

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 November 2023 at 3.45pm
in Old Franks.**

All members of the public welcome

Present:

Mrs. M Jackson (Chair MJ), Sam Ashenden (SA),
Mrs. B Donald (BD), Dr. Graham Mott (GM), Mrs. S Waite (SW)
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public: none.

Apologies for absence: Mr. A Hathaway (AH).

1. Declarations of Interest: None.

2. Open to the public. None.

3. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting.

4.1. Repairs to flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood Road.

The repairs to the flowerbox will be carried out before the winter planting.
In progress, MJ to speak with AH.

4.2. The nesting box in the Memorial Garden.

In progress, MJ will ask AH to re-locate the nesting box on a tree or fence.

4.3. Bloor Homes.

As Bloor Homes have not moved the 'Elsenham' sign on the Henham Road, it was agreed to ask Bloor to put a new flowerbox on the opposite side to the existing one.

4.4. Bulb planting project.

This project had gone extremely well, all the bulbs had been planted. MJ thanked SA, BD and SW for all their work in planting the bulbs in the playing field.

5. Budgets.

4260 FB General Maintenance has £1,705 remaining in the budget. Still to be deducted this financial year are the payments for the roses, winter plants and bulbs.

The EMR, which is the donation from Golf World, has £404 remaining.

MJ anticipates that the budget for 2024/2025 will remain the same as 2023/2024.

MJ will complete the finance forecast and budget proposal form for the Finance Committee to consider.

BD said that UDC has Zero Carbon Communities Grant to help parish/town councils to tackle climate. This includes projects for nature and biodiversity initiatives. The closing date for applications is 4 December 2023. This grant, if successful, could be used for making a wildflower area on De-Mandeville Green. BD to give all the information to SW to take to the EROWOS meeting on Friday 24 November. LJ to ask for a rough estimate of the price to transform the green into a wildflower area.

6. Memorial Garden.

The peace roses have now been purchased and will be planted with a lot of manure and topsoil along the back of the Memorial Garden. Topsoil will also be added to the diamond beds.

7. Winter Planting 2023.

The winter planting is now scheduled for 22 November. No help is required by the committee or volunteers. The plants in the beds by the Station did not do well this year. SA will ask the ladies, that work in the station shop, if they would mind watering the plants when necessary, or allow SA to fill up a watering can so she can water them. If this is not, for some reason, practical, MJ will ask Alex, the Station Master.

8. Summer Planting 2024.

It was agreed the summer plants would be begonias again. More perennials will be introduced in the flowerbeds in Robin Hood Road and Broom Farm.

9. Five Year Plan update.

This is all going to plan.

Year I of the five-year plan had been very successful.

Year 1: 2023-2024.

- Bulbs planting – Memorial Garden.
- Introducing perennials into flowerbeds at Leigh Drive – Verbena, Lavender, Ornamental Grasses.
- Replace the roses in the diamond beds at the Memorial Garden.
- Summer Planting- Begonias/Geraniums.
- New Flowerbeds (2) at Bloor Homes site?
- Removal of existing flowerbeds at Henham Road.
- Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Diamond beds.
 - Robin Hood Road.
 - Leigh Drive.
 - Broom Farm.
 - The Station.
- Repairing flowerbed Robin Hood Road.
 - Started Spring 2023.
 - Complete Autumn 2023.
- Winter planting – pansies.
- Spring bulbs.
 - De-Mandeville.
 - The Spinney.

- Memorial Garden.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 2: 2024-2025.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 3: 2025 – 2026.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 4: 2026 -2027.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Year 5: 2027-2028.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm.
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road.
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds.
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting.
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting.
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship.
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Additional Notes.

Contract renewal.

Register/contract groups for volunteers.

10. Any Other Business.

GM said that a request made to EPC for a coffee van with tables and chair to set up on the grass verge in front of the Memorial Garden to sell coffees, teas and cakes, had been refused by the EPC, on the grounds of safety and inappropriate site.

LJ to inform the vendor and also ask that empty cups are not put in the litter bins on the playing field, as the cups fill up the bins and cannot be used for other litter, but for the vendor to take them home for recycling.

JM said the litter bin, which was by the Memorial Garden fence, had been moved. LJ to arrange for it to be moved back.

LJ asked if the foliage protruding from the Memorial Garden over the notice board in Station Road could be cut back. MJ to ask the contractor.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

15 January 2024

The meeting finished at 4.30pm.