

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 10 October 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. 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 22 August 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2022 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair MJ.

**5. Matters arising**

**5.1. A price for replacing the deteriorated flowerbed boxes with wood.**

AH had looked at all the flowerbeds, the one by the station just needs a few screws replaced and the wood needs treating. The flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood and Stansted Road requires new timber. The cost would be approximately £70 - £80, the best time to replace the timber would be when the summer planting has been removed, the earth can then be moved to the middle of the bed. All the other flowerbeds in the village are okay.

**5.2. The best time of the year to purchase roses.**

MJ said roses can either be planted as dormant bare root plants in late winter or when they first flower. It was agreed to plant the new roses in February 2023. MJ to find suitable replacements.

**5.3. Possibility of a standpipe with a water meter adjacent to the flower beds.**

The cost for this is too expensive. Infinity Water quoted £33.50 each standpipe per week.

**5.4. Elsenham Golf Club to sponsor the flowerbeds.**

Rofu at Elsenham Golf Club has kindly agreed to sponsor the diamond beds and the flowerbed at Ambrose Corner. A sum of £500 was agreed on an annual basis if the Golf Club continued to thrive. In return the Golf Club would like plaques with the wording 'Sponsored by Golf World Stansted'. It was agreed the plaques would be A4 size maximum. LJ to write to the Golf Club thanking them for the donation and explaining that the sponsor money would go towards the plants for the diamond beds and the flowerbed at Ambrose Corner, also asking is there was any colours that they would like that were associated with the Golf Club. It was suggested that once the flowers were established a photo could be taken with Rofu to be put in the Village Magazine.

## **6. Drought Conditions.**

Tom had agreed that the flowers suggested at the last flowerbed meeting, perennials, verberna, lavender, grasses, cosmos, green cordyline would be ideal for drought conditions.

Not every flowerbed has to be the same, it may be nice to have some variety.

Apart from the lavender and cordyline all the other plants die off above ground during the winter.

It was suggested dog weed and some grasses have colour all year round, winter pansies could also still be planted around the perennials.

Purchasing the perennials next year will cost extra, but it should prove to be a saving in future years.

## **7. Budget.**

The Flowerbed budget is currently at £1,122.

MJ had purchased some bulbs at the cost of £88.83, this includes daffodils, tulips, snowdrops and hyacinths, crocuses are still to be purchased. The bulbs are to be planted around the village. The areas of land that EPC own are the Spinney, Playing field and Oziers Green.

7kg of daffodil bulbs will be planted in the playing field, it was suggested around the boundary between the low fence and small mound. The rest of the bulbs will be planted in clumps in the spinney and on Oziers Green. More bulbs will be purchased each year.

## **8. Winter Planting 2022/23.**

Tom will inform MJ when the winter pansies are ready to be collected and then hopefully volunteers will help to plant them.

## **9. Memorial Garden.**

One of the Tommys broke in the wind and was laying on the ground. AH collected him and replaced the screws and installed him back in the garden. After Remembrance Day AH will strengthen both the Tommys with metal plates. MJ thanked AH for his work.

It had been agreed in 2019 that when Queen Elizabeth passed away EPC would purchase a memorial stone. GM felt very strongly that the Memorial Garden was not the right place for the stone to be placed. The Memorial Garden should be kept as a memorial to the young men from Elsenham who lost their lives in war.

Other members thought the Memorial Garden was the best place for the Queens memorial and it took nothing away from the memorial cross and the soldiers that died.

**Proposal:** The flowerbed recommends to full council that Queen Elizabeth memorial stone is placed in the Memorial Garden on the right-hand side in front of the bench.

MJ proposed the vote was carried by 4 in favour and 1 against.

At the next Parish Council meeting SW will propose that EPC accept the Flowerbed Committees recommendation.

## **10. Five-Year Plan.**

It had been pointed out at a recent Parish Council meeting that the Pump House is a grade II listed building and therefore nothing can be attached to it, which includes hanging baskets and window boxes. It was therefore decided that unfortunately this project could not proceed.

**11. Any Other Business.**

AH said the cost of strengthening both Tommy's would cost approximately £100.

BD brought two brochures in from companies that sell free standing self-watering tiered flowerpots. The cost would be approximately £750 each with £60 delivery; this is part of the five-year plan.

**12. Date of Next Meeting.**

To be arranged.

**The meeting finished at 4.45pm**