



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

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

**Apologies:** Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson, Paul Woolley.

**Record of last meeting:** Approved by AN, Seconded by PWA.

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

**Projects**

Ashmore Glass sent their apologies, WW to rearrange another meeting.

**Fred's Bed**

WW contacted many local residents regarding locating a bench by Fred's Bed/ bus stop. The outcome was that a few liked the idea and the intentions were good but they felt that problems would arise with congregating youths creating noise, litter etc. A show of hands rejected the idea unanimously.

**Orchard**

Information board - ongoing. PWO has forwarded plan of orchard. CR to investigate signs used by Hilton Green.

**Adrian's Wall**

AN complained to Rugby Club about litter blowing out of bins and skip, matter ongoing.

**Blackhalve Lane Gateway**

Gateway installed, awaiting new Highway's signage.

**Bryn's flagpole**

Flag to be replaced as required. Local residents have taken a look at the existing flagpole and will endeavour to replace it.

Committee to walk the path when weather permits and come up with suggestions.

**Calendar 2019**

Reminder to keep taking photos throughout the seasons.

**Future projects**

FOE oak tree and time capsule to be discussed further.

PWA presented a schematic drawing of a planter that may suit the area of Hobnock Road across from the Methodist chapel. Permission to be obtained along with any information regarding road improvements that may affect the area - action CR.

**Website and Event Calendar**

CW and AW are continuing to update our event calendar and website.

CW explained the hits analysis regarding our website and also asked everyone to like and retweet any information received.

## **Calendar 2018**

All distributed and sold. A discussion followed about naming the locations, maybe a quiz regarding this to be put in church magazine later in the year.

## **2. Environmental Activities**

### **Culvert**

Extra work needed- date to be arranged.

A general discussion followed on the state of the drains in the area. Everyone should raise this problem on Fix my Street/Love Clean Streets etc.

### **Rail/Transport hub - Gailey**

WW has written a letter to Gavin Williamson MP confirming our opposition to the scheme and our support for him opposing this. WW also offered our support for any future issues that we may be able to help him with and we await his reply.

### **Proposed motorway junction**

PWa commented that this would have another serious environmental impact on the area. Everyone encouraged to view the proposed plans at the community centre.

### **Pools**

CR to keep in contact and also another contact to supply stone to be pursued by CR.

### **Fly-tipping**

Fly tipping over the Xmas period was horrendous and the many people reporting this has made a difference in the speed of response from the council.

Unofficial layby top of windmill hill - work party has been organised for Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> 9am and if needed Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>. A risk assessment was circulated to the committee.

The letter concerning Bognop Road has been circulated to a number of people who may have an influence. Other letters to go out to the residents of Bognop Road-action - PWa.

### **JLR (corporate social responsibility)**

Volunteers from the above could be used in future projects, Spring Clean suggested. Ryan Taylor needs to be contacted.

### **Spring Clean 2018**

AN advised that the spring clean will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

AN circulated information about heavy duty litter pickers and it was agreed that 10 should be ordered. Strong gloves and protective glasses will also be purchased. Gavin Williamson has been invited.

### **Friends groups/South Staffs Council.**

WW will email information to the committee.

### **3. Social Events and Walks**

#### **Twixmas Walk**

22 people and 1 dog attended a very enjoyable walk.

#### **Xmas Do**

All who attended enjoyed the evening, unfortunately this event made a small loss.

#### **Quiz Night**

Next quiz night will be on 15<sup>th</sup> February at the WMC 7.30pm.

#### **Essington Show (Willenhall Rugby Club)**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 FOE's only suggested involvement was our village walk (WW)

### **4. Correspondence**

- DR emailed committee correspondence from Ryan Taylor regarding job vacancy.
- DR emailed committee correspondence from Mark Keeling regarding vehicle damage to the Cannock Road Island.
- DR emailed committee correspondence from Gavin thanking us for the calendars.

### **5. Any other business**

- Several paths in the area need clearing. Brownshore Lane (pool side) and short path by Essington Industrial Estate opposite Swynnerton Drive. As a test we will all report these to the council and see the response.
- AW raised a question about the AGM and a date was set for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May. A discussion followed regarding a speaker and the outcome was that all agreed to the suggestion that we ask the First Responders in our area. They are all volunteers and need to spread the word about their good work. Action CR & DR.
- AN informed us that we had been given 10 Xmas trees.
- JM asked about our annual meal. Berry Brook Farm was suggested and agreed by all and a date set for Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm. Action CR & DR.
- PWA explained that he had placed out correctly batteries for recycling, he then saw an operative put them in his grey bin, which probably would go to landfill!  
He then contacted the council and their reply was that a container was on every collection vehicle for batteries to be placed in and they were sorry that it had happened and they will investigate further.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February: 7.30pm start in Church Hall.

