



Friends of Essington Meeting
4th May 2017

Present: Adrian Nicklin, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Pete Ward,
Angie Whittle, Jan Macey, Paul Woolley, Tracy Taylor

Apologies: Freddie Homer, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson, Wayne Whitehouse,
Clem Whittle

Record of last meeting: Approved by CR, Seconded by PWA.

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

Projects

The three projects (Brownshore Triangle, Blackhalve Lane Gateway and Bognop Road -Adrian's Wall) that have now been approved for sponsorship by the highways department of South Staffs Council are being sponsored by Ashmore Glass supported by FOE. Thanks to them for their support.

The triangle is well underway and John and Janet will be planting the Pelargoniums and looking after them.

Fred's Bed

PWA previously commented about the maintenance of Fred's Bed, to be discussed with Fred. PWO reported that he had strimmed the grass.

Orchard

PWO has visited the orchard to remove the supports and reported that all trees were doing well, he will cut the hedge when appropriate and strim. The supports are going to be kept for use on other projects. CR suggested an information board to be erected regarding the trees and general information.

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW are continuing to update our event calendar and website and they will also be submitting our inclusions for the church magazine.

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, this has been done.

Calendar 2018

PWA reminded everyone to continue taking photos for our 2018 calendar. The deadline for this to be our September meeting.

Sponsorship is still being pursued and CR asked for any other prospective sponsors.

2. Environmental Activities

Hilton Green

The Bluebell Fayre at Hilton Green on Saturday April 22nd was cancelled due to site refurbishment.

Kitchen Lane

PWo reported that cowslips and common orchids were growing well and were well worth a visit.

Pools

A meeting with the works manager has now taken place and he has no problem with FOE involvement and he would give us every assistance. He will inform the Parish Council as a matter of courtesy and will require sight of our insurance, then we can progress with this project.

As stated previously several local residents would welcome this work.

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 a local pothole to the Staffs County Council but has had no reply.

3. Social Events and Walks

2017 entertainment - alternative to Panto

AN reminded us that the community centre has been provisionally booked for December 8th and 9th.

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 still 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.

South Staffs celebration event.

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. We all felt that we had nothing new to contribute but it was suggested that as many members as possible attend the event with a view to contributing something in the future.

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 has been donated to Cancer Research UK in memory of Dave Crudgington and Horace Knight. Thanks to the rugby club for the free use of the room.

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

This was discussed at length with the usual format being followed, all existing committee members are willing to stand for the next year. CR to produce an agenda. All committee to meet at 6.15pm to set up for the AGM.

WW has emailed invitations to sponsors, supporters and members.

Refreshments have been organised.

The secretary's position was discussed and it is now clear that the position has evolved into 3 different parts:-

- 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.
- DR to continue taking and presenting the minutes of the meetings with some communications.
- 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.

Correspondence

- A letter of thanks was sent by DR to Mrs Diane Keasey thanking her for her £10 donation.
- An apology was received from Ryan Taylor saying that he is unable to attend our AGM, but would be interested in having sight of the minutes.

Any other business

- CR and DR will take the over wintered Pelargoniums to John tomorrow for planting in the triangle planters.
- JM asked about Inn Trail this year.
- CR suggested that a substantial oak tree could be planted somewhere appropriate with a time capsule.

Date of next meetings:

AGM Thursday 11th May 7pm start in Church Hall. (6.15pm to set up room)

Thursday 8th June 7.30pm start in Church Hall.