

Agenda Item 14 – Litter Picking

On the retirement of the previous litter picker the Council agreed to employ a new litter picker on 8 hours per week, reduced from 13. The new litter picker has been in post since the 1st November 2025.

It was agreed that the reduction in hours would be subject to review and that potentially hours could be increased either permanently or just through the spring and summer months when the weather is better and more people are outside especially in the play areas and parks.

Feedback to date has generally been positive with Paul receiving compliments that he is doing a “wonderful job”. Several residents have thought he is a volunteer, but he always advises them he is paid by the Parish Council. The Clerk has ordered and received hi-vis vests with “Willand Parish Council” printed on the back. Only on one occasion has he been asked if he can pick additional litter in the area around the co-op as some individuals had left take away meal detritus there.

As far as complaints re the reduction in hours, the Clerk has received two requests to increase the hours to those undertaken previously. One request was accompanied by photos of small amounts of litter that had accumulated over a couple of days in particular areas: Jaycroft, Orchard Way, the top end of Muxbeare Lane down the road by the co-op and the walkway behind the co-op all the way past Pencarrie and through to Station Road. Another member of the public spoke to the Chair at a meeting he attended.

It should be noted that litter and grounds maintenance on the Foxmill Gardens estate is the responsibility of the management company.

The cost implications of increasing hours are set out below and are approximate as the annual national pay increase is awaited. Additional costs of up to around £3,000 per annum can be covered from the existing staff budget due to an additional allowance already made and the staff contingency budget of £2 000. The Operational Reserve could be used to top up if required.

Additional annual cost of a permanent increase of 2 hours per week	£1,670 including employers NI and possible pension contribution of 3% on annual earnings over £6,240
Additional annual cost of an increase of 2 hours per week 01/05 to 31/10	£825 including employers NI
Additional annual cost of a permanent increase of 5 hours per week	£4,200 including employers NI and possible pension contribution of 3% on annual earnings over £6,240
Additional annual cost of an increase of 5 hours per week 01/05 to 31/10	£2,100 including employers NI and possible pension contribution of 3% on annual earnings over £6,240

The Litter Picker has confirmed that he can work additional hours if/as required.

Council is now asked to consider whether additional hours are required and how many.

Debbie Bird, Clerk to Willand Parish Council
March 2026