

Date: 5th May 2025 To: All Councillors From: Parish Clerk

Report to Council: **War Memorials – Update Report**

In previous years, the Parish Council have allocated a budget for planting up the war memorial planters and engaged Thornton Nurseries to carry out the planting. However, in 2023, the planting was undertaken in-house by the handyman, and the results were disappointing, with only a single green shrubs planted and no further attention given to the site. This resulted in a complaint from one member of the public who wanted to ensure that the area in and around the war memorial was maintained to a high standard.

We are now pleased to report a much-improved situation. Two local volunteers have come forward and are actively maintaining the war memorial planters. This summer, and in preparation for the VE80 commemorations, they have planted red, white, and blue bedding plants, greatly enhancing the appearance of the area. Their continued commitment to maintenance, including watering and upkeep demonstrates strong civic pride and community spirit as well as reducing the need to ask the handyman to maintain this area.

In addition to the war memorial, the volunteers have also taken responsibility for the planters at the bus shelter, which have been filled with trailing plants expected to provide a colourful display over the summer months.

Looking ahead, the 2025–26 Council budget includes a planting allocation of £100, reflecting the cost-effective nature of this new arrangement. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, the Council benefits from both improved visual impact and long-term savings, while fostering positive local engagement.

