

GCPC policy on Memorial Benches, Trees and Plaques

We have now reached a time where these green spaces have reached saturation point with regard to benches. There are currently no opportunities for additional memorial benches in these areas.

The Masterplan agreed for the park is that it should be open countryside and that park furniture should not be located there. There is only one bench in the park and this does not commemorate anyone. There are, therefore, no opportunities for additional benches.

The Masterplan similarly specifies plans for trees in the park and there are no opportunities for personal commemorative trees.

All the above are reviewed annually by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:

- To be respectful and sympathetic to those who have lost a loved one.
- To ensure that memorial benches are not out of place in the area in which they are situated
- To establish responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of memorial benches.

The policy of the Council is as follows.

1. Memorial Benches will be confined to those that commemorate people who made a significant contribution to the life of The Village, were known by The Village and who The Village wishes to commemorate. The deceased must have lived in the Goodworth Clatford Parish immediately prior to their death or had a significant association with the Parish in the past.
2. Benches will be limited to those that enhance the place where they are installed. This will be determined by site-specific management plans. The Parish Council may install benches without memorial plaques.
3. Memorial Trees will be confined to those that commemorate an event that the Village regards as significant such as a Jubilee.
4. The costs of benches or trees may be split between the Parish Council and relatives of the person being commemorated. Total costs will include:
 - The cost of the bench or tree
 - The cost of the plaque including engraving.
 - The cost of installation, including any required base.
 - The maintenance of the bench or tree over a 15 year period.¹

¹ The estimated total cost of a bench is £1200 - £1400

5. The Council will be responsible for a bench for the period of its natural life (approximately 15 years) though relatives of the person commemorated may choose to maintain the bench and/or plaque. Once the bench has reached the end of its natural life, the bench and plaque may be removed and replaced.
6. Where permission for a bench has been granted prior to the approval of this policy, the Parish Council will continue to maintain the bench when necessary but when it gets to the point where it is not reasonable to repair the bench, the bench will be removed.

Approved by the Parish Council in the meeting of 2nd November 2021

Signed

Dated