



Friends of Essington Meeting
9th November 2017

Present: Adrian Nicklin, Colin Richards, Dot Radford, Freddie Homer, Tracy Taylor, Clem Whittle, Angie Whittle, Wayne Whitehouse, Neil Wheeldon, Jon Hanson, Paul Woolley.

Colin welcomed James Parker and Bob Firmstone who joined us for the meeting.

Apologies: Pete Ward, Jan Macey

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

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

Projects

WW contacted Ashmore Glass inviting them to one of our meetings and they will be at our next meeting 14th December.

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 to find plan of orchard.

Adrian's Wall

PWo to plant some bulbs obtained from South Staffs Council.
People have commented on how good our projects are looking.

Bryn's flagpole

Flag to be replaced as required, discussion re new flagpole?

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.

Calendar 2018

All agreed calendar looking good, all distributed to our sponsors and committee and to our usual sales outlets. Clem to put on web site and twitter.

2. Environmental Activities

Culvert pools area

FH commented that the overflow to the culvert needs a clean out, work arranged for Saturday November 18th 9.30am meet on pools car park. Please bring rake, spade and pruning equipment.

Litter around HA properties

Housing Association responsible for these areas. AN contacted Housing Association and they will try to send volunteer staff to our litter pick.

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.

Hilton Green

Official opening - well attended by FOE - thanks to all. Good reports on the development and adhering to the original plans - an asset to Essington.

Pools

Funds are in short supply to provide more stone- CR to keep in contact. From comments around the table the stone was very expensive and we have done well to get what we had.

Fly-tipping

Unofficial layby top of windmill hill - CR,PWa,WW,DR met and assessed the rubbish, work party to be organised for January and material tipped to stop access. Old Hampton Lane still problematic, various ideas to be considered.

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 - Action AN

3. Social Events and Walks

Xmas Do

Ceilidh band booked for Saturday December 9th
Raffle prizes and more ticket sales required.

Quiz Night

Next quiz night-Thursday November 23rd - 7.30pm - Working Men's Club £2 per person. JH to find out about prizes.

Essington Show (organised by Willenhall Rugby Club)

AN attended a meeting about Essington Show which is on Saturday 5th May 2018 to be held at Willenhall Rugby Club and he told them the only suggestion for involvement from FOE was our village walk (suggested by WW)

4. Correspondence

- WW read out email from Louise Baker from Support Staffordshire inviting us to a meeting in Perton church hall on Monday 4th December 10am - 1pm.

5. Any other business

- CW and AW will represent FOE on Remembrance Sunday. Thanks to them.
- School Xmas Fayre Friday December 1st 6pm start - TT enquired if we wanted a table - yes we will to sell calendars. TT, PWA, CR & DR.
- FH asked us to advertise British Legion Quiz, Friday 17th November 7.30pm start at Essington Rugby Club.
- We have been given a donation of £100 from Janet and Bryn. CR & DR will get a sympathy card and put a note inside thanking Janet and family for the donation. Various suggestions on how best to use the money were discussed.
- CR & DR received a £20 donation for the FOE from Nell Charlesworth. Thanks to Nell.
- CR has been invited to a meeting by Keith Elder following an initial email from Ryan Taylor concerning friend's groups involvement with South Staffs Council regarding some contracts being taken in house.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 14th December: 7.30pm start in Church Hall.

