



# **PARBOLD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **POLICY WITH RESPECT TO MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

### **1. Introduction**

Parbold Parish Council owns or controls a number of areas of land within the Parish (see Appendix A) and occasionally receives requests for commemorative donations in memory of persons or events. These are usually by way of a memorial plaque on benches or individual/groups of trees.

Whilst the Council is sympathetic to such requests, consideration must be given as to whether requests align with the Council's management strategies for these areas.

There is also a risk that precedents could be created which would make it difficult for the Council to refuse similar requests in the future.

This document intends to set out general guidance in relation to memorial donation requests.

### **2. Guidance**

#### **a) Plaques**

The Council will not accept simple memorial plaques for individuals for any of its sites. Plaques commemorating events would be considered individually but would only be viewed favourably if they related to an event of Parish interest.

#### **b) Benches, picnic tables etc**

The Council would consider donations of benches, picnic tables etc with or without memorial plaques where they would have practical value and not

detract from the location. The areas owned by or under the control of the Council have limited space for seating areas and this should be taken into account when considering the donation of a new bench.

Any donated bench should be of the type that the Council currently provides for new and existing seating. Once a donated bench has been accepted the Council may assume responsibility for the maintenance of the bench, dependant upon the circumstances. If it needs replacing due to damage or age the Council may consider a replacement, which would be with its standard supply at that time.

c) Trees

The Council would consider donations of single trees or groups of trees, with or without memorial plaques. Donations must be sympathetic to the nature of the area and not conflict with the environment. Some sites, including those which already have trees, may not be suitable for certain types of trees, or any trees at all.

d) Planters

The Council would consider donations of planters, with or without memorial plaques, provided that they are to the Council's current specification and there is a suitable location for them. The Council would only consider a planter donation if it fitted with the village planting scheme at that time and could not guarantee the planter's full use throughout its lifetime. If it needs replacing due to damage or age the Council may consider a replacement, which would be with its standard supply at that time.

e) Flowers etc

The Council will not permit memorial sites to be further decorated by permanent or semi-permanent additions such as plants or objects made from non-biodegradable materials such as plastic, metal etc. These will be removed. Fresh flowers, preferably without wrapping, will be removed after a short interval.

f) Other donations

Proposed donations that differ from the above would be considered on an individual basis.

Factors that would be taken into consideration by the Council include:

- The connection of the proposed donation to Parbold village
- Whether the proposed donation amount covers the whole or only part of the purchase
- The ongoing cost of maintenance of the donated item
- What added benefit the donated item would bring to the proposed location

This document will be reviewed every three years and updated if appropriate.

## **Appendix A**

### 1. Alder lane playing fields

The playing fields have an open aspect and may be suitable for further seating around the edges of the pitches.

### 2. Chapel Meadow wildlife field

This is a large and attractive area of natural meadow, with a diverse collection of flora and fauna. It is maintained by Parbold Wildlife Group and is for the benefit of the community as a peaceful and natural space. It could possibly accommodate additional seating or further planting if this was sympathetic to the existing environment.

Exotic individual trees, conifers or formal groups of trees would not be considered appropriate.

### 3. Burnside play area

This is owned by the Parish Council and is a small grassed area primarily for use as a children's playground. It is unlikely that it could accommodate groups of trees but there may be scope for individual trees or seating. However, it may be difficult to protect young trees in this area.

### 4. Village Hall play area

This is a small children's playground which is sited between the village hall, doctor's surgery and residential housing. Due to its size and location it would not be considered suitable for tree planting and already has sufficient seating.

5. Area outside Morrisons shop

This small area already contains suitable seating and planters and there is no space for more.

6. Jubilee Gardens

This area already has seating and planting and may not be suitable for further additions.