

Barlaston Parish Council Memorial Bench Policy

September 2023

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Barlaston Parish Council supports the needs and principles of allowing memorial benches within the parish and is mindful that these facilities are enjoyed by a wide range of people. Therefore, the Parish Council will ensure that the issue is managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of all. The applicant will bear all costs of purchase and installation.

1.2 It is the intention that the policy only covers broad common issues and is not meant to be exhaustive. The content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet changing circumstances.

2 LOCATIONS

2.1 Parish land and in consultation with Estate and Manorial agents where appropriate.

3 POLICY – Terms & Conditions

3.1 All applications for memorial benches should be completed on the official request form and be signed by the applicant.

3.2 All memorial benches should be paid for by the applicant before the completion of the installation. A maintenance fee of £200 per 15 year period is due to the Parish Council prior to installation. This will be reassessed at the end of the 15 year term.

3.3 The Parish Council will limit the number of memorial benches in particular areas.

3.4 The Parish Council will notify the applicant in the event that the memorial bench is damaged. The applicant should ensure that the Parish council is in possession of current contact details

3.5 The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any memorial benches that have been damaged and are in the view of the Parish Caretaker and responsible Councillor beyond economical repair or have not been repaired within 4 weeks of the notification referred to in (3.4) above.

3.6 The Parish Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial bench from vandals, third parties or whilst the Parish Council carries out routine maintenance.

3.7 Benches will be of preferably metal structure (reflecting the current new ones in the area) wooden structure may be allowed but a maintenance fee would have to be introduced and prior to installation the design approved by the Parish Council to be in keeping with the intended location. For avoidance of doubt it is advised that prior to the purchase of the bench a design statement and pictorial guide be submitted to Council for approval.

3.8 Memorial plaques fitted to benches to be a maximum size of 175mm wide x 75mm high or shall fit in the centre of the upper most lath of the back of the bench, or whichever is the greater. The plaque shall be installed with non return security screws.

3.9 The Parish Council accepts no replacement liability for the plaque or the bench at the end of its useful life and will dispose of any such bench. Any replacements of benches or plaques will be the responsibility of the original applicant.

3.10 Any maintenance carried out by a third party will be in strict agreement with the Parish Council and by appointment only.

4 STYLE & COST OF BENCH

4.1 Permission will only be given for the following:

- Metal bench in same style as Coronation and King Charles III bench or a type of material that is to be agreed by council (e. g. recycled plastic)
- Hardwood bench in traditional style with either plaque or discreet carving of in memorium.

Annex 2

Memorial Bench Enquiry Form

Please complete, print and return to: The Parish Clerk, Barlaston Parish Council, Barlaston Methodist Church, Park Drive, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent ST12 9DP

. Section A your contact details (Please supply your contact details below)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone E-mail:

Section B

I would like my bench to be placed;

.....

Section C memorial plaque

Plaque to be in the name of

Please print your memorial message for the plaque below (for Council approval) A maximum of 50 letters can be included.

.....

.....

Annex 3 Form of Agreement for a Memorial Bench to be placed in a Public Area for the natural life expectancy of the bench Memorial Agreement between Barlaston Parish Council and

(name & address).....

.....

This letter sets out the agreement a new bench to be placed at

..... Your bench will carry a stainless steel/bronze memorial plaque or engraved inscription in the name of

.....

Your memorial message will read

.....

.....

(name) will pay the sum of £200 being a contribution to the cost of insurance and maintenance for 15 years of the installed bench

The Council will be responsible for the bench for the period of its natural life (approximately 15 years). Once the bench has reached the end of its natural life, the bench and plaque may be removed. A request to purchase a new replacement bench can be made at the appropriate time. The Council cannot guarantee against theft or vandalism and may not be able to replace either the bench or plaque in this event. I understand and agree to all the conditions above and enclose my cheque for £..... and pictorial design statement for approval.

Signed..... Date..... Contact telephone number.....