



**Elsenham Parish Council
Flowerbeds Committee
Minutes of meeting
held on 7 July 2020 at 2.00pm
via online Zoom**

All meetings are open to the public and press

Present:	
Mrs. M Jackson (Chairman MJ), Dr. G Mott (GM), Ms. J Rayment (JR), Mr. A Hathaway (AH), Mr. D Belton (DB), Mr. T Belton (TB) and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).	
Members of the public: None.	
Apologies for absence: None.	
Item	Actions agreed
Declarations of Interest None.	
Open to the Public None present.	
Minutes The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2020.	The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record
Matters Arising EPC agreed to increase the Flowerbed Committee budget by £500. This was to compensate for the loss of the £500 which had been promised by the District Councillors from part of their Home Bonus fund. All Home Bonus payments have been stopped by UDC due to Covid-19, with funds being required elsewhere.	
Budget 2020/21 So far this year £913 has been spent, leaving available funds of £1,337. There is still one outstanding payment of £208 for the geranium plants and compost, taking the balance to £1,299.	
Summer Planting 2020 The summer planting was completed on Friday 3 July. The begonias are in all the main beds, Leigh Drive and Broom Farm, with geraniums in the smaller beds. MJ thanked Tom, David and Hillary Belton for carrying out all the summer planting. There was no help from volunteers this year, as it	

<p>was felt social distancing would be hard to maintain and therefore unsafe.</p>	
<p><u>Replacement Beds</u> The new boxes for the flowerbeds are now completed, MJ sent her thanks to Mick Burke who had done an excellent job, especially the diamond beds which he has doubled in depth. The flowerbed box on the corner of Robin Hood Road and Stansted Road has slight decay.</p>	<p>MJ to ask Mike Burke for his advice on repairing it.</p>
<p><u>Summer Planting 2021</u> Stansted PC have gone for a perennial approach with their flowerbeds this year, the beds stand out as something different and modern and look gorgeous. TB would like to try something similar with one of the larger flowerbeds in Elsenham, to see what the feedback is from residents. It would also be easier with watering as some of the plants are drought resistant. The initial cost would be slightly higher than the bedding plants, but they would not have to be replaced every year, so over all it would be less expensive. This idea would work well in the bed at Leigh Drive that struggles with lack of water due to the tree roots. MJ put a post on Facebook regarding the watering of the flowerbeds and received 170 likes. One of the posts received was from a gardening company who offered to water the flowerbed by Leigh Drive. It was discussed whether the houses either side of the entrance to Leigh Drive had an outside tap that TB could attach a hose to, EPC could donate towards their water bill. Another idea was the committee could ask the owners if they would agree to having a large water butt, purchased by EPC, placed in their garden, which would give a steady supply of water to be used for watering the flowerbeds. It was agreed the best option, at this time was to take up the garden company offer to water the Leigh Drive beds. A resident who lives in Broom Farm has offered to water the Broom Farm flowerbeds.</p>	
<p><u>The Covid Snake</u> MJ is still waiting to hear back from Elsenham Surgery, as one of the suggestions had been, that since the Covid snake had been about thanking NHS, that a permanent home could be found for the stones at the surgery. AH suggested, that as the Tommie's were going to be placed on slabs, the thank-you stones could be cemented in around them. The only problem may occur with strimming, as some of the paint may be removed. There had also been some comments that the</p>	

Memorial Garden was not the appropriate place for the stones and distracts from the original idea of a Memorial Garden.
GM suggested placing them on the wood around the Robin Hood flowerbed, MJ said she was worried about the stones getting too wet when the bed was watered, some of the stones had been painted with water colours which would just wash off.
If the surgery says no, Elsenham Primary School could be approached, or they could be placed in the garden of the Memorial Hall.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Next meeting to be held on 18 August 2020 at 2.00pm

Meeting closed at 2.20pm