

	Full Council
Date	11 August 2025
Agenda Item	11

Horticultural Apprenticeship

In order to secure a smooth succession in managing the sports fields, churchyards, footpaths, buildings and flowers looked after by our current groundsmen, HTC made a decision in 2024 to employ an apprentice to learn the skills. In collaboration with Writtle College, the apprenticeship was advertised, and overall 10 applications were received, although some withdrew. 8 applicants were invited for interview on 29 July and 6 of them turned up. Our current groundsmen were extremely helpful in designing a few tasks to enable them to discover who had the makings of a good groundsman, and whether they could work with them, and they were also interviewed more formally by a panel.

The post was offered to Frankie Couling and it is hoped that he can start on 1 September 2025, starting his formal apprenticeship with Writtle a month later.

Recommendation: that HTC note the appointment of Frankie Couling as a Horticultural apprentice.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk