



Friends of Essington Meeting
12th March 2020 - Updated August 2020

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

Projects

Orchard

A date to be arranged for installation with Ms Price - WW to contact. A suggestion was made that it would be appreciated if we could have a children's report on the orchard in spring and autumn engaging both the school and FOE.

Calendar 2021

WW collating photographs for September meeting.

Windmill Hill Bench

No new Alstroemeria purchased at present - bench planted with Alstroemeria from CR, DR garden.

Bottom of Old Hampton Lane

No new Alstroemeria purchased at present.

Jubilee Planter

Silver birch trees planted CR, DR and watered through the dry weather also help from WW. Thank you NHS signs added by Alvaston Loft Conversions. A suggestion was also made could more trees be planted in this area - to be investigated further.

Cannock Road Island

Alvaston Loft Conversion weeded, mulched and added thank you NHS signs. Weeding was assisted by CR & DR.

Lock-up

Partially sorted out, chairs scrapped, sleeper accessible, more work needed.

Daffodil Bulbs

WW to add bulb planted areas to the map that he is producing. These areas are looking brilliant and a suggestion was made that photos should be taken and kept on record - action JH.

Brownshore Crossing

Sleeper now been replaced by one from lock-up - thanks AN and all who helped. Grassed area to the right of the bed planted with various wild flowers CR, DR thanks to PWa for help with watering.

The crossing is in need of a revamp.

The black and white sign - corner of Brownshore Lane will be given some TLC.

Our sponsored projects

We have received a reply from a sponsor and will take this matter further when we have assessed what we need and what we envisage our requirements are for the future.

Projects list

Thanks JH for compiling our project list which is now almost complete.

Future projects

Website and Event Calendar

CW and AW continue to update our web site including more up to date photos etc.

Tree Planting

Many of the committee have chosen their trees and areas to be planted. WW is continuing to update the map with possible locations and permission has to be obtained - CR.

Annual Spring Clean

Saturday 4th April 2020 9.30am start - Cancelled due to Coronavirus and rescheduled event for September - also cancelled. WW sent out email to inform everyone.

Future litter picks - quote from Ryan Taylor:-

PPE / risk assessments / H&S support for your various activities and how this might change in light of COVID-19. I'm happy to supply you with gloves / bags etc, and also check any documentation / guidance via ourselves and our H&S folk. We can also provide single use gloves, masks and (supplies depending) hand sanitiser for you to use.

Proposed memorial

PWa presented a drawing on behalf of the RBL showing a proposed memorial on the area at the junction of High Hill and Wolverhampton Road. The committee agreed that we would help with some planting but the general opinion was that a memorial of this stature should be located in the centre of the village and it was thought that the Parish Council should consult the residents by way of a survey.

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

During the lock down fly tipping became very extensive around the area, the quarry entrance being one of the worst. It was brought to the attention of County Councillors and District Council staff. Since then the entrance has been cleared, new gates installed and it seems much improved.

Green bin charges letter was sent to many County Councillors and many other people concerned. It did put the spot light on these charges and what we thought the effects would be, but still the charges went ahead.

High Viz Jackets and Banners.

Jackets were distributed and banners will be brought to the next meeting.

Grassland Restoration and Management

Grass verges on Blackhalve Lane could be cut back and wild flowers planted - PWa. Other areas could be investigated. CR has contacted Bovis homes and they would be happy for some involvement - meeting to be arranged - ongoing. Committee to think of areas where this could be encouraged and bring ideas to the next meeting.

AN sent a photo to the committee of an area of wild flowers in Bilbrook.

Inappropriate Signage

Some signs have been reported to the council and this is now ongoing - CR to chase. The removal of small signs by ourselves to continue.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours will be recorded at next meeting for the 2 months from July 10th to September 10th. Could everyone who does not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

Wood chippings

Not available from South Staffs Council at the moment they will let us know when some is available.

Wellness Garden at Collins Aerospace

This is been developed by the Forest of Mercia and WW informed us that the bee hives are soon to be installed.

3. Social Events and Walks

Essington Show

Cancelled.

Quiz Nights

Weekly virtual quiz nights during lock down organised by JH - thank you Jon. Return of quiz nights at WMC Wednesday August 19th Covid 19 awareness taken into account. Other quiz dates - Wednesday 30th Sept and Wednesday 28th October.

AGM

Proposed date for AGM is before our October 8th meeting at 7pm.

21 days' notice required WW to confirm.

Committee report - WW to collate.

The accounts are up to date and have been audited. Copies sent to PWA and WW and will be presented at our AGM.

Compost and bolts purchased for our projects.

Public Liability Insurance

This is due September 1st 2020 agreed to renew CR, DR, PWA and WW.

4. Correspondence

5. Any other business

Date of next meeting: Thursday September 10th 7.30pm in New Church Hall.

