

Elsenham Parish Council
Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 June 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).

1. Election of Chair

Proposal. MJ is elected Chair of the Flowerbed Committee.

Proposed by GM and seconded by SW, the vote was carried unanimously.

2. Members of the public: None.

3. Apologies for absence: None.

4. Declarations of Interest: None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2022 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by MJ.

6. Matters Arising

Notice Board – The ivy encroaching onto the notice board by the Memorial Garden still needs to be removed. On-going.

7. Budget

The current budget is £1,900.

8. Summer Planting 2022

Leigh Drive Flowerbed

AH had suggested at the previous meeting that the flowerbed on the right-hand side of the entrance to Leigh Drive, could be moved about a bed's length to the right, so it is away from the large roots of the tree, and therefore retain more water. MJ had spoken to Tom Belton (TB) about the idea. TB said that if the flowerbed is moved it may be too close to the road. Plus, it would not be symmetrical with the other flowerbed on the left-hand side. TB had been digging deeper into the flowerbed and adding more soil, which was helping it to maintain more moisture. The flowerbed was now in a better condition than previous years. It was agreed to see how it progressed this year, if the flowerbed still struggled with a lack of water, the moving of the flowerbed would be re-addressed next year.

Summer Plants

TB to plant the summer plants this week.

Planter near Motorway Bridge

The planter by the motorway bridge on the left-hand side of the road as you enter Elsenham has always struggled, due to the overhanging trees. MJ suggested planting bulbs around the bottom of the 'Elsenham' sign, and some perennials in the planter, taking care

not to obscure the sign. GM said that he thought it was stated in the Dandara planning application, who had planning permission to build houses in the field adjacent to the sign, that the 'Elsenham' sign was to be moved nearer the motorway, so the entrance to the new development would be within Elsenham.

Action GM to check the Dandara plans.

It was therefore agreed to wait before purchasing any bulbs, but still go ahead with the perennials.

Winter Planting

It was agreed to order winter pansies of mixed colours.

Going forward

SW said it would be lovely to make the village beautiful. With hanging baskets and arranging the plants in the flowerbeds to make a pattern or a symbol. Some villages have wheelbarrows full of flowers and the name of the village spelt out in plants and lots of bulbs.

It was agreed to construct a five-year plan, showing where Elsenham is now, regarding flowerbeds and plants and what members would like Elsenham to look like in five years. The plan would give yearly goals on how this could be achieved, with the end result making Elsenham more striking and beautiful.

Planter on Henham Road

The 'Elsenham' sign on Henham Road is to be moved nearer to the Henham Junction. It was agreed to ask the developer if the planter could be left where it is. The developer also must extend the footpath on the south-side of the road into Elsenham. If there was enough room it would be nice if the developer would purchase another planter for this side of the road, or two new identical planters

9. Memorial Garden

There are times during the year when the Memorial Garden does not have much colour. There is a gap between the daffodils and the roses. It was agreed that there should be a 'timeline' starting with snowdrops, daffodils, bluebells and poppies. A wild area could be created behind the standpipe on the right-hand side of the garden.

AH is to install 2 further bird boxes and a bee house in the garden.

It had been reported that children were having a water game using the hose pipe in the Memorial Garden, the problem would be if the hose was left on and water wasted. The tap used to be locked but this practice stopped during Covid so that the refuse collectors could wash their hands, and they are still continuing to do this.

Action LJ to mention it in the magazine report.

10. Any Other Business

LJ to ask our District Councillors if they have any funds still available, they will donate towards the purchase of bulbs for the village.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 11 July 3.45pm.

Meeting finished at 5.05pm