

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 8 April 2024 at 3.45pm
in Old Franks**

All members of the public welcome

Present:

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

Members of the public: none.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mr. A Hathaway (AH) and Mrs. B Donald (BD).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Open to the public.** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 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.
 - 5.2. **Wildflower area.**
LJ has still not officially heard whether EPC has been successful in their application for a £1,000 from UDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant. However, SW had seen a UDC press release which listed EPC as being successful. LJ to chase UDC.
MJ said it would be worthwhile speaking to the Beltons about what type of wildflower seeds to purchase, and how to prepare the soil.
 - 5.3. **Poppy Wreaths.**
A thank you to Bill Smith for removing the poppy wreaths in The Memorial Garden.
 - 5.4. **Conifer.**
The conifer in the flower box on Henham Road needs to be re-planted. A suggestion was the right-hand side of the Memorial Garden by the water tap. On going.
 - 5.5. **Hanging Baskets**
The Flowerbed committee to spend up to £195 on hanging baskets to go on the Elsenham sign. MJ has ordered two hanging baskets from Perrys, to be supplied in May. MJ purchased some grasses and perennials for the Leigh Drive flower boxes. Once these become established the flower boxes should be full.
6. **Budgets.**
EPC are now in their new financial year.
Flowerbed General Maintenance £2,500.
Flowerbed Maintenance Contract £2,720

7. Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden has survived the winter and the Beltons are pleased with the way it looks. The bulbs have come up for the second year. The roses look good. The only thing that didn't appear were the snakehead plants. Mick Burke has repaired the back fence.

The right-hand diamond bed in front of the Memorial Garden is not doing as well as the other two, the Beltons are going to change the soil. The left-hand Tommy needs strengthening, maybe some aluminum to support it, LJ to ask Mick Burke.

8. Flowerbeds in the village.

The Leigh Drive Flowerbeds are to be monitored to see how well the perennials do this year, before establishing perennials in the other flowerbeds around the village.

9. Summer planting 2024.

The date for the summer planting has not been set yet. The summer plants will be mixed begonias, which have already been paid for.

10. Five Year Plan update.

Now on year two of the plan.

Year 1: 2023 - 2024. Now completed.

- 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. **Grasses may enhance this flowerbed.**
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road. **Monitor the Leigh Drive flowerbeds first.**
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds. **On going.**
 - Summer planting.
 - Spring bulb planting. **Purchase more bulbs. Some more tulips for the Memorial Garden.**
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting. **Two have been ordered for May from Perrys.**
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship. **AH on going.**
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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.

MJ agreed to complete the Rural Community Awards 2024 Essex Village of The Year competition form.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 20 May 2024 at 3.45pm at Old Franks.

The meeting finished at 4.20pm