

Memorial Bench at Coltsfoot Green.

The Parish Council has been approached through one of the Lay Committee Members by a recently bereaved family in Wickhambrook, who would like to erect a commemorative bench on Coltsfoot Green as a memorial to their beloved family member. They have asked for permission to put a wooden commemorative seat on the green opposite the widow's house, under the two cherry trees that her late husband planted many years ago.

Memorial benches have been sited in the Wickhambrook Cemetery, and more recently, the Parish Council replaced a bench which had been purchased by a bereaved family and sited at Genesis Green, which brought to light a number of issues:

- The likely period of time before which weathering and deterioration would require maintenance and/or replacement
- The insurance and health and safety implications of such items
- The point in time at which the Parish Council assumes the responsibility for such items
- What to do with memorial plaques on replacement of the original furniture item
- Consistency of design to ensure ease of replacement (for example, size, fixings and type of hard standing).

Other matters which the committee may wish to consider are:

- Sustainability issues such as type of material (Wood, recycled plastics etc.);
- Environmental considerations – would the planting of native tree species with a plaque be preferable; and
- A means of recording the memorials (for asset management purposes)
- The type of undertaking the council and families would enter into and any restrictions
- Identifying suitable sites, and how a decision could be made on each application
- Whether there should be an administration fee charge dealing with such applications and any ongoing maintenance costs

It is recognised that Memorials are a way in which bereaved families and friends can connect with their loved ones in places which they were particularly attached to, and that people may not always want to have a memorial sited within the Parish Cemetery.

Action:

The committee is asked to consider whether in principle it would have any objections to memorial furniture on Parish Land; and

If that were to be the case ask the Clerk to report back with a range of options for consideration at a future meeting.

Contact the family who requested the memorial to explain the decision and likely time-scales for decision making/agreements.