

SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS ON PARISH OWNED PUBLIC LAND



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. In the past the Parish Council has had a policy of allowing families to apply for permission to site memorial benches, but with more and more families making specialized requests on the death of a loved one, the Council wishes to regularise such matters. This policy will ensure that the amenity of such public land is preserved and managed appropriately and will provide guidelines to those wishes to provide a lasting memorial.

2. Memorials of Family Members

- 2.1. The Parish Council has agreed in the past to site memorial benches and plaques; the Council purchasing and installing such benches. These memorial benches are generally placed with the permission of the Parish Council, to commemorate the passing or the life of a family member and are placed in locations with views and of high scenic amenity and significance.
- 2.2. The placement of rocks and plinths to commemorate the life of a family member may not have any significance to the broader community. The appearance of such memorials may also be offensive to other members of the community and can have the effect of creating a graveyard appearance in public open space areas of land.

3. Roadside Memorials

- 3.1 These can take a number of forms but are generally a cross or rock with the names of the deceased on them and there are generally flowers placed on the site with photos.
- 3.2 Permission for such memorials or otherwise should be sought not from the Parish Council, but from the Highways Authority, who will contact the Parish Council for its views.

4. War Memorials

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Southwater War Memorial. If anyone should know of a name, which does not currently appear on this Memorial, then they should contact the Parish Council, who will then verify the information.

5. Memorials Located on Parish Owned Public Land

- 5.1 The creation or placement of memorials or monuments on public land is not permitted unless the consent of the Parish Council is provided.

6. Memorial Benches/Seating

- 6.1 The Parish Council will give consideration to applications for the placement of such memorial benches/seating in appropriate locations, such as along paths and on enclosed green space and play areas. Applications must be in writing and have a clear description of the proposed location.
- 6.2 The Parish Council will purchase the required seat and plaque to the Council's required specifications and re-charge the cost to the applicant including a future maintenance cost of £100.

7. Plinths and Rocks with Plaques

- 7.1 Such memorials will not be permitted on public land unless the person, event or location is of historical significance and the memorial is approved by resolution of the Council.

8. Scattering of Ashes

- 8.1 Such activities are prohibited on all Parish Council owned public land.

9. Trees

- 9.1 The Parish Council will consider applications for the planting of trees on public land. The location and species of the trees and tree protection guards will be to the Council's specifications. Any trees will be purchased by the Parish Council and re-charged to the applicant. Trees will not be marked with plaques. Applications must be made in writing with a clear description of the proposed location.

10. Roadside Memorials

- 10.1 All such requests should be directed to the Highway Authority, West Sussex County Council. The Parish Council will remove such roadside memorials upon request of the authority, if these are causing safety concerns for the public.