



**Friends of Essington Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Present:** Adrian Nicklin, Angie Whittle, Jan Macey, Tracy Taylor, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Pete Ward, Wayne Whitehouse, Freddie Homer, Jon Hanson.

**Apologies:** Neil Wheeldon, Clem Whittle, Paul Woolley,

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

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

**Projects**

- **Adrian's Wall** - PWO will keep us informed.
  
- **Jubilee planter** - The FOE sign behind the planter needs sanding, AN will look at it when the weather improves.

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

**Event Calendar** - CW has updated.

**Calendar 2017**

CR reported very successful this year, same number of calendars sold as in previous years and we made more money.

**Calendar 2018**

Everyone was reminded to start 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 was discussed and everyone agreed that this was the way forward and efforts to be made to seek extra sponsors. Agreed to keep the same printers but the new format to be discussed with them. (CR)

**Website**

CW and AW informed us about our website being available again with a new service provider. Thanks to Emma for her continued hard work for us.

**2. Environmental Activities**

**Damage to grass verges.**

PWO had observed local delivery vans damaging grass verges, he asked if he could record them on our twitter page trying to shame them into not doing it. All agreed.

## **Hilton Green**

We have been invited to an event in spring 2017 an update will be given nearer the time. DR emailed spring events calendar from Forest of Mercia, more information will be available in the near future.

## **Great British Spring Clean 2017**

This will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

AN updated us on organisation, needed more gloves and litter pickers and gave out posters and fliers to distribute to encourage a good attendance.

A pre litter pick meeting will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am** at the Church Hall to recognise areas that we need to concentrate on.

It was asked if our collected rubbish was going to be sorted and recycled by us but this was probably thought to be impractical. Another suggestion was that the rubbish could be sorted as we go and not after it had been collected, but then could the council also keep it separate and not go to landfill?

## **Fracking Presentation**

To be further explored as issue very topical at present. WW suggested maybe speaker for the AGM.

## **Fly-tipping**

PWo commented that he had better response from Love Clean Streets than Fix my Street. It was agreed that the rubbish was being removed but being replaced very quickly by more fly tipping. Unofficial layby top of windmill hill seems to be the more problematic, various solutions suggested. More discussion needed.

Top of Old Hampton Lane, road planings going missing and extra fly tipping noted. Reported observations to the council and any feedback will be given at next meeting.

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

### **Xmas meal**

24 members enjoyed an informal evening at Berry Brook Farm Pub.

### **2017 entertainment - alternative to Panto**

Other options were discussed. AN to explore avenues for choir with maybe festive songs and possibly our annual dance to be moved to another time of the year.

PWo suggested maybe a Xmas party with entertainers i.e. a magician etc. which would be something different.

**Next meeting to start at 7pm to begin to discuss above.**

### **Essington Show**

AN advised Essington Show has been put back to August 2018 so that funds and a bigger and more professional event can be organised.

## **FOE AGM**

Date is Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm start.

DR reported that unfortunately Gavin Williamson MP cannot attend due to prior engagement.

Suggestion that people should be contacted with an invitation to attend our AGM

TT said that she would organise a flier with all the details.

Other speakers had been contacted and either were not available or out of their area etc. A suggestion was made that the directors from Hilton Green, part of the Forest of Mercia, who did a presentation at SSCVA AGM could be invited to give a similar presentation outlining their achievements and how they can connect with friends groups.

### **4. Correspondence**

- Email from Andy Aston asking for photos from friends groups to put up a slideshow on their social media platform to show off the hard work we all do. CW emailed him relevant photos. Thanks Clem.
- Email from Alvaston Loft Conversions informing us of a planning meeting to be held at Codsall Council Offices on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February starting at 6.30pm to decide the further planning application for DX Freight. Strongly advised to attend in support of refusal.

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

- FH asked for a date to be fixed for cleaning out and refurbishment of the bird and bat boxes. To be arranged.  
**British Legion Event.**
- AN advised us that he had booked Ricky Cool and the In Crowd on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the community centre.
- A newsletter from the Friends of Bilbrook showing their activities over the last 12 months was circulated.
- It was suggested that we could try and recognise areas that would benefit from wild flower planting, committee members to report back.
- Meeting at Featherstone Community Centre regarding ROF Featherstone Highways Consultation was attended by some of the committee where they expressed their concerns.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**PLEASE NOTE: - 7.00pm START in Church Hall.**