

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 20 February 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. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public: 1

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Open to the public.

4. Approval of Minutes from 20 February 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising.

AH to ask Elsenham Golf Club whether they would like to sponsor the flowerbeds.

The Golf Club has donated £500 to the Flowerbed Committee.

The funds have been placed in an ear marked reserve to be spent in the next financial year. It had been agreed that for the donation the Golf Club could erect an advertising sign and a plaque. The Golf Club are to arrange these after having approval from the committee.

6. Budget.

The budget currently stands at £233. These funds need to be used by 31 March 2023.

7. Summer Planting 2023.

A corner piece of the flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood Road and Stansted Road, has broken away. AH said ideally, he would like a gap between when the winter pansies are removed and the summer plants being planted. AH would then be able to move the earth to one side of the flowerbed while repairing the corner of the bed.

MJ said the pansies have not been good this year, probably due to the very cold winter, this was not just confined to Elsenham, everywhere was having the same problems.

Tom has ordered the begonias summer bedding plants.

It had been suggested that this summer the committee purchase perennials for the flowerbeds, this would cost extra. However, many perennials died over the winter due to the extreme cold weather. It was therefore agreed not to buy perennials for all the flowerbeds in one year, but to introduce the perennials over a few years.

It was agreed to start with the flowerbeds at the entrance to Leigh Drive. Putting grasses, and verbena in the center of the flowerbeds with bedding plants around them. The grasses usually grow to the height of 18 inches, while the verbena, which have a purple head and a light green leaf, grows to about 3 feet. It was agreed that it was a good idea to have plants and grasses that help improve soil by replacing the nutrients back into the

earth.

MJ and BD have planted snowdrops, snakeheads and harebells in the Memorial Garden. Some bulbs do not come up in the first year. The snow stopped any further planting around the village, so there are still a lot of bulbs left.

8. Memorial Garden

A memorial Stone dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II has been ordered. The stone is balmoral granite, size 11.75ins x 8.25ins x 2ins thick. It had been agreed to place the stone by the WI bench, facing inwards. The stone may take up to 24 weeks.

One of the '0' within the 2000 on the back of the WI bench has been kicked out. This would have taken a lot of force and must have been done deliberately. AH will see if he can repair it. LJ to report it to the police. LJ will also mention that this is a criminal act and has been reported to the police, in the Parish Council's Elsenham News article.

9. Five Year Plan update

Two of the projects were under way, planting bulbs around the village and purchasing perennials.

It was agreed to walk around the village to gather ideas and then have a brainstorming session back at the Memorial Hall.

The developer Dandara has still not got detailed planning approval. Once they do, GM is going to ask that when they move the 'Welcome to Elsenham' signs on Stansted Road would they also higher the signs and move the flowerboxes. This would allow taller plants to be planted without obscuring the sign. Trailing plants such as ivy and geraniums could also be planted. Another idea was that if the signs are lifted higher off the ground a three tier self-watering flowerpot could be purchased and placed at the entrance.

10. AOB

GM asked about the replacement roses. MJ said she is going to pick up the roses and plant them in the diamond flowerbeds by the Memorial Garden inside cardboard boxes.

GM asked if AH had strengthened the Tommys in the Memorial Garden. AH said he was still to do this, they will be strengthened with metal plates, costing about £80.

AH said that the Flowerbed Committee should look for further sponsorships. The flowerboxes at the station were in a prime position for a company to advertise.

The next meeting is to start in the Memorial Garden at 12.30pm on 3 April. The committee will walk around the village to get ideas for future planting. The meeting will then commence at 1pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting finished at 4.45pm.