



Friends of Essington Meeting
9th March 2017

Present: Adrian Nicklin, Angie Whittle, Clem Whittle, Tracy Taylor, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Pete Ward, Wayne Whitehouse.

Apologies: Neil Wheeldon, Paul Woolley, Jan Macey, Jon Hanson, Freddie Homer.

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

A few moments of reflection were given to the recent passing of some of our members including Dave Crudginton and Horace Knight. Details have been circulated of their funerals and donations to their charities to be given by individuals and cards of condolence will be sent to the respective families. They will be sadly missed.

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

Projects

- **Adrian's Wall** - We have now received a communication confirming the projects put forward for sponsorship which have now been approved (more information contained in email).
- **Jubilee planter** - The FOE sign behind the planter needs sanding, AN will endeavour to refurbish this in the next few weeks.

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 and the minutes of the last two meetings can be now viewed.

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 to be pursued to obtain the number of sponsors needed. All agreed to keep the same printers and the new format to be discussed with them. (CR)

2. Environmental Activities

ROF Featherstone Highways Consultation

Meeting at Featherstone Community Centre regarding ROF Featherstone Highways Consultation was attended by some of the committee where they expressed their concerns. No decision made to date.

Refurbishment of bird and bat boxes.

Freddie, Pete, Clem and Paul refurbished bird and bat boxes on Saturday 18th February. A map was circulated, drawn up by Freddie, showing the positions of the boxes.

Hilton Green

We have been invited to a Bluebell Fayre event at Hilton Green on Saturday April 22nd everyone was asked to come up with ideas for our involvement.

Wildflower planting

Some areas were identified for the planting of wild flowers.

Great British Spring Clean 2017

A very successful event attended by over 100 people on a fine spring day. The Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson MP officially opened our annual community litter pick. A significant amount of litter was collected by hand and many pick-up loads were transported by Alan Degg to the Scout and Guide HQ. The litter was collected by the Street Scene Department of South Staffs Council and was recycled. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments donated by Sue Nicklin and several donations were given and the money will be used towards next year's refreshments.

All the children who litter picked will receive a certificate - AN to produce.

An Express and Star photographer attended to record the event.

Photos taken by committee members were sent to Andy Aston to put on their social media platform.

Many thanks to all who made it such a success.

Fracking Presentation

To be further explored as issue very topical at present.

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.

Road planings still going missing!

3. Social Events and Walks

2017 entertainment - alternative to Panto

Discussed at great length - maybe in future this could be a free or nominal charge event with grants being obtained.

Suggestion were:-

That the pantomime was re-established with either a professional company or a local Youth Theatre group i.e. Coppice School of Performing Arts (WW to investigate).

An environmental fayre similar to Pertons 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.

AN advised that he had booked Ricky Cool and the In Crowd on Saturday October 14th 2017 at the community centre.

FOE AGM

Date is Thursday May 11th 7pm start (hall booked) 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.

TT organised a flier with all the details for distribution.

Refreshments were discussed CW will organise alcoholic beverage.

4. Correspondence

- Email from Mark Keeling re. sponsorship of our projects, response read out at meeting.
- Email from Ryan Taylor re. Grow Wild kits DR registered our interest.

5. Any other business

- Quiz night organised by JH to be held at Essington Rugby Club on Friday 31st March. Suggestion that money raised from the quiz be shared between the charities in memory of Dave Crudginton and Horace Knight? This would then be a charity night.
- An attempt to be made to remedy the fly tipping in the unofficial layby at the top of Windmill Hill. Everyone agreed that something must be done.
- CR highlighted to the council that a litter pick was held 12 months ago and even more rubbish was collected this time.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th April 2017 7.30pm start in Church Hall

