

Minutes of Flowerbeds Committee Meeting

Monday 12 May 2025, 2.00pm

held at 1 Saunders Close

All members of the public welcome

Present:

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

Members of the public: 0

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

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Open to the public: None present.

4. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held 7 April 2025 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.

At the meeting held with Bloor Homes on 17 April, Alex Clark informed EPC that the flowerbox is all arranged. Bloor are willing to site anywhere in the village.

There is an area of flat ground beyond the bungalows on Henham Road, near the new 30mph sign. MJ to see if this area is suitable.

5.2 Dandara.

MJ to research self-watering planters, which have in-built reservoirs. **Still on going.**

5.3 Sponsorship.

After a very positive response from Daniel Robinson regarding sponsoring the two flowerbeds at the entrance of Leigh Drive no further correspondence has been received. **LJ sent an email to Daniel Robinson to ask if they are still interested.**

Still awaiting a reply.

MJ is to ask the new owners of the Crown whether they would be interested in sponsoring a flowerbed.

5.4 Station Flowerboxes.

The flowerboxes by the station may need to be supplemented with bulbs.

MJ to look at the cost of bulbs online. The bulbs may be too late to flower this summer.

BD said she has lots of dave-lily plants in her garden which she is happy to dig up for planting in these flowerboxes.

SA is going to paint the two flowerboxes and re-shape the one that has been damaged.

5.5 Hanging baskets.

MJ to take hanging baskets to Perrys, to ask if they would refill them.

MJ is to pick up the re-filled hanging baskets on 31 May, Allan Hathaway has offered to hang them on the village sign.

5.6 De Mandeville Green.

BD to ask Tom Belton what the beds on De Mandeville Green are likely to produce in the first year. BD will then write a summary for the Elsenham News, so that residents are not disappointed when they do not see an abundance of beautiful wildflowers this year.

Still on going.

5.7 Boulders.

MJ to ask Tom Belton how he is progressing with purchasing a crate of boulders for £50. MJ is trying to source gravel.

Tom had been unable to purchase the boulders for £50.

MJ is to look at sourcing boulders from elsewhere. GM said that play equipment companies may have boulders, as boulders sometimes form part of a children's play area.

Tom is purchasing the gravel; the invoice will be sent to LJ. MJ is to source the plants.

Tom is doing all the planting; this will be an extra payment as it is not part of his contract. The plants go in first and then the gravel is added. The two flowerbeds may take time to establish themselves.

5.8 Signs.

BD and SW installed 7 wildflower signs. It was agreed that the signs looked excellent.

BD husband, Tim, also attached the Memorial Garden sign onto the gate; a thank you goes to Tim.

6. Budgets.

Budget for 2024/25.

Flowerbed General Maintenance £3,500.

EMR Flowerbed Landscaping £500.

EMR Summer Plants £374.

7. Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden looks good. The only part of the garden which needs attention is the far right-hand corner, this is where the dead wood has been stacked and various plants and weeds have taken over, it requires strimming.

8. Flowerbeds in the village.

Tom is removing the winter pansies, a few at a time. The summer geraniums are larger this year. As the two beds by Leigh Drive will not require any geraniums JM has asked that the extra plants are packed into the other flowerbeds.

BD is going to order the perennials for the Broom Farm flowerbeds, up to the value of £300. The broom should be pruned in April after flowering.

9. De Mandeville Green.

De Mandeville Green is looking lovely the paths are now established.

Bulbs are to be purchased in the autumn, including snowdrops and small tulips.

10. Five Year 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.
 - Spring 2023 Started.
 - 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. Now complete.

- 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. **Robin Hood Road flowerbed front and sides to be replaced spring 2025.**
- Summer planting.
- Spring bulb planting. **Purchase more bulbs. Some more tulips for the Memorial Garden.**
- Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting. **The two baskets on the Elsenham sign have been very successful this year.**
- Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship. **All members.**

Year 3: 2025 - 2026.

- Introducing perennials into Broom Farm. **On course.**
 - Increase perennials in Robin Hood Road. **MJ said the lavender may need replacing. BD said the woody part of the plant could be planted deeper in the soil which would encourage new growth.**
 - Treat/protect/replace wood of flowerbeds. **On course.**
 - Summer planting. **On going.**
 - Spring bulb planting. **On going.**
 - Consider opportunities for new flowerbeds/hanging baskets/bulb planting. **SW said she would ask about hanging baskets on the Elsenham train station. Bulbs would also look nice along the station's white fence.**
 - Investigate new opportunities for sponsorship. **Allan Hathaway has offered to speak to the owner of the Elsenham Golf Club about re-sponsoring a flowerbed.**
 - Leigh Drive planning – Beth Chatto style landscaping project. **On course.**
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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.

30 June 2025, 2.00pm at 1 Saunders Close.

The meeting finished at 2.50pm.