

Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council – Meeting on 10th March 2020

Parish Clerk's Report

Donation of Commemorative Bench on The Green

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An approach was received in December 2019 from a family who wish to commemorate their deceased son's life by donation of a bench to go on The Green in Lyneham. Although the details are not known the son was called William and he had a particular fondness for Lyneham, hence the request for a commemorative bench.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The family would like to donate a new bench to replace the very old bench on The Green beside the land owned by the White Hart pub. They have expressed a preference for a bench made of a composite material which will require minimal maintenance which is similar to the benches already in place throughout Lyneham. I have obtained a quote for such a bench, together with a commemorative plaque requested by the family, which is attached to this report. I haven't heard from the family as to which size of bench they would prefer but they have stated they are happy to pay for both the bench and the plaque. It would make sense for the Parish Council to order and pay for it so that the VAT can be reclaimed.
- 2.2 The other request from the family is that they be allowed to place some of their son's ashes in the base for the bench and that they have a small gathering to hand over the bench to the Parish Council. They would arrange this themselves but would obviously liaise with the Parish Council about arrangements.
- 2.3 There is a 10 week lead time for production of the bench and the Parish Council would have to arrange for a base at its own cost, although it is possible to place these benches directly onto the ground. Fixings are provided for either hard or soft surfaces.

3. Decision to be made

- 3.1 Members are requested to make the following decisions:
- a) Whether to accept the offer of a commemorative bench to be paid for by William's family as per the quote obtained;
 - b) If so, whether they wish the bench to have a hard base or soft ground;
 - c) If the former, whether to allow the request for some of William's ashes to be placed in the hard base;
 - d) Whether the Parish Council wish to participate in a 'handing over' ceremony.

Mrs Ann Kingdon
Parish Clerk
4th March 2020