



Friends of Essington Meeting
14th February 2019

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

Apologies: Paul Woolley, Jan Macey, Neil Wheeldon, Tracy Taylor.

Record of last meeting: Approved by FH, Seconded by AW.

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

Projects

Orchard

The wooden information board is in progress.

Calendar 2019 / 2020

CR passed round calendar PL account, again the calendar made money. Thanks to everyone for their support. PWA reminded everyone to keep taking photos.

Windmill Hill unofficial layby

PWA suggested photographs to be taken when plants become established with a view to showing what the area was like before and after. Everyone agreed a very successful project.

Top of Old Hampton Lane

Highways Department will keep the site under review. Another site meeting by FOE is needed - date to be arranged. WW and PWA are in discussion with complimentary ideas in this area!

Walk round our projects

CR commented that all of our projects need some attention. PWA commented on the condition of the barrels at the Gateway in Blackhalve Lane and would speak to Ashmore Glass. After some discussion it was decided a walk round some of our projects would be a good idea to maintain our interest and have a closer look.

Date arranged for this is Wednesday March 13th 6pm at Swynnerton.

A discussion about our project areas, our input and ideas for the future will be ongoing and the basis of this would be the project list being compiled by JH.

Future projects

FOE oak tree and time capsule to be discussed further.

Cannock Road Island

Jamie Harper of Alvaston Loft Conversions is making progress CR to keep in touch.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane/Cannock Road

CR again contacted Highways Department - still awaiting a reply.

Corner-Brownshore Lane area

Landowner welcomes our input and Highways Department suggested barrier be one metre from the highway. Tyre barriers to be delivered to site along with top soil, it was suggested putting tape to indicate to people that work is being carried out.

Pools Pathway

More timbers to be laid by the Open Spaces team (volunteers required) then

the rest of the path material can be laid. Date to be arranged.

Spring Clean 2019

The date for this is Saturday 30th March 2019. AN sent email to committee outlining areas to be targeted and asked for volunteer leaders from the FOE committee in these satellite areas - to be finalised at next meeting. Westcroft to be led and organised by DR, CR and WW. AN attended Parish Council meeting and encouraged local councillors to get involved, they have ordered 10 litter pickers to be used on the day. NW obtained a supply of high viz jackets from Allegion many thanks. CR received confirmation from South Staffs Council that they would replace our 20 stolen litter pickers, many thanks to them.

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW continue to update our web site etc.

Data protection update

WW contacted all the committee to seek their permission to use their contact details. WW to keep us updated.

List of our projects

JH emailed an updated list of projects with people's input - ongoing.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Quarry entrance still remains problematic. The lorry load of fly tipped rubbish reported by PWA appears to be on private land!

Inappropriate Signage

WW sent letter to District Council - awaiting a reply.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Prompted by the email from Keith Elder and circulated to the group, various areas were discussed that may be appropriate - Land by Bovis Homes, the Nicket, grass verges i.e. Blackhalve Lane (should this metre band of cut be reduced?) Further discussion needed.

3. Social Events and Walks

Quiz Nights

The next quiz night is Thursday 21st February at the WMC 7.30pm £2 per person max.6 per team.

Essington Show

AN asked if FOE were going to have a stall at the Essington Show Sunday May 5th - to be discussed at next meeting. CR commented that the golf game was available and AW said that it had been well received at previous events.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Ryan Taylor confirming that they will replace our 20 stolen litter pickers - many thanks.
- WW forwarded email from WFEG News and Events February 2019.

5. Any other business

- Bird and bat boxes to be refurbished on Saturday 23rd February. FH requested purchase of timber. All agreed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday March 14th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.