



Friends of Essington Meeting
6th June 2019

Present: Pete Ward, Neil Wheeldon, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Tracey Taylor, Jan Macey, Colin Richards, Dot Radford.

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Wayne Whitehouse, Paul Woolley, Jon Hanson, Adrian Nicklin.

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

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

PWA reminded everyone to keep taking photos.

Top of Old Hampton Lane

More top soil needed, CR has contacted the council for supply. A suggestion of a kissing gate was made to help prevent rubbish and litter being dumped - awaiting further comments.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane/Cannock Road

CR and DR planted the area.

Walk round our projects

Draft document approved by the 7 committee members who visited our projects. Sponsors to be contacted highlighting some recommendations that we think will benefit the company and the FOE - action WW.

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

Unanimous decision to have the tyres removed.

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 keep us updated.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Everyone please keep reporting. Blackhalve Lane unofficial layby seems to be a hot spot PWA suggested maybe this area could be dealt with the same as the layby at the top of Windmill Hill? Quarry entrance in Bognop Road also a hot spot.

High Viz Jackets

AW suggested high viz jackets with Friends of Essington lettering and logo. CR to investigate.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Various areas to be considered that may be appropriate. The Nicket, grass verges i.e. Blackhalve Lane (should this metre band of cut be reduced?) and the land between Bovis homes and the motorway was discussed - land owner to be determined by the Council - ongoing.

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

Hours to be recorded each month to highlight all the work we do. What is required is the person's name, the number of hours and the activity. Starting from April 2019 and the month running from meeting to meeting.

Wood chippings

Available from South Staffs Council as and when required.

Essington in Bloom

Individual committee members can support this project. JH, AH, CW and AW are painting benches. Most of our projects looking okay - CR, DR gave the bench area a tidy up and removed old plants and now new plants need purchasing and the overhanging branches need cutting back.

Litter pick with St John's Academy

AN, FH, PWO and JH helped 60 year 1 pupils litter pick the park opposite the school on Thursday May 23rd. AN also gave a talk on the importance of looking after our environment.

3. Social Events and Walks

Quiz Nights

The next quiz night is Thursday 4th July at the WMC 7.30pm - £2 per person - max.6 per team.

AGM

AGM is on the 13th June. Chris Shaw of South Staffordshire Beekeepers Association will entertain us. WW has sent out invitations. Please be at church hall at 6.30pm to help set up. CW, AW and JM will organise the refreshments. PWA asked everyone if they still wished to continue in their present role. JM said that she was stepping down.

Committee report

The report to be compiled as suggested in email from PWA and returned to him or NW who will collate it for presentation at our AGM.

Summer Parish walk

Friday July 19th further information will be given nearer the date - JH

4. Correspondence

- Email from Keri Lloyd from the Friends of Bilbrook inviting all friends groups to a walk around their patch on Saturday 15th June, meeting on the Woodman car park at 10.00am and returning there for refreshments.
- PWA referred to an email from AN suggesting we should help with something to assist Essington in Bloom. Maybe repair/replace timber rails around the Nicket. CW to have a look when he paints the benches.
- Email from Matt of Swynnerton Drive saying that he had carried out a clean-up on the pavement in Bognop Road opposite his house. CW and PWA helped load the bags which we arranged for collection. Many thanks to him for his hard work.

5. Any other business

- PWA reported that PWO was reducing his work load from the end of July which would affect some of our projects. PWO would be happy to continue maintaining the triangle and Blackhalve Lane Gateway and Howard Medicott would put his name forward to maintain Adrian's Wall - this to be discussed further. Jamie Harper of Alvaston Loft Conversions has some suggestions about his sponsored areas that he will contact us about.

Date of next meeting: Thursday July 11th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.