

**Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting
on Monday 22 July 2024, 3.45pm
held at Old Franks**

All members of the public welcome

Present:

Mrs. M Jackson (Chair MJ), Mrs. 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.

1. Apologies for absence: None.
Absent – Mr. A Hathaway (AH).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Open to the public: None.

4. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024 and 17 June 2024 were agreed by the committee as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the last meeting.

5.1. Wildflower area.

**Zero Carbon Communities Grant. Wildflower area on De-Mandeville Green.
Email from Claire Tancell 17 June 2024.**

BD has prepared a map of De-Mandeville Green; measurements need to be added, then BD will re-circulate. The map with the leaflet will be distributed to nearby houses.

It was agreed the path through the middle of the Green and the boundary along the fence will be the width of the lawn mower, approximately 2 metres, while the width around the boundary need only be 1 metre, as it will be butted up to the path.

A meeting is to be arranged with the Beltons to discuss the type of wildflower seeds to purchase, and how to prepare the soil. MJ to ask Tom.

SW to respond to Claire Tancell email, giving an update on the project.

5.2. Bloor Homes.

To provide a second flowerbox.

GM said as there is only one 'Elsenham' sign on Henham Road, with the flowerbox underneath, would a second flowerbox just on the verge on the opposite side of the road look out of place? Members said they would take a look to judge if a second flowerbox would be appropriate or not.

Dandara, as part of their Section 106 agreement, have installed new village entry signs on Stansted Road. Dandara had been asked to make the new signs higher than the old ones, to accommodate the flower boxes underneath, without plants growing high enough to obscure the sign, which they agreed to do.

Unfortunately, the new signs that Dandara have erected are, neither high enough nor wide enough. This has been brought to Dandara's attention and Andrew Owen has

said it will be rectified. MJ said that self-watering planters, which have in-built reservoirs may be a good idea for Stansted Road, once the new 'Elsenham Village' signs are installed. MJ to carry out some research.

5.3. Hanging Baskets.

The hanging baskets have now been mounted onto the village sign. Thank you to AH who fitted them and to Ian Jackson who waters them daily, sometimes twice a day.

5.4. Tommy.

The Tommy has been repaired and once again standing in the Memorial Garden. Thank you to AH who carried out the repair in time for the D Day anniversary.

6. Budgets.

Flowerbed General Maintenance £2,203.

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

With these funds available more perennials could be purchased for the Leigh Drive flower beds. BD asked if extra begonias could be purchased to increase the numbers in the flowerbeds. Members agreed that the flowerbeds would look better if extra begonias were planted in between the ones that have already been planted, reducing the amount of visible soil.

7. Memorial Garden.

MJ said the roses are doing very well and are now blooming for the second time this year. The russian sage is also doing well. The back of the garden has now been cut back.

8. Flowerbeds in the village.

The summer planting is now complete.

Winter plants were discussed. It was agreed to continue with winter pansies in some of the flowerbeds. The two flowerbeds either side of Leigh Drive entrance do not have to be identical, different grasses, lavender and some hebes plants were suggested. Rocks could be added to give some height, along the lines of Beth Chatto style landscaping.

9. Grass Cutting Working Group.

The Finance Committee proposed that a grass cutting working party should be set up, with two members from the Finance Committee, two members from the Flowerbeds Committee and two members from EROWOS.

The terms of reference of the Grass Cutting Working Party will be:

To consider any amendments to the grass cutting contract, with reference to the increasing demand for areas to be left unmown as far as possible. To consider any other amendments thought necessary, for example with reference to weed killer. To hold such meetings as are thought necessary, to report back to Finance Committee by 1 December 2024. To elect a Chair, and not to call on the services of the Parish Clerk for calling meetings and taking minutes.

GM said the idea is that the Grass Cutting Contract is changed to show all the areas in the village to be cut and all the areas to be left uncut. The new contract will start on 1 April 2025, the contractor will be able to look at the contract and know exactly what has to be done with each area.

MJ and BD volunteered to be members of the working group. MJ said she would be happy to chair the meeting if asked.

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.

There was no other business.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 19 August 2024 at 3.45pm.

The meeting finished at 4.30pm.