

Cottered & Throcking Parish Council

VILLAGE GREENS SIGNAGE POLICY and TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PLACEMENT OF SIGNS ON VILLAGE GREENS AND PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTY

Adopted July 2022

Reviewed annually

Re-Adopted every 4 years (After Election)

Recital

This policy attempts to balance the interests of residents and of those who use the greens, in having them uncluttered with unnecessary or distracting signage; and of those who wish to draw the attention of others to events or matters that may be of interest to them.

The Parish Council recognises that the village already has a very large number of road and other permanent signs. The number and size of further signs should be restricted appropriately to retain the rural character of the village.

The greens in the village belong to the Recreation Grounds Trust but the Parish Council, as trustee of that trust, will administer the matters in this policy on behalf of the trust. Any revenue derived under this policy shall be collected by the Parish Council and paid over to the trust after deduction of a 40% administration fee payable to the Parish Council.

It is not the policy of the Parish Council to 'rent out' the greens to bring in revenue from signage but it is recognised that being able to put signs on the greens has a commercial value and it is appropriate that a charge be made for their use to promote events from which income will be derived by others.

Policy

1. The Parish Council, on behalf of the Recreation Grounds Trust, may in its absolute discretion permit the placement of signs on the village greens in Cottered from time to time upon the application of parties to the Parish Council.
2. By resolution of the Parish Council on 11 September 2023, any two Parish Councillors acting through the Clerk of the Parish Council may authorise the placement of one or more signs on the village greens on agreed terms as to the length of time the sign will be in place, where it will be placed, and any fee to be paid and upon the attention of the person to whom permission is granted having been drawn to this policy.
3. All grants of permission to place signs on the greens are subject to this policy.
4. Any permission granted is entirely discretionary and permission may be withdrawn or amended at any time on 2 days' notice in writing (not being a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Easter, Good Friday, or New Year's Day) and without need for cause.
5. Except by agreement of the Parish Council at a full meeting of the Council no sign shall be larger than:
 - 5.1 150 cm wide by 120 cm tall including any elevation, pole or stake. That is, larger signs shall be located close to the ground and not be raised by a pole. OR
 - 5.2 200 cm tall including any elevation, pole or stake but, in this case the sign itself shall not be larger than 90 x 70 cm.

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6. The colours of the sign shall not be garish or bold and shall be in keeping with the rural character of the village.
7. Any sign shall be supported by sturdy stakes that are driven into soft earth. Signs shall not be affixed to trees, poles or other existing objects in the village. They shall be secure against high winds and extreme weather.
8. No sign shall obscure sight of any other sign, including any road sign.
9. No sign shall interfere with sightlines of motorists and pedestrians of oncoming traffic and consideration to road safety shall be of paramount importance when choosing a suitable site to place a sign.
10. No sign shall remain in place for more than 12 continuous weeks and it must be removed promptly at the end of that period or any lesser period for which permission has been given.
11. Except by agreement of the Parish Council at a full meeting of the Council there shall not be more than two signs on any of the village greens at any time.
12. The following charges will usually apply but may be waived by the Parish Council at a full meeting of the Council:
 - Signs placed by a business including real estate agents - £1.10/day
 - Signs placed by individuals residing in the parish advertising something that will be sold (including a property) or an event at which admission will be charged - £0.50/day
 - Signs placed by individuals who do not reside in the parish advertising something that will be sold (including a property) or an event at which admission will be charged - £1.10/day
 - Signs advertising events at which admission is not charged, eg fetes - £0.50/day
13. Signs placed on a village green without permission or which remain there after the end of any period of permission that was granted shall pay a flat charge of £5/day.
14. The Parish Council may remove and destroy any sign that is placed on a village green or other Parish Council property without permission or that remains there after permission has expired or been withdrawn or that otherwise does not conform to this policy and the Parish Council shall not be liable to compensate the owner for any loss.
15. Any person to whom permission has been granted to place a sign on the village greens shall, as a condition of such permission, indemnify the Parish Council and the Recreation Grounds Trust in writing for any loss, damage, cost, or expense it may incur as a result of the sign having been so placed including the cost of removing, storing and/or destroying any unauthorised sign.
16. Neither the Parish Council nor the Recreation Grounds Trust shall be liable to any person for any damage to a sign placed on a village green or Parish Council property however that damage may be caused.