

Great Waltham Parish Council – August 2022 Monthly Meeting

Briefing note for agenda item: To consider refurbishment/cleaning the war memorial at Banbury Square prior to the 2022 Remembrance Sunday parade – Cllr Gilbert

1. The photographs below show the current condition of the war memorial.



2. A number of names of the fallen are no longer decipherable, because of weathering of the stone and/or lichen growth.
3. Over recent years, the memorial has had this refurbishment/cleaning regime:
 - Pre-2007 – periodic cleaning by volunteers from the parish;
 - 2007 – cleaned at a cost of £600;
 - 2008 – names recut (no costs available);
 - 2013 – cleaned at a cost of £600;
 - 2018 – cleaned at a cost of £1,280 (including a grant from the War Memorial Trust).
4. We are approaching the end of the roughly 5-year cleaning cycle which has existing since 2007.
5. The memorial is constructed of soft Portland stone and consequently more susceptible to weathering, compared to, say, the Ford End memorial which is made of marble with painted names and for which there is no record of it having needed to be cleaned. It is not known whether the Portland stone is receptive to the painting in of the carved characters to better show names, dates etc.
6. The memorial has a Grade 2 listed status, so permission to do any work has to be secured.
7. The War Memorial Trust provide grants for the upkeep of memorials. Its website states:
 - *“Grants are normally awarded at 50% of eligible costs depending on the priority level of your project. The worse the condition the greater contribution the Trust might make. High priority cases are those where the Trust agrees with a Very bad condition assessment on War Memorials Online, Medium priority reflects Poor condition, Low priority would be memorials in Fair condition whilst those in Good condition are unlikely to be eligible. Any specific concerns or threats are also considered.*
 - *“Grants are likely to be considered up to a maximum grant of £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £20,000. The minimum award is normally £125 but there is some discretion on minimum and maximum grant levels. Decisions will depend on the amount of funding available and the grant scheme for which your project is eligible. Grant assessment is a competitive process with the condition of the war memorial itself the primary consideration so you should never assume you will obtain all the funding you request. Of the 36 grants awarded in 2020-21 the median offer was £1,840 while the average was £3,760”.*

8. Historically the refurbishment/cleaning process has been to get three quotes from the War Memorial Trust's list of approved contractors.
9. Recommendations for consideration:
 - a) The Council agrees that the memorial should be refurbished as soon as possible;
 - b) That permission is secured for work to be carried out, it being a listed structure;
 - c) That the Clerk obtains three quotes for refurbishment/cleaning work from the list of War Memorial Trust approved contractors;
 - d) That such quotes should include variations to include the cost of recutting the names (and if feasible, painting in all the characters);
 - e) The Council considers whether an expert volunteer group from within the parish could be assembled to complete the work.

SWG/01-08-2022