

East Cowton Parish Council

MEMORIAL SEAT & MEMORIAL TREE POLICY

East Cowton Parish Council supports the principle of allowing memorial benches/picnic-tables and/or trees within the parish but is mindful that these facilities are enjoyed by a wide range of people. The Parish Council will therefore ensure that the application of this principle is managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of all.

This policy only covers broad common issues and is not exhaustive and the content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet changing circumstances.

Benches/Picnic-Tables

The Parish Council is prepared to consider the installation and adoption of benches and picnic-tables made of natural unpainted sustainable hardwood or recycled composite materials. Dimensions should be no longer than 6ft (1.8m) where the proposed site is on land owned by the Parish Council.

The extent of the Council's adoption will be limited to holding the items on the Council's asset register for insurance purposes, and in compliance with any licence requirements where applicable.

The Parish Council will not adopt or control benches/picnic-tables sited on private land; in such cases the siting is entirely a matter for negotiation between the donor and the landowner.

Trees

The Parish Council is prepared to consider the installation and adoption of memorial trees where the proposed site is on land owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will not adopt or control trees planted on private land; in such cases the agreement regarding such a site is entirely a matter for the donor and the landowner.

The Parish Council does control what is planted on public land. Given the need to consider existing planting, and to prevent overcrowding for the general well-being of all trees, it will not always be feasible to allow planting on the village green or surrounding areas, although opportunities may occasionally arise to replace dead or felled trees.

Terms and conditions

General

1. All applications for memorial benches/picnic-tables/trees should be made on the official request form and be signed by the donor.
2. The Parish Council will keep a record of donors and contact details, in accordance with Data Protection laws. It is the responsibility of the donor to update the Parish Council of any change to these details.

Benches / Picnic Tables

1. The Parish Council can arrange the installation of benches/picnic tables following receipt of a contribution covering the material cost of the installation and future maintenance costs from the Donor. The Donor will be responsible for purchasing the bench/picnic table and any associated plaque or cost of inscription subject to item 2 below.
2. Benches should be of the type and colour approved by the Parish Council so as to be in keeping with the intended location. The Parish Council may limit the number of memorial benches/picnic-tables in particular areas.
3. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any donated benches/picnic-tables which are in the view of the Parish Council, beyond economical repair or no longer fit for purpose through age or damage. Regular inspections by the Parish Council will determine if a bench/picnic-table is safe and fit for purpose and the Parish Council or its officers shall be the final arbiters of such a decision to remove any item.
4. The Parish Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial bench, picnic-table or plaque by vandals or third parties. The Council's standards of maintenance will be limited to a requirement to keep the bench clean and fit for purpose.
5. The Parish Council accepts no replacement liability for the bench/picnic-table or plaque at the end of its useful life and will dispose of any such item, where possible returning the plaque to the donor/donor's family. Any replacement of bench/picnic-table/plaque will be the responsibility of the original donor.
6. If a donated bench/picnic-table becomes damaged or unserviceable, it will be removed and the donor informed where possible. If the Parish Council can successfully claim for a replacement under the terms of its insurance, the item will be replaced at a cost commensurate with the insurance value. Otherwise the original donor will be given the option to replace the item at their own expense.
7. The Parish Council will not be liable for relocation of benches/picnic-tables should any other authority or landowner decide to rescind their permission to allow the installation of such items on their property.

Trees

1. Trees should be appropriate to the setting and preference will be given to native long-living deciduous species e.g. oak, beech, lime, birch, walnut. Ornamental species can be considered providing they bear fruit (i.e Rowan).
2. Donors may install a plaque subject to the plaque being of a size not exceeding 20cm W X 15cm H and sited to allow for ease of mowing. The donor will be responsible for purchasing the tree and any associated plaque.
3. The Parish Council will regularly inspect and monitor the health of the tree after planting and reserves the right to fell or remove any diseased or damaged limbs as necessary for the health of the tree and/or public safety. Regular inspections by the Parish Council and specialist advisers, if required, will determine if the tree is safe

and the Parish Council or its officers shall be the final arbiters of any decision in this regard.

4. The Parish Council accepts no replacement liability for the tree or plaque at the end of its natural life and will dispose of any such item, where possible returning the plaque to the donor/donor's family.

Adopted on: 13th March 2023 (Minute 2303.10)

Memorial Bench/Tree Contact information:	
Name:	
Address:	
Contact telephone number:	
Contact email address:	
Are you interested in a Memorial Bench or Tree?	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Tree

Please note – the Parish Council will hold this information to enable us to contact you. East Cowton Parish Council takes its obligations in respect of data protection seriously. A copy of its Data Protection Privacy Notice can be accessed at eastcowtonvillage.weebly.com/other-documents.html.