

LITTLE BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

LITTLE BEALINGS WAR MEMORIAL

BACKGROUND

1. The War Memorial for the parish is in All Saints Churchyard.
2. As a result of an enquiry from a resident in 2020, it became apparent that the Parish Council agreed to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the Memorial at a Council meeting held on 23 October 1989. Under the heading "Parish Precept Estimate 1990-91", the minute reads:

"...A letter had been received from the Rector asking whether the Council would take responsibility for the maintenance of the War Memorial in the Churchyard. It was unanimously agreed that the Council accepted this responsibility. It was thought that the memorial would need some work done to it – possibly repointing the brickwork. An estimate for the work needed would be obtained as soon as possible and the cost added to the precept estimate...."

3. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 December 1989 state:

"Repair of War Memorial

An estimate had been received from F Masters of Woodbridge for repointing and renovating letters on the Memorial cost £115. It was agreed to accept the estimate."

4. The accounts for the year ending 31 March 1991 record expenditure:

29.10.90 F Masters War Memorial £100 VAT £15

5. It would appear that after that date the responsibility was forgotten; it does not appear in Clerk 'handover' notes, nor does any subsequent work appear to have been carried out. There is no suggestion that the Council owns the Memorial; it does not appear on the Asset Register. There appear to have been no arrangements made for inspections since 1990.

POWERS

6. The Council has a power to incur reasonable expenditure to maintain, repair and protect and adapt war memorials under s1 of the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

7. In view of the above, the Council has made enquiries of the PPC, which has responded as follows:
 - The PCC has no information to suggest that, after 1990, maintenance of the Memorial reverted to the PCC
 - The PCC would like the current maintenance arrangement to continue
 - The PCC has no information to hand regarding ownership of the Memorial
 - It appears the only inspection or assessment of the Memorial undertaken since 1990 is that carried out this year, by the resident who has raised the matter with the Council
 - The PCC has agreed to grant the Council and its representatives access to the Memorial as required for inspection and to undertake such works as, after taking appropriate professional advice and obtaining any other required authority, the Council considers are necessary to fulfil the maintenance responsibility.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

8. Following the resident's concern that the lettering on the Memorial was becoming illegible, the Council has obtained an estimate of maintenance work, as attached. This is from the same firm that undertook the work in 1990.

FUNDING

9. Grant funding for the repair and conservation of war memorials is available from the War Memorials Trust, subject to various conditions:
 - The Trust only supports works to memorials which follow best conservation practice. Cleaning for cosmetic reasons is not funded, as unnecessary or over-cleaning can damage a memorial. General maintenance costs, such as small amounts of re-pointing or cleaning of low levels of dirt are not funded.
 - Grants can cover up to 75% of costs, but the number and value of grants made depends upon the availability of Trust funds.
 - Works must not have been started.
 - Applications are considered quarterly; the next deadline is 31 March 2021. A pre-application form has to be submitted for assessment. A decision is likely to take 6 – 9 months.
10. A condition report submitted by the resident in November 2020 drew the following response from the Trust: "From the photographs supplied I note that the inscriptions are fading in some areas. Works to inscriptions can only be undertaken a finite number of times. As such it is important that any intervention is proportionate and appropriately timed. At this time I would recommend that the first step is to ensure that there is an accurate record of the inscriptions. The first stage when looking at inscriptions is for a light clean using soft natural bristle brushes and water to allow the condition of the inscriptions to be revealed. In this case it appears that the inscriptions were infilled and that this filling has been lost. It may be necessary for some localised hand sharpening, using traditional methods and undertaken in the same font, to be completed before infilling can be undertaken. It will be important to

find an appropriately experience conservation contractor to undertake any work. I have attached our helpsheet on contractors for your information.

War Memorials Trust has a range of advice available on our website at www.warmemorials.org/helpsheets/ which you may find useful. The Trust's Conservation Team can also offer free guidance on appropriate works based upon best conservation practice...."

11. The resident's record of the inscriptions is attached.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

12. It is proposed that:

- Application be made to the War Memorial Trust for grant funding for the maintenance works proposed by F Masters Ltd, subject to further information being obtained regarding the cleaning materials to be used
- the Council's budget for 2021/22 include a sum to meet 100% of the costs of the maintenance works, to enable the work to be carried out in the event the application for grant funding is unsuccessful, or to proceed sooner if the Council does not wish to make application for funding and/or does not wish to wait for determination of an application.



Carol Ramsden
Parish Clerk
Little Bealings Parish Council

21st December 2020

Dear Carol,

Little Bealings War Memorial

Following your enquiry I am pleased to submit our estimate for the refurbishment of Little Bealings War Memorial.

We would need to hire either a Cherry Picker or a Scaffold tower and also the some branches of the nearby tree would be need to be cut back.

To: Clean the War memorial would be £575.00
Repointing where needed would be £175.00
Repaint lettering and dates with Black enamel paint would be £607.50
Hire of either a Cherry picker or Scaffold tower would be £350.00 approx.

All plus vat

I hope this is helpful, if you need any further help please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Tina

Tina Dempsey

Unit 2 Quayside, Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 1BH

T: 01394 383158 E tina.dempsey@fmasters.co.uk www.fmasters.co.uk

Company Registration No: 05336466 V.A.T. Registration No: 855 614509

Bank details Sort code: 40-47-42 Account no: 91412434



LITTLE BEALINGS WAR MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

Upper Tier (4 faces)

East Face (5 lines):

TO THE MEMORY OF
THOSE FROM THIS PARISH
WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN
THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1919
“FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH”

North Face:

SERG. GEORGE R. QUINTON M.G.C.
PTE. FRANK E. BAILEY SUFFOLKS
PTE. GEORGE CLARKE YORKS.

West Face:

PTE. THOMAS CLARKE SUFFOLKS
PTE. FREDERICK G. DICKINSON CAMBS
PTE. GEORGE MARTIN SUFFOLKS

South Face:

PTE. CHARLES MOWER R.A.M.C.
PTE. ARTHUR MOYES ROY FUS.
PTE. JOHN R. MILLS SUFFOLKS

Lower Tier (6 faces)

SE Face: 1939

NE Face: 1945

N Face: FREDERICK E. BARBER

NW Face: E. CHARLES EDWARDS

SW Face: RICHARD SPRUYTENBURG

S Face: BERNARD H. STEELE

November 2020