

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL - TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2021

ITEM NO: 13 – Parish Benches Project – Plaques

The report sets out a proposal for the purchase of some bespoke plaques for our refurbished and replacement benches

Information

The Parish Benches replacement and refurbishment project is well under way, with 2 new benches at the Parish Hall; a fully refurbished bench at Cadnam; a soon to be installed fully refurbished bench at The White Hart and a partially updated bench at Splitwind Pond.

Proposed Addition of Plaques on the Benches

At the meeting of the recent 5 Year Plan Advisory Committee it was suggested that we took the opportunity to record the refurbishment and replacements as they occurred with a suitably engraved brass plaque. This was seen as a ‘finishing touch’ for the project outcomes.

The plaques would be mostly 4” x 2” (see *NOTE* below), in brass with capitalised engraved and black etched lettering.

Engraving would read (subject to the ‘status’ of the bench when complete) either:

1. ‘REFURBISHED BY COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL 2021’ (we currently require 3 of these), or
2. ‘INSTALLED BY COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL 2021’ (we currently require 2 of these)

NOTE: The bench at Cadnam already had a plaque commemorating its installation on the Parish Council Centenary 1894 – 1994. We have two options for this bench:

- a. *Clean and replace the existing plaque and add a plaque with the refurbishment message*
- b. *Create a new plaque with both sets of wordings, suitably laid out, as follows:*

‘INSTALLED BY COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL ON ITS CENTENARY 1894 – 1994 & REFURBISHED BY COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL 2021’

On balance, the plaque which already exists for the Cadnam bench has cleaned up well, albeit with some minor damage. It would seem appropriate to retain it and mount a new ‘Refurbishment’ plaque next to it.

Costs

The market for engraved plaques for benches has almost completely moved on line. Local traders such as locksmiths and key cutters do not offer a service for bench plaques. A trawl of the internet reveals a wide range of pricing, metal quality and finish, sizing and engraving styles and all quotes have to be assembled ‘live’ on screen.

A requirement for our benches would be not to have lacquered brass signs given how these can deteriorate over time. Any quotes for these were discounted. It is possible to obtain engraved plaques a sub £12.50 prices, but these are on metal bases which are 1mm thick and would not be robust enough for our purposes. The larger number of these was also from ‘unknown’ suppliers via market place web sites. Therefore, these were also discounted from the search.

A selection of quotes reviewed is as follows:

The Engraving Studio: Plaque 1 - 12.50 / Plaque 2 - 14.50 – both ex VAT

Engrave it Now: Plaque 1 - £37.80 / Plaque 2 – 58.10 – both ex VAT

Engrave Fast: Plaque 1 -21.80 / Plaque 2 - £29.30 – both ex VAT

Venture Plaques: Plaque 1 - £34.88 / Plaque 2 – 48.20 – both ex VAT

(Cont’d./...)

(.../Cont'd.)

Plaques from The Engraving Studio, a British company using all British sourcing represent a best value option for our purposes with costs for the standard wording at both (1) and (2) above of £12.50 and costs for the variant at (b) of £14.50. These plaques are not lacquered and should retain lustre with occasional cleaning. There are ample funds in the budget balance from the 2020-2021 allocation to cover the costs.

Recommendation

That Councillors approve:

1. The purchase of 3 plaques as indicated at item (1) above at a total cost of **£37.50 inc. VAT**
 2. The purchase of 2 plaques as indicated at item (2) above at a total cost of **£25.00 inc. VAT**
- TOTAL (free delivery) £62.50 inc. VAT**

*(NOTE: If option (b) above is preferred for The Parade bench, the total cost rises by £2.00 to: **£64.50 inc. VAT**)*

Cllr. Simon Lucas
March 26th 2021