

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

2nd February 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.4 – REQUESTS FOR MEMORIAL ITEMS

1. Report

1.1 Two requests have been received for the provision of memorial items on Parish Council property.

Request 1 The first is from a household in the village for permission to donate a tree to the parish in memory of a deceased family member. It is suggested that the tree be located in the far corner of the IROS, near the owl sculpture. The family has requested that there be an accompanying plaque.

1.3 Your policy for such memorials in the form of trees states that:

- The choice of tree or shrub species will be subject to the approval of the Parish Council, in order to ensure that they are appropriate to their location. The planting of memorial trees and shrubs shall only be carried out between November and February to ensure the most efficient growing conditions.
- At the end of the 10-year period any memorial plaques shall be removed and may be collected by the applicant. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any bench, planter, tree or shrub, which in its opinion is damaged or beyond economic repair.
- In the case of trees and shrubs plaques shall be secured by a central pointed fixing....The inscription on the plaque is to be restricted to "In (Loving) Memory of" the name of the person and the dates of birth and death.

1.4 The family is currently seeking advice from a local expert on the type of tree that might be appropriate, and discussions are also taking place about the form of the plaque. However at this stage your Council's observations are requested on the matter – both the principle and any of the detail.

Request 2 A request has been received from the family of Joan Webb. This initially requested a memorial bench to be located at the IROS, although it was pointed out that Council has recently taken the view that for the moment there are sufficient benches at the IROS. The family has submitted a letter which refers to that, but also makes a suggestion that a further interpretation board, referring to the history of Pickmere Lake and in particular the fairground and boating activities of former years, might be desirable. The letter from the family is attached as an appendix to this report.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Council considers the two requests.

Jack Steel
Clerk to the Parish Council

Mr Jack Steel
Clerk - Pickmere Parish Council

22nd January 2020

Re: Memorial Joan Webb

Dear Jack

Further to my initial enquiry via Sarah Flannery many thanks for forwarding me the Parish Councils policy regarding memorials and the supplementary information.

It is almost a year since Joan passed and sadly due to COVID we have still been unable to hold a commemoration service celebrating Joan's life, however as the representative for Joan's family I would like to make a request to the Parish Council for a lasting memorial for Joan to be established in the village to acknowledge the contribution that Joan made to the benefit of the community of the village of Pickmere during her lifetime.

We think the most fitting site would be for the memorial to be located at Pickmere Lake. We appreciate that this does not initially fall within the guidelines outlined in the Councils Memorial Policy. However we hope that in recognition of the many, many years' service to the Parish Council and the contribution Joan made to the lives of the residents of Pickmere, the members of the Council would show individual consideration to our request.

We could if required go into detail about the reasons we particularly feel the lakeside is the most appropriate location, if further reasoning is required to help substantiate any decision-making process which must be followed.

We would be happy to pay for a bench and we would like to suggest near to the fallen Willow tree at the Lakeside, historically where the rowing/motorboat paybox would have been sited where Joan worked for many years.

However we also have an alternative suggestion for consideration. Pickmere Lake has a long and varied history and whilst currently it is celebrated for its regeneration and encouragement of wildlife, it is most probably well known for the Pickmere Boating Company and the Fairground.

As an alternative to a bench we would be willing to pay for a historical board detailing the heritage of the Lakeside, possibly similar to the display boards which currently show the wildlife associated with the lake.

We recognise this would take time and research but for example a map showing the location of the Lake House, Boating Shed, Arcade, Speedway, dodgems etc could be made detailing the history of the site. I'm sure you will be aware of the Facebook site Friends of Pickmere Lake – this reflects the many people who have been brought happiness working at or visiting Pickmere Lake. A board detailing the village's history would hopefully be considered as a worthy addition to the village.

We appreciate that everyone is working remotely including the Council and that our request will require time and consideration. We would be happy to contribute in any way which would assist in this process.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Paterson on behalf of Joan's family.

Jack Steel
Clerk to the Parish Council