



**Elsenham Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting**  
**held on Monday 22 August 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).

**1. Apologies for absence: None.**

**2. Declarations of Interest: None.**

**3. Open to the public**  
None present.

**4. Approval of Minutes from 11 July 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by MJ.

**5. Matters arising**

**5.1.** The price for replacing the deteriorated flowerbeds with recycled plastic would be too expensive. AH to measure and obtain a price to repair them in wood. Cllr. Lees has £500 from UDC's Initiative Fund, which she is willing to give to the Flowerbed Committee for a named project, this could be used on the repairs.

**5.2.** MJ had spoken to a rose expert who said there was no problem with planting roses where roses had grown previously if;

- The soil was replaced.
- The new roses are planted in a cardboard box.

MJ to ask Tom Belton the best time of the year to purchase roses.

**5.3.** AH agreed to do further research on the possibility of a standpipe with a water meter adjacent to the flower beds.

**5.4.** The remaining ivy has been cleared from the notice board by the Memorial Garden.

## **6. Drought Conditions**

This summer has seen temperatures in the high 30's for long periods and without any rain. Due to these conditions many of the plants in the flowerbeds have died. The plants in the flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood Road and the Memorial Garden have survived, this is all thanks to Mr. Ian Jackson, who has been watering the plants twice a day. A big 'Thank You' goes to Ian Jackson for taking time out of his day to do this, keeping parts of the village still looking beautiful.

It is predicted that future summers will be hotter and dryer. Therefore, the plants in the flowerbeds may need to change to drought tolerated plants. MJ is to arrange a meeting with Tom Belton to discuss future planting. Some drought plants are, perennials, verbena, lavender, grasses, cosmos, green cordyline; Tom Belton will obtain some prices. Another idea is self-watering planters. The planters have a compartment containing a water reservoir which the plants can draw up, watering is still required, but not every day. It was agreed that tier planters looked lovely with flowers cascading down. EPC could employ someone to water the plants in the village.

GM said he had walked around the village and many of the plants in the flowerbeds were dead, with the exception of those noted above. A few had survived where they had shelter from tree canopies. A question had been raised at the Parish Council meeting as to why Tom Belton, when doing his weekly weeding of the flowerbeds, had not reported that the beds were not being watered, and therefore the plants were dying. MJ said that the Belton's keep to a schedule, they work in the Memorial Garden every week plus one or two flowerbeds per week.

## **7. Budget**

The Flowerbed budget is currently at £1,122, this includes the funds for the winter plants. The committee could start saving funds in an Ear Marked Reserve which could be added to each year so that the initial outlay for purchasing items for the five-year plan would not have to come out of one-year's budget.

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

The winter plants have been paid for, £570. Fewer plants have been ordered as in past years there have been some left over. The plants are due to be collected in October.

## **9. Memorial Garden**

The roses along the back fence are purposely not dead headed as they produce hips.

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

MJ had rescued some of the items on the five-year plan.

### **Within existing budget**

**The roses in the diamond beds need replacing** – MJ is looking into this, see minu 5.2

**Yew trees hedging needs continual maintenance** – The Beltons take cuttings and bring on new plants, so they is no cost for this.

**Develop the wildlife area** – This is already happening as dead wood becomes available.

**Nurture the bed on the left** – this has improved due to the considerable amount of watering. Particular attention being paid to the cherry trees planted 2 or 3 years ago.

### **Funding required**

**Hanging baskets and window boxes for the Pump House.** Complete hanging baskets from Perrys cost around £30 each. It would be preferable to buy new complete baskets each year. They would require watering every day.

Recycled plastic window boxes to fit onto the lower edge of the windows in the Pump House cost about £20 each, MJ would be happy to source and plant them each year. Residents living in Park Road may help with the watering.

**Suitable watering implements for above.** A specialized 10L watering implement for hanging baskets cost approximately £20.

**Hanging baskets sited on the Memorial Garden metal fence/Ambrose Corner.** An alternative may be window boxes fixed to the fence, see price above.

**Bulbs throughout the village.** Tom Belton's advice was that tulips are preferable to daffodils as they flower earlier and the leaves can be lopped off at the same time of the first grass cut. Any daffodil bulbs should be planted at the edge of the grass. Snowdrops and crocuses may also be planted. MJ said she would rather bulbs not be planted in the rose beds; the roses are very close together with very sharp thorns.

### **Flowerbed planting**

**Completely new style of planting** – MJ is having a meeting with the Beltons for their views and advice.

### **11. Any Other Business**

AH said he would ask Elsenham Golf Club about whether they would like to sponsor some of the flowerbeds.

### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 19 September 3:45 pm in the Memorial Garden for a site meeting.

**The meeting finished at 4.55pm**