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WREATH PROTOCOL

Hartshill Parish Council acknowledges that the laying of wreaths is an essential aspect of many Remembrance services and underscores the functional and commemorative significance of war memorials. This practice enables individuals and community organisations to honour and remember those who have lost their lives in service. Given that the laying of wreaths constitutes personal tributes made at the War Memorial, the Parish Council, responsible for the memorial's upkeep, often faces the delicate task of managing these wreaths without causing any offence or distress.

This protocol aims to provide guidance on two of the biggest issues faced by the Parish Council when it comes to the upkeep of the memorial:

- When to remove wreaths from memorials following the Remembrance service
- And how to secure wreaths on and around the memorial

Removal of Wreaths

Some people may be upset by wreaths being removed what they consider 'prematurely' whereas others may be concerned that wreaths are left too long after the ceremony. If wreaths are left too long, they begin to deteriorate which can leave the memorial appearing as if it is not cared for. Furthermore, wreaths that are left on the stone for prolonged periods of time particularly in wet weather, which we are prone to, can cause staining of the stone from either the wreath itself or the metal ties and encourages the growth of moss and lichen which can be difficult to remove.

The Chairperson of Hartshill Parish Council is the designated person to lay the wreath at our Memorial during Hartshill's Remembrance ceremony every November. As it is the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the memorial all wreaths will be removed by

the Groundsman early January each year and the memorial upkeep will be the responsibility of the Groundsman employed by the Parish Council each year.

Anyone wishing to remove their wreaths before the Groundsman removes them is welcome to.

Wreath Holders

In some cases, it is necessary to secure the wreaths to the memorial. Due to the increasing number of storms we experience each winter the wreaths are at risk of damage or blowing away. The Groundsman will secure the wreaths once they are laid.