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Watermead Parish Council - Memorial Benches & Trees Policy

Introduction

Watermead Parish Council (WPC) recognises the wish of some residents to remember loved ones with a memorial bench or tree on Parish Council land. We are happy to consider requests for memorials, but it is important to remember that the land is enjoyed by a wide range of users and residents. Some areas of Watermead are prone to flooding and others are deliberately maintained in a "wild" state.

The Council wishes to ensure that any memorials are sited appropriately and for the mutual benefit of all.

Objectives

This policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:

1. To be respectful and sympathetic to those seeking to install a memorial
2. To be clear and easily understood by residents and users of our land.
3. To balance the contrasting needs of a variety of land users.

The policy will ensure that memorial benches:

- Have a common appearance, style and size
- Are not out of place in the area in which they are placed

This policy relates to all green spaces that WPC owns and manages.

General

All applications for a memorial bench in green spaces should be made officially to the Parish Clerk and should be signed by the Applicant.

The Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of Applicants, but for a number of reasons including flooding can only accept memorials in certain defined areas it may also limit the number of memorials in a particular area.

Benches must be of the type and colour specified by the Council in order to co-ordinate with other benches already situated on our land.

The Applicant must pay for all memorials before installation.

The Council cannot accept responsibility if a memorial is damaged, vandalised or stolen.

The Council reserves the right to remove a memorial bench at any time.

The Council will normally only permit memorials to individuals who have lived in or have a special connection to Watermead. The council regrets that it is unable to accommodate memorials to deceased pets.

If the bench is to be placed on grass it will usually be fitted to a concrete base. The Council will be responsible for arranging all installation work, at the applicant's expense.

The Council, in accordance with its current maintenance programme, will maintain any memorial bench. No additional mementoes, e.g. statues, flowers, wreaths, vases, etc. will be permitted on or around the bench.

Memorial Trees

Memorial plaques on trees in the Memorial Garden will only be permitted. No additional mementoes, e.g. statues, vases, etc. will be permitted on or around the plant or tree.

Trees should be chosen to fit into existing planting schemes. A choice of trees and plants and their cost will be provided to the Applicant. The Applicant's memorial choice needs to be clearly named on the application form. Non-native trees will not generally be

supported. The planting of trees may not be possible in some areas. Locations will need to be discussed with the Parish Clerk. The total cost is dependent on the species chosen. The Council will charge for the plant and planting labour, at cost.

The Council will maintain the tree or plant in line with its current maintenance programme.

The Council will not be liable for the replacement of old or diseased plants. Any replacements of memorial trees or plants will be the responsibility of the original Applicant and will follow the same process as the procedure within this Policy.

The Council will only plant trees during the winter months, when they have the best chance of survival.