Dear Councillors,

As you will recall, the Parish Council was awarded a £500 Growing Grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council in April 2025. Under the terms of the award, the full amount must be spent and accounted for within 12 months of receipt, i.e. by 31 March 2026. It was decided at our last meeting to approach Bernard Hunt to undertake planting.

The grant is specifically classed as a growing grant, and the Project Officer, Miss Ana Pitis (SCDC), has advised that a proportion of the spend must be on edible planting, for which herbs are deemed acceptable. The scheme should also demonstrate alignment with the fund's objectives, namely:

- *growing and sharing produce,*
- *community involvement, and*
- *transforming underused space into a productive garden.*
-

I've spoken with our preferred gardening contractor, Bernard Hunt (Hunt's Wildlife) and have asked him to devise a planting scheme for the flower beds opposite the pub. Given current ground conditions, it is anticipated that planting will need to wait until the ground has warmed later in the spring.

The proposed approach is:

- *rabbit-resistant planting combined with a kitchen herbs to satisfy the 'edibles' requirement;*
- *planting must be low maintenance and improve aesthetic*
- *working to a total budget of £500, inclusive of labour, plants, and materials;*
- *enabling community involvement, with villagers invited to assist with clearing and weeding in advance, ahead of soil improvement and planting by the contractor*

.

Bernard has been asked to provide a quotation (to include materials and labour) and outline scheme that fits within the grant budget and delivery window. Once received, this can be formally approved and programmed to ensure compliance with the grant conditions and timescales.