

## **Agenda Item 11 – Village Planters**

The village planters are currently planted and the plants maintained by volunteers. Additional maintenance such as replacing sleepers is carried out as required by the Handyman.

The Parish Council provides plants twice a year for the planters. These are purchased from the Old Well and delivered to the Chair, Cllr Warren, who then distributes them to the each of the volunteers.

The Clerk and the Chair have both inspected the planters on occasions throughout the year and the planting and plant maintenance is variable with some better planted and maintained than others. There are Hebe in the centre of some of the planters that have become too large, overwhelming the smaller plants. The Clerk has also spoken to some of the volunteers in the past about the condition of their planters and there are various reasons why the maintenance varies.

In addition, due to the Chair's mobility he wishes to step down from distributing the plants to the volunteers going forward.

It is now time to order the summer plants and it is suggested that Council should consider the following and decide on the way forward before the plants are ordered:

1. Whether the planting and maintenance of the planters should be fully carried out by the Handyman at his hourly rate to achieve consistency across the village. If this is the preferred option then the Handyman would pick up the plants ordered and paid for by the Council and purchase any compost required, recharging the Council for the cost, including his time. The cost of this service could be paid from the Local Community Projects Reserve in year one and added to the Precept under the Planters budget line in the Village Services budget from April 2027.
2. If the Council is minded to continue with volunteers and they are still willing to maintain the planters, then either another Councillor could volunteer to step up and take delivery of the plants and distribute them, or the Handyman could be asked to collect and distribute at his hourly rate. If, at any point, a volunteer steps down then the Handyman could be asked to take on the maintenance of those planters unless another suitable volunteer comes forward. Costs to be dealt with as in point 1.
3. If the volunteer system is maintained then the Hebe in the centre of some of the planters should either be cut back or removed by the Handyman at his hourly rate.

**Debbie Bird**  
**Clerk to Willand Parish Council**  
**March 2026**