**Oakthorpe Donisthorpe Acresford Parish Council**

Proposal for maintenance to the War Memorial Gates, Church Street, Donisthorpe

**Background**

Originally, the recreation grounds were treated as the memorial and it was 1930 when the gates were officially opened by Sir John Turner, the gates were recorded as the War Memorial. There is no record found so far, to help understand why the change was made.

In 2018, the gates were registered with Heritage England, now known as Historic England and are a grade 2 list ‘building’. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1453402>

**Previous maintenance**

Although there has been no formal process for caring for the gates, we believe a repaint took place about 11 years ago. There is a build up of paint and any work needs a more substantial approach.

**Proposal for work to the Memorial Gates**

The gates are now at a stage where they need the paint stripping back, cleaned and prepared for a repaint. The plaques either side of the gates also need cleaning.

A pre-application was submitted to ascertain 2 things

1. Advice on the work we would need to complete given the status of the gates.
2. Would we be eligible for a grant towards the cost of the work.

Historic England consider an application would be appropriate for some of the work and have given advice on how the work should be carried out and by whom. What we don’t know at this point is what work will be considered and how much it will cost.

The advice suggests the historic status of the gates indicate care should be taken with removing paint unnecessarily given the type of paint used when the gates were first painted may be of historical interest and lost.

I am seeking council’s approval:

1. To progress tenders for the work through a working group
2. To submit a grant application to War Memorials Trust to assist with the costs of the work
3. To earmark funds for 2022/23 for any work not supported by the grant.

Cllr Sue McKendrick

4th November 2021