

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 20 February 2024 at 3.45pm
in Old Franks.**

All members of the public welcome

Present:

Mrs. M Jackson (Chair MJ), Mrs. Sam Ashenden (SA), Mrs. B Donald (BD).
Mr. A Hathaway (AH), Dr. Graham Mott (GM),
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public: none.

1. Apologies for absence: Mrs. S Waite (SW).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Open to the public. None.

4. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the last meeting.

5.1. Bloor Homes, to provide a second flowerbox.

This has still not been provided - Continue to monitor.

Bloor had also promised to plant crocuses at the entrance of their development at the beginning of October 2023 so they would flower in spring 2024. Unhappily, no crocuses have appeared.

5.2. Wildflower area.

SW has completed the UDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant form asking for £1,000. UDC were deciding today. So hopefully EPC will hear very soon if they have been successful or not.

5.3. Poppy Wreaths

MJ to ask Bill Smith to remove the wreaths before Easter.

5.4. Conifer

The conifer in the flower box on Henham Road needs to be re-planted. A suggestion was the left-hand side of the Memorial Garden by the water tap. On going.

6. Budgets.

4260 Flowerbed General Maintenance has £195 remaining in the budget.

It was agreed to put a proposal to the Parish Council at the meeting on 4 March. asking if the Flowerbed committee can spend up to £195 on hanging baskets to go on the Elsenham sign.

7. Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden looks lovely. The colours are more established than last year. It was suggested that more tulips could be planted in October.

8. Flowerbeds in the village.

SA said the wooded beds that she had applied wood preserver to last year, now needed to be vanished, to make them in keeping with the other flowerbeds in the village. SA is happy to do this.

BD said the pansies in the flowerbeds were very disappointing, they looked very ropy and had not spread. It may be time to add more perennials in and use less winter pansies. This is the second year the pansies have not grown, and money has been wasted.

MJ said that last year was too dry for pansies and this year has been too wet. Many perennials are not evergreen and die back in the winter. MJ thought it was important to keep the different seasons.

9. Summer planting 2024.

This year the perennials will be increased. MJ said she would purchase the perennials herself from Perrys. One suggestion was hebes and grasses for movement. Bedding plants will still be used in the diamond beds in front of the Memorial Garden and in the flowerbeds by the station, these beds can be watered regularly.

The flowerbeds are fed before each planting season.

10. Five Year Plan update.

Suggestion where hanging baskets could be placed were;

- Lamp posts, not all the lamp posts belong to EPC.
- Outside the Post Office, Karen does not own the Post Office so she would have to ask permission.
- Hangover flower troughs planters on the entrance sign.
- Residents with wooded fences, ask if EPC maintained and watered the flower troughs, would they agree to having them on their fences. Care that the troughs did not reduce the width of the path, making it unsafe for pedestrians.
- The telephone box on the corner of New Road and Station Road. **The telephone box cannot be used, the History Society have said it only has two sides.**

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.

11. Any Other Business.

AH said he would approach the Golf Club to see if they would like to make another donation this year.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

8 April 2024 at 3.45pm at Old Franks.

The meeting finished at 4.35pm