



Friends of Essington Meeting
8th October 2020

Present: Pete Ward, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse, Adrian Nicklin, Neil Wheeldon.

Present via WhatsApp: Clem and Angie Whittle.

Apologies: Tracey Taylor.

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

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

Projects

Orchard

The information board to be installed - WW to contact Ms Price - Half Term was suggested. 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 2021

The new approach to the calendar for this year only has been well received. Calendar proofs now in the process of being viewed.

Windmill Hill Bench and Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

Alstroemeria purchased and planted and both areas tidied and litter picked - CR & DR.

Jubilee Planter

Area looking good.

A suggestion was also made could more trees be planted in this area.

Lock-up

More work needed.

Daffodil Bulbs

WW to add bulb planted areas to the map that he is producing.

Email read out from Ryan Taylor re. Bulbs and Yellow Rattle / Wild Flower planting.

Blackhalve Lane verges - everyone agreed that this area be planted with Daffodil bulbs - CR to obtain from Council.

Areas for planting Yellow Rattle / Wild Flowers needs further investigation a suggestion was made an area opposite Willenhall Rugby Club - AN to provide map from Google Earth.

Brownshore Crossing

Decided to meet on Saturday 9am as many people as possible, to tidy up the area, repair the post and repair the black and white sign post the corner of Brownshore Lane / High Hill. Maybe at a later date some railway memorabilia could be added.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours were recorded including Spring Clean. Could everyone who does not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

Our sponsored projects

Various plans were presented - nothing decided. Janet and John to be consulted (on mainly the planting). This will then be taken to the sponsor and Highways Department will also have to be consulted.

Blackhalve Lane was also discussed.

Future projects

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW reported that they continue to update our web site including more up to date photos etc. and the Annual Spring Clean.

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

Very successful in Essington and Westcroft - with social distancing, risk assessments and PPE all in place - very well supported under these difficult circumstances. Well done and thanks to everyone.

Proposed memorial

Due to time constraints the meeting at this point was closed.

The following minutes remain from the previous meeting.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Generally Bognop Road has improved but there is significant fly tipping in other areas, one in particular being Moseley Road as confirmed by JH. All please keep reporting any incidents.

The Green bin charges - outcomes of this are that no favouritism can be shown by the council. Residents cutting the grass verges and using their own green bin for the waste will have to continue to do so or not cut the grass. It was also thought by many around the table that grass verges were being cut less by the council and encouraged by many groups including Friends of the Earth and the Blue Campaign advocating the planting of wild flowers as AN pointed out in Bilbrook.

High Viz Jackets and Banners.

Jackets distributed and banners will be brought to the next meeting.

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 - CR to chase. The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace

This is 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

Quiz Nights

Next quiz dates - Wednesday 30th September and Wednesday 28th October.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Ryan Taylor asking what the group had been doing during lockdown so he could hopefully enter something in the Review magazine. The reply was read out.
- W&F sent email to WW about their forthcoming AGM.

5. Any other business

- PWA thanked residents and the committee for their various efforts during the last few months, litter picking, cutting back hedges and planting etc. This should be applauded and a thank you put in the church magazine.
- CR sent an email to the Highways with a few concerns:-
 1. The damaged bridge in Wood Hayes Road - been in this condition for over 12 months - dangerous and unsightly.
 2. Horse Chestnut tree close to road needs some attention.
 3. The area by Methodist Chapel Bursnips Road looks very unsightly and asked when the road junction works were going to be completed. So maybe this we could reinstate as one of our projects.
 4. Wood Hayes Road to Old Hampton Lane could do with a footpath, area tidying up making it safer, cleaner and easier to litter pick. This could be one of our future projects.

CR will keep committee informed of any progress.

Date of next meeting - Thursday November 12th - to be confirmed.