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Bovis homes was contacted by CR to investigate any opportunities that may arise with their involvement, maybe a project to compliment Essington in Bloom. A representative of Bovis Homes will contact CR.

Grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted - PWA.

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.

NW commented that inappropriate signage seems to be on the increase.

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.

3. Social Events and Walks

Quiz Nights

The date for the next quiz is Thursday September 19th.

Friend's Walks

We were asked to consider hosting the next friend's group walk. Date to be arranged.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Hilton Green advertising South Staffs Beekeepers Association Family Day on Saturday September 21st 12 noon to 4.00pm.
- Email from Hilton Green advertising their Apple Day on Sunday 20th October 11am to 3pm. Booking form filled in volunteers required on a rota basis for our golf game.

5. Any other business

- The date of Saturday 28th March 2020 was given by AN for the annual spring clean. He also informed us that SSHA have donated all their litter equipment to the FOE. Many thanks to them. CR suggested that we purchase litter picking equipment to make us self-sufficient (out of grant from District Council). AN to check equipment list first.
- All of the committee agreed that the planters on the triangle were looking especially brilliant and a glorious splash of colour. Many thanks to Janet and John Box for all their hard work.

Date of next meeting: Thursday October 10th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.