



Friends of Essington Meeting
13th April 2017

Present: Adrian Nicklin, Clem Whittle, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Pete Ward, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson

Apologies: Jan Macey, Freddie Homer, Tracy Taylor, Angie Whittle, Wayne Whitehouse, Paul Woolley

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

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

Projects

Three of our projects have now been approved for sponsorship. The sponsor maintaining the projects supported by us. The triangle is already underway for a refurbishment. It was agreed that John and Janet would look after the planters including a replanting of the over wintered Pelargoniums watering and weeding as in the past.

- **Jubilee planter** - AN has now refurbished the sign. Thanks Ade.

All our projects to be discussed in AOB as and when required, including weeding/litter picking etc. a rota may be circulated as and when necessary.

Website and Event Calendar

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

Calendar 2018

Everyone was reminded to continue taking photos for our 2018 calendar. These could be favourite areas around Essington, different seasons, sunrise, sunsets and rural views etc. The new method of sponsorship is being pursued with a good response to obtaining 24 sponsors but CR asked if people could come up with more suggestions. The same printers will be used with an updated quote which was accepted by everyone present. Suggested deadline for photographs is our September meeting.

2. Environmental Activities

Hilton Green

We have been invited to a Bluebell Fayre at Hilton Green on Saturday April 22nd. No ideas for our involvement materialised but it was suggested that members support if they possibly could. DR to contact them.

Wildflower planting

Wild flower seeds from PWO and the Grow Wild Kits DR received have now all been planted.

Great British Spring Clean 2017

All agreed that this event will be continued next year AN stated that the organisation was in place. 31 children were involved in the Spring Clean and each received a certificate, thanks Ade. AN also stated that the article from Gavin Williamson congratulating us in Gavin's newsletter may be in the South Staffs Review.

Fracking Presentation

Everyone agreed that this would be a good topic for us to have a speaker but we are having difficulty to find someone.

Fly-tipping

Unofficial layby top of windmill hill still problematic, various actions are being investigated.

Top of Old Hampton Lane, road planings going missing and extra fly tipping noted. CW reported fly-tipping in drive in Brownshore Lane, this area has become very problematic recently. Potholes were also discussed and it was agreed that CW would report them on Twitter.

3. Social Events and Walks

2017 entertainment - alternative to Panto

Regarding the re-establishment of the pantomime with either a professional company or a local Youth Theatre group WW contacted Coppice School of Performing Arts and is awaiting a reply.

An environmental fayre similar to Perton's Spring Fayre maybe in conjunction with Hilton Green.

Xmas party with entertainers or local talent etc.

Whatever event, it would need a significant lead time to plan and organise finance.

British Legion Event.

Ricky Cool and the In Crowd on Saturday October 14th 2017 at the community centre.

Quiz Night 31st March.

£28 was raised which will be donated to Cancer Research UK in memory of Dave Crudgington and Horace Knight (CR). Thanks to Jon and Oliver.

A future quiz (maybe in September) needs to be advertised earlier, AN suggested a change of venue to the Working Men's Club lounge, Jon to investigate.

FOE AGM

Date is Thursday May 11th 7pm start and the directors of Hilton Green will be giving a presentation outlining their achievements and how they can connect with friends groups.

Suggestion that people should be contacted with an invitation to attend our AGM- WW offered to do this (PWa to contact WW).

Some fliers have been distributed - some more to go out.

CW will organise alcoholic beverage and JM to organise coffee, tea and nibbles.

All present were willing to remain on the committee but with NW stepping down as secretary due to work commitments. The secretary's position was discussed and it is now clear that the position has evolved into 3 different parts:-

1. The communication through Twitter, Website and the Church Magazine which CW and AW have been maintaining. CW said that they would continue to do this.
2. DR to continue taking and presenting the minutes of the meetings with some communications.
3. WW has put his name forward for the position of secretary with responsibility for correspondence to outside agencies etc.

PWa would be willing to stand for another term as Chair and also CR would be prepared to stand for another term as Treasurer.

Extra meeting on Thursday May 4th 7.30pm to finalise AGM.

4. Correspondence

- Email from TT regarding village walk, this was discussed and it was decided not to go ahead this year but to include it in our forward planning for next year with maybe a change of start venue.
- Email from Keith Elder via PWO, which had been distributed to everyone, regarding ways for friends group to engage with their local community.
- SSCVA forum Spring 2017 Featherstone Community Centre Monday 22nd May 10am - 1pm lunch included. Please contact DR if you can attend.
- A letter was received from Dot Davis enclosing a £10 donation from her friend (Mrs Diane Keasey) who she sends one of our calendars to every year. Unfortunately Mrs Keasey's niece passed away last month and she wanted to send us a donation in lieu of flowers. (DR will send her a letter of thanks).

5. Any other business

- AN reminded us that the community centre has been provisionally booked for December 8th and 9th.
- From the Spring Clean several members noted that the paths around the pools needed refurbishment. Contact has been made with the works manager highlighting what is needed and several members of the community stated they would like to help with this. This will be pursued.
- JH reported that along with several of the local residents he helped tidy up some areas of the pools.
- CR informed us that we had been invited to have a stand at a celebration event for community groups and volunteers etc on Saturday 17th June 10am - 1pm.
- CW had received an email from South Staffs Council - Local Plans Database asking if we wanted to remain on their database. It was decided that CW should reply asking for us to be removed.
- PWa commented that maybe we could help maintain Fred's bed.

Date of next meetings: Please note

Thursday 4th May 7.30pm start to finalise AGM.

AGM Thursday 11th May 7pm start in Church Hall.