



Serving the community

Blaby Parish Council

GENERAL POLICY NO.14 –

Monumental Safety

RISK

- Falling memorials may cause injury or death.
- Memorials may become loose from their bases, or bases could become loose in the ground.
- Jointed memorials are “inherently unstable” and could break, or lose cohesiveness at any point, over a period of time.

1. Inspection

- Inspections are carried out twice yearly, with memorials being inspected on a rota basis. It is anticipated that each memorial will be inspected once every two years, at the least.
- Inspections are carried out by the Manager and a member of the ground staff.
- First Inspection - Visual
Second Test - By hand
- Any problems that arise between inspections are dealt with immediately.

2. Training of ‘Inspection Team’

- Onsite training is carried out prior to every inspection taking place.
- Training includes:-
 - Awareness of whereabouts of other team members before hand force is applied to any memorial.
 - Force must be applied in the direction in which an unstable memorial may fall.
 - Awareness of what a falling memorial may dislodge.
 - Awareness that using too great a force may lead to personal injury, e.g. strains.
 - Awareness that a memorial may topple with slight force, causing the inspector to lose balance.
 - How to make unstable memorials safe

3. Warning Signs

- Angle of lean from vertical
- Disintegrating mortar
- Undue spalling / flaking
- Missing parts
- Ground settlement
- Waterlogged ground
- Dried out, cracking ground

4. Requirements: Monumental Masons

- National Association of Monumental Masons (NAMM) fixing is required for all new memorials.
- Working Method Statement and Public Liability Insurance is required of all Monumental Masons.

5. Handling of Unstable Memorials

- Each individual situation is assessed.
- Headstones considered to be dangerous will be laid flat immediately.
- Headstones which are insecure but not dangerous will be marked with hazard warning tape. Steps will be taken to identify and inform the owner of the memorial so that they may be re-fixed.

Adopted 12.04.05

Updated Yearly, Last Updated November 2019