

## Commemorative Benches

### Background

1) The new owners of the Tuck Shop would like to add an additional, circular teak bench around the Silver Birch outside the shop; artists impression below:



2) They would also like to replace the two existing commemorative benches outside with new teak benches (also shown above) of the same size and shape as the old benches and would move the plaques from the old benches to the new; they already have written permission from the family of the people commemorated to do so

3) They are seeking Parish Council support for the above proposals and are aware that obtaining any required permissions from County or District may take some time but are very keen for the benches to be in place for the shop opening on 8<sup>th</sup> October (i.e. before the next Parish Council meeting)

### Notes

- 1) Given the timescale, I used my delegated powers to provide interim permission for the new benches to be placed there: a) as a goodwill gesture to help with the new look of the shop for its opening, b) so Councillors can see them before deciding whether to support the request, c) on the strict understanding that if the Parish Council do not ultimately support the request, the new benches must immediately be removed and the old benches replaced at the owners expense
- 2) The existing benches, while needing some TLC, could still provide useful service elsewhere in the village, particularly as we are short of some benches elsewhere
- 3) The owners have suggested that if the new circular bench receives all required permissions, it could be used for a number of commemorative plaques (10-12) but we have agreed to return to this topic only after permission has been given and any required policy on how to agree suitable plaques was agreed with the Parish Council

- 4) The new owners fully accept that the costs for any ongoing maintenance of the new benches would fall to them

## **Proposal**

- 1) The Council resolves to support the request for all three of the new benches from the owners of the Tuck Shop and help them in any way we can to establish and obtain any required permissions from County or District principle authorities
- 2) We take into (temporary) Parish Council ownership the two removed benches and get them refurbished; the costs of doing this to be fully reclaimed in due course from anyone wishing to have a plaque placed on the refurbished benches
- 3) We seek formal WCLC permission to put one of the benches by the Pirate Ship on the Playing fields - we have had a number of requests for one and a local family has already offered to pay any costs. We would use ground anchors to secure the bench to overcome previous WCLC objections to concrete bases. Costs for the anchors and installation again to be fully recovered from anyone wishing to have a plaque placed on the refurbished benches
- 4) We use the second bench to replace the (highly used) bench which is in very poor condition by the gate to the sheep field
- 5) We refurbish the bench currently by the sheep field and then re-site it in the top corner of the common, where a previous bench once stood – again this was a heavily used bench until it became broken (a family member then removed the bench and never returned it!). We have had a number of requests to replace it

Andrew Lewis

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025