

HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



POLICY FOR MEMORIAL BENCHES

March 2021

BACKGROUND

From time-to-time Holme Valley residents have approached the Council requesting to add a memorial plaque to a certain bench and sometimes to adopt a bench for that purpose. Some of the benches at the time of writing already have memorial plaques on them and some have more than one.

THE POLICY

The following policy has been discussed by the Service Provision Committee in 2020 and early 2021 and with due regard to advice offered by the Yorkshire Association of Local Councils.

- 1) The Council is not minded to add any more benches to the present number.
- 2) Commemorative plaques can be added to existing benches with the following guidance.
- 3) The bench concerned will be nominated by the resident as a relative or friend of the deceased person and confirmed by the Clerk after a discussion with the maintenance contractor.
- 4) The Council will accept up to four plaques per bench from the start date of this policy. It may be that there are already benches that have more than four.
- 5) The plaque will be a small brass plate that can fit on a slat at the back of the seat.
- 6) The Plaque will be ordered by the resident to specific dimensions agreed on with the Clerk. The Plaque will be fitted by the maintenance contractor.
- 7) The resident may make a voluntary contribution of £50 for the fitting and this money will go to the Chairman's Charity nominated at the end of each year.
- 8) Any financial contributions will not determine how or when the bench is repaired or painted. The Council welcomes any interest that is taken in ensuring that all benches are kept in good order.
- 9) The Council will undertake to keep the plaque in place for 25 years, barring circumstances where a bench might be removed by other agents, e.g., for road widening. At the end of that period the original applicant or another family member can approach the Council to assess the onward arrangements.
- 10) The Council regrets that it will not be possible for residents to take over the maintenance of a bench since this would create complications regarding risk assessments and on-going responsibilities, monitoring progress with maintenance etc.

Liz Bennett
Clerk to Holme Valley Parish Council

Ratified at Service Provision Committee on 25 January 2021
Approved at Full Council on 22 March 2021