

Parish Seat Policy

New seats/benches

Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council (the parish council) will no longer permit requests for the erection of memorial/commemorative seats/benches within the parish which are constructed from natural timber.

This decision is due to future, on-going maintenance and preservation expenditure which may impact on the parish council's precept requirements and may present health and safety issues.

All future seats/benches will now only be permitted if totally constructed from artificial/man-made (plastic) which have the appearance of natural wood. The design of such seating and the location will also be subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

Inspection of existing seats/bench

These will be inspected at least annually, prior to the annual parish council meeting, to identify maintenance/health and safety issues.

Existing seats/benches

There are now a number of seats/benches within Biggin village and Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council cemetery which are in significant decline. The safety of anyone using these is of paramount importance to the parish council, therefore, the parish council has had to consider necessary action.

Family members who placed the seats/benches within the parish will be contacted, as and when maintenance or healthy and safety issues have been identified with the seat/bench in question, with a request for family members to consider contributing to the costs of necessary safety maintenance by a member of the parish council or appointed contractor. If, however, the seat/bench has been identified as being beyond repair, it will be necessary for it to be removed from the site. The family will be given the opportunity to place another bench/seat in the same location but this must be made from artificial timber as referred to in the description for new seats/benches.

Number of seats/benches within the parish

The parish council does not wish to see a significant increase in the number of seats/benches within the parish, particularly within Biggin village. Therefore, any future requests for memorial seats/benches will be discouraged other than to be considered on the basis of replacing a historic seat/bench, for example, where there is no longer a family connection, with that of an artificial timber seat/bench.

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