



Elsenham Parish Council
Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 21 March 2022 at 3.45pm
in the Memorial Hall

Present: Mrs. M Jackson (Chair MJ), Mrs. B Donald (BD), Mr. A Hathaway (AH), Dr. Graham Mott (GM), Mrs. S Waite (SW) and Mrs. Louise Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ)	
Members of the public: None.	
Apologies for absence: None.	
Item	Actions agreed
Declarations of Interest None.	
Minutes The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022.	The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.
Matters Arising MJ had purchased 2 bug boxes and 2 bee logs, to be installed in the Memorial Garden, at a cost of £49.95.	AH to install the bug boxes.
Budget The current budget is £52.27, with the deduction of £49.95 it will leave £2.32.	
Gardening Contract LJ had sent out tenders to seven gardening companies, all of which had shown an interest in tendering for the contract. One lady asked for more information and was given a guided tour around the village by AH and MJ. However, she decided that it would be too much for her on her own and therefore would not be tendering. The deadline for returning the tenders was 10 March 2022. As no one had returned their tenders by the 7 March, LJ phoned each company, leaving six voice messages, reminding them that the deadline was 10 March, but more time could be arranged if it was needed. Three people phoned back, one saying that they had decided against tendering as the public liability was too high, another that they were too busy this year and the third saying he would be returning the tender. It was disappointing that only one tender had been returned. The committee thanked LJ for all her work and agreed that she had done everything possible to obtain tenders.	

<p>The tender from Belton Gardening was discussed. It was agreed that the Beltons had done an excellent job over the last 4 years. The price had been increased by 5% which was agreed as very reasonable.</p> <p>Proposal to accept the tender from Beltons Gardening, commencing on 1 May 2022 and ending on 30 April 2025.</p>	<p>MJ proposed, the vote was carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Summer Planting 2022</p> <p>GM asked about the problem with sourcing perennial plants, as he had recently visited a garden centre which had lots of perennials. MJ explained that the committee had agreed on drought hardy perennial plants, and these were the ones that were difficult to source. However, this may have to be re-addressed later in the year.</p> <p>A date for the summer planting is still to be arranged.</p> <p>AH suggested that as the Leigh Drive right hand flowerbed is going to be completely dug out, it could be moved about a bed's length to the right, so it is away from the large roots of the tree. This was agreed in principle as a good idea, although the two beds either side of Leigh Drive entrance would no longer be symmetrical. If the flowerbox is moved the original areas would require grass seeding.</p>	<p>Members are to look at the flowerbeds at Leigh Drive and report back</p>
<p>Memorial Garden</p> <p>The Beltons are happy to take over the grass cutting inside the Memorial Garden.</p> <p>The bricks around the cross need to be jet washed.</p>	<p>AH to carry this out.</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>GM asked if the Beltons would cut back the ivy on the notice board by the Memorial Garden.</p> <p>AH said he would look at the wood on the flowerbeds to see which required treating.</p>	<p>MJ to ask Tom.</p>
<p>Next meeting to be held 16 May 2022 at 3.45pm in the Memorial Hall.</p>	
<p>Meeting closed at 4.30pm</p>	