



Friends of Essington Meeting
9th January 2020

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

Apologies: Paul Woolley, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson.

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

No meeting held in December 2019.

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

Projects

Orchard

Graphics have been collected and presented to the committee. There was a suggestion that an extra Perspex layer on the top would add to the protection. CR and DR met with Ms Price regarding the history of the orchard and the legend that had been produced and she suggested an early date in spring for the board to be installed. PWO and HM were winter pruning the trees and PWO emailed an update to everyone.

Calendar 2020/2021

Sold out. Could anyone with outstanding monies please forward to CR.

Everyone agreed to keep taking photographs and all agreed to invite the wider public to submit photographs for us to view, CW has placed the invite in the church magazine.

Windmill Hill Bench

Bulbs planted in November and Alstroemeria to be planted in the spring.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

Bulbs planted in November and Alstroemeria to be planted in the spring.

Jubilee Planter

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

Daffodil Bulbs

Bulbs planted in November :- Blackhalve Gateway, Wolverhampton Road, Triangle, Brownshore Crossing, bottom end of Brownshore Lane, Jubilee Planter and the bottom of Bognop Road. Suggestion for these to be added to the map that WW produced.

Brownshore Crossing

PWa and NW to visit and report on what is needed. CR to see what is in the lock up and also take steel supports to AN for manufacture.

Our sponsored projects

We have a draft document highlighting some recommendations that we think will benefit the companies and the FOE. PWa to contact other sponsor to arrange a

meeting. JH is continuing to compile our project list. Lock up needs sorting out and equipment assessed.

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 has purchased a portable hard drive and a high capacity flash drive, this will give us the protection we need.

Tree Planting

Many of the committee have chosen their trees and areas to be planted. WW produced a map and possible locations were marked on it. Any committee member who has not chosen a tree please let us know what tree you require.

Annual Spring Clean

Saturday 4th April 2020. Self-sufficient in litter pickers, high viz. Gloves and bags to be ordered.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Many areas are still a problem with large amounts of bags having been fly tipped across the area. Could everyone please keep reporting. Top of Old Hampton lane was particularly bad but has now been cleared.

High Viz Jackets

AW reported on her investigation, 12 jackets to be ordered with FOE logo. Local suppliers to be contacted - CR.

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

Reporting inappropriate signage is a way forward to get them removed and also removing smaller signs ourselves and taking them to the council - ongoing.

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

Essington Show

Saturday 2nd May 2020 - Golf game to be organised.

Quiz Nights

Date for the next quiz is Thursday January 16th 2020, usual place and time.

Friend's Walks

We were asked to consider hosting the next friend's group walk. Date to be arranged. CR suggested some forward planning where and what to include.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Gavin Williamson thanking us for the wonderful calendars we gave him.

5. Any other business

- It had been suggested in the past that some flag banners to advertise our group could be priced up, however WW came across some roll up banners at a very competitive price. All agreed that 1 should be purchased with the appropriate logo and wording.
- WW reported that Forest of Mercia are developing a Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace with an area for bee hives supplied by Chris Shaw. WW is liaising and assisting Dave Knowles with this very worthy, environmental and people friendly project. He will keep us informed.
- AW asked if we were going to contribute a project to Essington in Bloom. It was thought a good idea and maybe the crossing when refurbished could be planted to compliment and be included.
- AN was asked to bring to our attention that the community group against the development in the Kitchen Lane area would appreciate any support at their meetings etc.
- AN reported that the flag from Bryn's Mound has unfortunately been stolen, however it will be reinstalled by members of the community.
- AN reported that the black and white sign - corner of Kitchen Lane could do with some TLC.
- DR reported that her daughter in law had attended a meeting where Ryan Taylor gave a presentation about friends groups in the community, what they could achieve and their importance. Her daughter in law was very pleased to hear about and see photographs of Friends of Essington who were obviously very well thought of. We all should be very proud.

Date of next meeting: Thursday February 13th 7.30pm start in Church Hall.