

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
held on Monday 20 May 2024, 3.45pm
at 1 Saunders Close**

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), Mrs. S Waite (SW)
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public: none.

1. Election of Chair:

SW proposed MJ for Chair, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

2. Apologies for absence: None.

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Open to the public: None.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from the last meeting.

6.1. Bloor Homes, to provide a second flowerbox.

This has still not been provided - **Continue to monitor.**

6.2. Wildflower area.

EPC has now received £1,000 from UDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant. The grant must be spent within 12 months. Signs will need to be purchased informing residents why the grass is not being cut. The area could be fenced off with a knee high fence, which should act as a deterrent not to allow children or dogs to run in the area.

The seeds need to be planted either Spring or Autumn.

The Beltons need to be consulted regarding the type of wildflower seeds to purchase, and how to prepare the soil. Some of the less demanding work could be done by the committee. BD had obtained a lot of good ideas from 'Essex Wildlife Outreach', unfortunately, the lady has now moved to a different department.

BD will produce a leaflet giving an insight as to what Elsenham Parish Council hope to achieve.

At the next Flowerbed Committee meeting, members will meet at De-Mandeville Green to plan out the area, and to knock on neighboring doors giving out the leaflets.

6.3. 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.

The conifer is to be moved into the Memorial Garden when the summer planting takes place.

6.4. Hanging Baskets

The Flowerbed committee to spend up to £195 on hanging baskets to go on the Elsenham sign.

MJ will order the hanging baskets. AH to arrange for the brackets. AH agreed to hang the baskets on the Elsenham sign.

6.5. Tommy

The left-hand Tommy needs strengthening; maybe some aluminum to support it.

AH agreed to repair the Tommy.

7. Budgets.

Flowerbed General Maintenance £2,428.

EMR, Summer Plants grant from the Golf Club £404.

The money donated by the Golf Club is for the diamond beds and the flowerbed on the corner of Robin Hood Road. It was therefore decided to use some of the money to enhance these beds by purchasing extra summer plants, making the flowerbeds bursting with plants. AH to ask the Golf Club if they would prefer any particular colours.

BD said that the Golf Club had only paid for one year's advertising and the sponsorship plaques should now be removed. It was decided that as the committee had not used all the grant money, the plaques would not be removed yet.

8. Memorial Garden.

It is now a wait and see how the garden establishes after all the hard work put in by the Belton's over the winter and spring months.

More bulbs to be planted.

9. Flowerbeds in the village.

Extra perennials may need to be purchased for the Leigh Drive Flowerbeds.

10. Summer planting 2024.

The date for the summer planting has not been set yet. The summer plants will be mixed begonias. The Belton's will stagger the planting over several days. BD asked that the plants are packed in the beds and not spread out as in previous years.

11. Five Year Plan update. Now on year two of the plan.

More bulbs to be planted this year.

It was agreed that AH would draw a plan showing how the Pump House could be enhanced with plants, by hanging wood boxes hooked over the Pump House and therefore not damaging the structure. This could then be explained to The History Society to gain their approval.

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.

12. Any Other Business.

GM said that EPC are having a stall at the Elsenham fete this year. The prime reason being to publicize the new community centre, but other suggestions were very welcome. MJ said she could arrange for photos of the flowerbeds over the years. It would also be a good opportunity to ask for volunteers to water the flowerbeds, BD said there should be a suggestion box for residents to use. Also, a 'rogues gallery' showing all the councillors photos.

GM said the reason EPC were reluctant to accept the 2 bee hotels offered by Dandara, was, that despite Dandara continuing to use the community centre land as a car park, when they had no permission to do so and should have been parking on their own site before Christmas 2023, they were not giving any funding towards the community centre, unlike other developers in the village. In conjunction with this donation, Dandara wanted to arrange a press release with photographs, to be shared with local press and included into Dandara's marketing material.

MJ said that she had contacted Dandara and arranged for the offer to be reverted to their original offer of the gifting of two Bee Hotels to the Henham & District Garden Club. These will be placed in suitable positions in the garden at the Memorial Hall where there are two Flowerbeds looked after by both Garden Club and WI members.

MJ agreed to do the amendments to the draft Essex Village of The Year competition form.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 10 June 2024 at 3.45pm at De-Mandeville Green, weather permitting.

The meeting finished at 4.25pm