



Friends of Essington Meeting
14th December 2017

Present: Adrian Nicklin, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Paul Woolley, Pete Ward.

Apologies: Jan Macey, Freddie Homer, Wayne Whitehouse, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson, Tracy Taylor.

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

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

Projects

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

Fred's Bed

PWo to cut the grass on a regular basis as arranged, along with the bench and Brownshore crossing. PWo emailed the committee with prices for the suggested bench, some members thought it was too expensive. CR contacted highways and they suggested local resident's opinions should be obtained - action WW and FH.

Orchard

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

Adrian's Wall

All bulbs were planted.

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

Bryn's flagpole

Flag to be replaced as required, discussion re new flagpole and other discussions regarding a tribute to Bryn. Committee to walk path and come up with suggestions. The £100 donation from Jan & Bryn could be used in conjunction with the above. A sympathy card was given to Jan with a thank you note.

Calendar 2019

Reminder to keep taking photos throughout the seasons.

Future projects

FOE oak tree and time capsule to be discussed further.

PWa suggested land at end of Hobnock Road by Methodist chapel maybe road improvements? and permission to be obtained.

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW are continuing to update our event calendar and website. They will report a detailed analysis of hits etc. at our next meeting.

Invoice from web site host now paid.

Calendar 2018

Almost all sold, a thank you to be put in church magazine.

16 remaining calendars were sold in under an hour at the school Xmas fayre. Thanks to the school for letting us have a table. A calendar was given to Jan Whitehouse who came and had a chat to us.

2. Environmental Activities

Culvert pools area

Extra work needed- date to be arranged.

Rail/Transport hub - Gailey

WW to write a letter to Gavin Williamson MP confirming our opposition to the scheme.

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

Unofficial layby top of windmill hill - work party to be organised for January.

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.

Spring Clean 2018

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

Litter pickers, strong gloves and protective glasses to be purchased with money raised from quiz nights - Action AN.

Gavin Williamson has been invited and the date has been put in his dairy.

Friends groups/South Staffs Council.

WW and CR attended a meeting with other friend's group representatives and council officials regarding involvement of both of the above, due to the council now having in-house facilities Street Scene, grass cutting etc. CR outlined details of the meeting but said WW had made more detailed notes and would probably report back at the next meeting.

3. Social Events and Walks

Xmas Do

65 people attended a successful evening.

Money handed over for raffle and extra ticket sold.

Quiz Night

£76 raised to go towards litter pickers etc. Next quiz night in February.

Essington Show (Willenhall Rugby Club)

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

4. Correspondence

- DR emailed committee correspondence from Ryan Taylor regarding Spring Clean.
- DR emailed committee correspondence from Keith Elder regarding Winter Newsletter from NFPGS.
- PWO had letter from Birmingham Children's Hospital appealing for fund raising. (This was due to our donations in the past).

5. Any other business

- PWO informed us that the Blackhalve Lane gateway will be installed soon with new signage.
- PWO informed us that the Twixmas Walk will be on Thursday 28th December at 10am meeting on Milford car park.
- After PWO informed us at the sad loss of Peter Grant DR sent a card from us all expressing our sympathy.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 11th January: 7.30pm start in Church Hall.