

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting: Leisure Committee Meeting

Hosted virtually via Zoom Meeting ID: 840 0885 4865 Passcode: 145622

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008854865?pwd=S2RmemwveWFCYUxXcE1WbmxudFV6Zz09>

Thursday, 20th May 2021 at 7.00 pm

A G E N D A

1. Election of Committee Chair
2. Election of Committee Vice Chair
3. Apologies
4. Public participation
5. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 5 December 2019
6. Memorial Policy – proposed policy draft
7. Balshaw Lane play area – discussion of improvements and plan
8. Greenside – request from residents regarding car parking
9. Update on amenities – verbal run down and discussion on plans to upgrade
10. Any other items which need attention or research
11. Date for next meeting

Leisure Committee (quorum 3)

1	Katrina Reed
2	Patricia Fellows
3	Vyn Thomhill
4	Steve Walker
5	Helen Tune
6	Rebecca Peers
7	Philip Preston
8	Gillian Sharples

D. Platt
CLERK

Published: 13/05/21

Euxton Parish Council - Report for Leisure Committee
Draft policy on (non-financial) memorial donations to the Council

- 1) At a recent meeting of the Council there was discussion about memorial donations in the form of benches trees etc. Council does not have any statement of policy which helps it to respond to proposals for donations in a sympathetic but logical and consistent way. I undertook to provide my ideas for a draft of such a policy for consideration by the leisure Committee.
- 2) My suggestion is attached. In writing it, I see many difficulties arising in terms of agreeing a set of rules that do provide guidance in respect of all types of donation and all possible locations for them.
- 3) Please feel free to criticise or to reject my suggestions. I thought it better to get a starting point down that might help the Committee to agree a set of guidance rules – it should help focus discussion even if it does not meet requirements.

Euxton Parish Council
Draft policy with respect to memorial donations

1) Introduction

The Parish Council owns or controls a number of areas of land in the Parish (see Appendix). The Council receives requests for memorials to be located on these sites in memory of persons or events. The memorials most usually requested are of individual or groups of trees, with or without memorial plaques, benches, again with or without memorial plaques, or simply memorial plaques.

Whilst the Council is sympathetic to all such requests it is often placed in difficulties in responding as the requests are sometimes for memorials that do not accord with the Council's management strategies for the areas concerned. They could also create a precedent that make it difficult for the Council to refuse (if it wanted to) subsequent applications for similar memorials in the same or a different location. The Council, however, has no guidance that assists in responding to requests and this document seeks to remedy that deficiency.

The document sets down a number of general points of guidance and also, in the appendix, describes some of the particular issues that apply to each of the areas listed.

2) Guidance

a) Plaques

The Council will not, for any of its sites, accept simple memorial plaques for individuals. To do so would create a precedent that would make it difficult to refuse further requests.

Plaques commemorating events would be considered individually but would only be favourably viewed if they related to an event of Parish wide interest.

b) Benches, picnic tables etc

The Council welcomes donations of benches, picnic tables etc with or without memorial plaques, but only in locations where they would have practical value and would not mar an otherwise attractive location. The Appendix contains further guidance. Donated benches must be able to withstand the severe treatment that they may receive in a public location and should be of the type which the Council currently provides for new and replacement seating. Benches are often located on the public highway for which Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority. The Parish Council will liaise with the County Council on the donor's behalf to seek approval to a proposed location and will assume responsibility for maintenance of the bench.

c) Trees

The Council would welcome donation of individual trees or groups of trees, with or without memorial plaques. Donations must, however, respect the nature of the recipient site and not conflict with it. Many sites, including those which already have trees, may not be

suitable for tree planting or may not be suitable for particular types of tree. The appendix contains further guidance.

d) Planters

The Council welcomes donations of planters, with or without memorial plaques, provided that they are to the Council's current specification, and will assist in finding a suitable location. These are often on the public highway for which Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority. The Parish Council will liaise with the County Council on the donor's behalf to seek approval to a proposed location and will maintain and replant the planter in accordance with the terms of its current external planting contract.

e) Other donations

Other proposed donations would be considered individually.

e) Flowers etc

The Council will not permit memorial sites to be further recorded by permanent or semi-permanent additions such as plants or objects made from non-biodegradable materials (eg Plastic flower posies) such as plastic, metal etc. These will be removed. Fresh flowers etc, preferably without wrapping, will be removed after a short interval

Appendix

Sites owned or controlled by the Euxton Parish Council

1) Euxton Millennium Green

The Green is a large and very attractive area of pond and grassland dominated by surrounding trees and containing several informal planted copses of native trees. Although the grassland is regularly mown, the general appearance of the Green is a casual blend of trees and open spaces.

It could accommodate additional scattered seating.

It could accommodate further tree planting either of individual trees or of additional small groups of native deciduous trees.

Exotic individual trees, conifers or formal groupings of trees (eg avenues) are not considered appropriate.

2) Balshaw Lane Gardens

The small area of open space at the junction of Balshaw Lane and Wigan Road is semi formal and regular in its layout. Additional seating, tree planting etc, unless carefully sited, could make the site look crowded.

3) Greenside Playing Fields

The playing fields could accommodate benches in various locations. It might be difficult to offer sites suitable for tree planting as the pitch accommodates several sports pitches. The Bowling Green alongside the playing fields is owned by the Council and managed by the Euxton Community Bowls Club. It is surrounded by a secure fence and members of the public are only permitted to use the Green and its surroundings subject to the rules of the Club. The green is not generally available to members of the public.

Etc I'm not sure which other sites we have but a similar description etc to be given for each site

8. Greenside – request from residents regarding car parking

Council has received 2 letters from residents of the Greenside area (see below).

Background

Westchurch Homes is building the new Greenside properties and prior to the development commencing approached the Parish Council to ask if it could rent some car parking for its contractor traffic but also for some displaced residents.

Residents were to be displaced due to Westchurch Homes being granted some double yellow lines on the side road next to its development for the period of construction.

When the double yellow lines are removed, following completion of the development Westchurch will cease paying for the car parking and all will be reverted back to how it was before. Area being discussed is highlighted below with diagonal lines.



First Resident

FIRST CONTACT 21/4/21

If possible to put forward to the council for existing residents to continue to park there after the development has finished

Or put forward an annual payment like you have for the garages which once stood there but not an outrageous one lol

The parking is very congested at the moment and if it is taken away it would only end up in cars causing congestion parked on corners etc etc

If you could put some points over to the council for myself etc to keep our nominated space please or come to some agreement over a annual payment

RESPONSE 21/04/21

Mr

I did not receive any of your previous emails as they were not sent to the address that this was. They were sent to an address which ceased about 5 years ago, euxtoncouncil@btinternet.com

I will take your suggestion to the Council.

Regards, Debra

COME BACK 21/4/21

have you got contact details for chorley bough council

aswell i know you have the least for the land for the car parking but feel strongly about parking in the car parking spaces

please also can you put to the council that the following points

1 there are 9 cars parking within that area

2 the area is seasonal if used for football and the bowling etc

3 it would help euxton community in the greenside area for the residents who had to put up for alot while the houses have been built etc

4 if we could come to some agreement of a reasonable fee over the year

5 also the area was used for garages over the years so now the garages have been pulled down it would benefit both residents who wish to pay an annual fee and the council

just a few points as i would really like the park in bay 3 which i have been parking in since construction had begun

COME BACK RESPONSE 21/04/21

Hi

As I have responded, I will put your points to Euxton Council.

Euxton Council lease the land from CBC and it is for it to decide what happens with the land, within the parameters of the lease - by all means write to CBC but I am not sure who exactly you would write to, try Property Services.

Regards, Debra

Second resident

FIRST CONTACT 25/4/21

Hello I'm not sure who this will concern. I live at *** Greenside right on the corner of the development and football field where the oak trees and the third pitch was. When building started we lost our parking and we were allocated a permit to park where the garages used to be to help alleviate the parking issue.

This morning as I was parking I was told by a neighbour who also parks there that we are going to lose these parking spaces. Apparently he has been told that unbelievably priority is being given for even more parking to be made available to the seasonal weekend footballers and bowlers. They already have a huge area reserved for them to park on.

I cannot believe that the remaining seven parking spaces next to 259 are deemed sufficient for all of the houses that need to park there especially since one of them has now been allocated as a disabled spot obviously meaning that we are now left with just six spaces in which we can all park.

I hope that my neighbour has been misinformed and that we are not about to lose this parking.

There really is nowhere left for us to park as in the evenings all surrounding roads are full too.

Parking has become such an issue around here that cars regularly get scratched on the car park.

We really cannot lose even one of these spaces.

I would very much appreciate it if someone could get back to us in this issue.

Many thanks

RESPONSE 28/4/21

Thank you for your email.

I have had the exact question asked by another resident and I have informed them, as I will you, that I will put the request from residents to the Council.

By way of information, the area residents are temporarily parking in presently (the first section of the car park formerly the old garages) is part of the recreation area. The area has been rented by Westchurch Homes (from the parish council) to give displaced residents parking whilst the double yellow lines are in place next to the site entrance. It was only offered as a temporary fix by Westchurch and was always going to revert back to parking for the Greenside Recreation facility once Westchurch finished its site, the double yellow lines have been removed and Westchurch ends their rental of the car parking spaces.

It is not a function of a parish council to provide free parking for residents because there is insufficient around their properties.

I will report back when I have put the question to the Council.

COME BACK 29/04/21

I appreciate this area that was parking whilst garages was obviously given to the parish council for recreation that sold the recreation area ie building site to the developers knowing the residents would have nowhere to park once built we all feel very let down after taking a football field and 3 oak trees. What people don't appreciate is that once the yellow lines are moved there is still nowhere to park as what was parking is now houses. Plus Euxton parish council promised at a meeting to address said issue thanks for your time

COME BACK RESPONSE 29/04/21

Not sure I understand your first sentence.

Chorley Council sold the land which has now been built on - maybe residents could ask Chorley Council if some of the money from the sale could be used to provide resident parking.

The Parish Council said it would use the money given to it by Westchurch for renting spaces on the recreation fields to pool with LCC CBC and Jigsaw to find locations around Greenside which could be converted in to parking spaces - because of Covid we have not set up a meeting to do this.