



Cheddleton Parish Council - Memorial Bench Policy for Cheddleton Playing Field

1. Introduction

1.1 Cheddleton Parish Council aims to provide a respectful and well-maintained environment for residents and visitors. This policy sets out the regulations for the installation and maintenance of benches within Cheddleton Playing Fields.

1.2 The provision of benches enhances the enjoyment of public spaces, offering a place for rest and reflection. However, to maintain the quality and accessibility of the playing fields, all bench installations must comply with this policy.

2. Memorial Bench Guidelines

2.1 Benches may not be placed in Cheddleton Playing Fields without the written permission of the Parish Council.

2.2 Unauthorised benches are liable to be removed without notice.

2.3 Applications for benches must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council and will be considered based on available space and community need and each request assessed individually.

2.4 All benches must be installed by Cheddleton Parish Council and must be of a high-quality, durable material, preferably recycled plastic, to ensure longevity and ease of maintenance.

2.5 The Parish Council will determine the location of all new benches, considering accessibility, aesthetics, and practicality.

3. Memorial Benches

3.1 Applications for memorial benches must be made by the next of kin (or be approved by them) of an individual being commemorated.

3.2 Only one bench application will be approved per individual or couple to ensure fairness and accessibility.

3.3 A memorial plaque may be affixed to the bench, with the inscription limited to 100 characters (including spaces). Wording must be approved by the Parish Council.

3.4 Memorial benches remain the property of the Parish Council; donor has no rights over future management and any payment received is considered a donation towards their provision and maintenance.

4. Maintenance and Responsibilities

4.1 The Parish Council will be responsible for routine maintenance, repair, and, if necessary, removal of benches that are no longer serviceable.

4.2 Benches will be maintained for a period of ten years. After this time, the Parish Council will contact the original applicant to discuss potential renewal, relocation, or removal.

4.3 No additional ornaments, vases, flowers, or decorations are permitted on or around the bench. Any such items will be removed without notice.

4.4 The Parish Council accepts no liability for damage caused by vandalism, third parties, or routine maintenance operations.

5. Fees and Payments

5.1 The costs associated with the provision and installation of a new bench will be determined at the time of application, based on current market rates.

5.2 Payment is required in full before the bench is purchased and installed. This payment is non-refundable.

6. Policy Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective in managing the provision of benches in Cheddleton Playing Fields.

6.2 Any amendments or exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the Parish Council.

This policy ensures that Cheddleton Playing Fields remain a welcoming and well-maintained space for all visitors, while balancing the need for memorial and seating options with the overall aesthetics and accessibility of the area.