

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

CC TO SUB COMMITTEES - SERVICES - POLICY AND FINANCE

23 June 2025

Dear Councillors

World War 1 Pebble Memorial

Saltash Town Council will be mindful of the WW1 pebble memorial situated within the Saltash Memorial Peace Garden at Alexandra Square.

The pebble garden was devised and erected by the Saltash Great War 1914-1918 events and projects committee, chaired by Mrs Sue Hooper MBE. The committee was especially set up to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War.

One of the many and various WW1 projects, all of which were community based and involved hundreds of members of the community of all ages and genres, was the unique WW1 pebble memorial. The memorial has 140 +1 named and individually painted pebbles. These were all painted by members of the community in remembrance of the WW1 Saltash fallen. The +1 was an additional pebble to remember the fallen personnel that remained unrecorded. Moreover, there is a supporting information board abutting the pebble memorial displaying a list of the 140 Saltash WW1 fallen, together with a printed record of the 140 +1 pebbles.

There was a Civic and public unveiling of the pebble memorial in 2018 at the Saltash Memorial Peace Garden, to include the memorial being blessed by the late Prebendary Reverend Brian Anderson. It was consequently officially acknowledged and confirmed by the Saltash Town Council to be an official WW1 Saltash Town Council memorial which is acknowledged with a floral tribute each year at the Civic Remembrance service.

All of the Great War Committee installed memorials and structures have been adopted by the Saltash Town Council (the Council holds all the transfer records - of which Mrs Hooper has copies).

Now disbanded, many of the former Great War Committee personnel continue to have a great interest in the memorials and structures, and are eternally grateful that the tireless work of the committee and the community has been respectfully and beautifully maintained by the Saltash Town Council.

Some of the past personnel of the Great War committee have noticed that the WW1 pebble memorial has more recently been showing some age and weather-related deterioration, with most of the pebbles needing to be repainted and restored. So too, the structure would benefit from resurfacing.

It is for that reason that we sincerely hope that the Saltash Town Council would welcome our approach and maybe we suggest creative possible action using local

specialists to resolve the current deterioration of the memorial, ie pebbles be removed, and repainted to original designs. They could then be reset into a fresh layer of resin.

We are mindful that the cost involved may not fit comfortably with the Saltash Town Council's precepted budget and we would therefore quite understand - and if this was the case, we would quite happily set up a fund raising project to help considerably with the cost of the regeneration scheme as suggested, and would ask advice about a Saltash Town Council Community Fund grant as part of the fund raising scheme if deemed necessary.

This letter is our first approach of trying to help with a suggestion and resolution to the deterioration of the Saltash WW1 pebble memorial and, if agreeable with the Saltash Town Council, we would welcome further communication if the Council felt that we could work together to restore this lovely and unique community led WW1 memorial structure as a lasting tribute for remembrance and posterity for current and future generations. For that purpose, we would be very pleased to offer an informative presentation at a Council meeting or at another suitable venue.

We do appreciate that in around 10 years' time a similar restoration scheme may be discussed.

We are indeed conscious of the Council's ongoing and generous support of other various well-established worthy festivities, events and organisations within the town, and feel passionately that the town's memorials, in remembrance of its fallen, continues to make a significant contribution to the town's honourable and dignified past in perpetuity.

Saltash Town Council may kindly advise receipt of this letter, together with information and advice on how it will be dealt with for furtherance.

Yours sincerely

Sue Hooper MBE
Lynn Marsh
Tony Marsh
John Hooper