

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting: Leisure Committee Meeting

Thursday, 4th November 2021 at 7.00 pm

Euxton PC Community Centre, Annexe Building, School Lane, Euxton

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Public participation
3. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 20th May 2021
4. Bowling Club setup and relationship with EPC – review current arrangements
5. Balshaw Lane play area – discussion of improvements and plan
6. Millennium Green update report and proposals to consider
7. Chapel Brook land discussion of ideas for its use
8. Budget setting
9. Any other items which need attention or research
10. Date for next meeting

Leisure Committee (quorum 3)

1	Katrina Reed
2	Patricia Fellows
3	Vyn Thornhill
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**BOWLING GREEN****OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Euxton Parish Council (“the Council”) has provided a Bowling Green (“the Green”) for use by residents; this facility is located at Greenside.

1. Ownership of the Bowling Green and all associated facilities shall at all times remain with the Council.
2. Notwithstanding the Council’s ownership of the Green the day to day running of the facilities shall be delegated to a club set up for the purpose.
3. The Club shall determine a suitable name that acknowledges that the bowling green is in Euxton.
4. Persons wishing to use the facilities provided at the green for organised competitive purposes are required to join the Club as members; such membership shall not preclude membership of other clubs (either existing or new) so that competitive matches can be played.
5. The Club shall elect such Officers as are required to ensure the proper running of the Club. The names of the Officers shall be notified to the Council by letter to the Council via the Clerk to the Council. (“The Clerk”)
6. The Club shall prepare a Constitution for its proper governance and, if deemed necessary, draw up such further rules as are necessary for its proper management. The Club shall submit copies of such documents to the Council for agreement on any subject included therein that may impact upon the rights and responsibilities of the Council.
7. The Club shall prepare timetables showing the occasions when matches are to be played, when formal practice sessions are to be held and when the facilities are to be closed for maintenance. Copies of the timetable are to be forwarded to the Clerk for display on the Council website. Timetables must be submitted in a timely manner, with not less than two Calendar Weeks between their issue and the days / dates to which they refer.

In addition, the Council has provided two notice boards for Club use; one inside the fenced compound for announcements and information to Club Members, and a second outside the fence on which the Club must display “opening times” when casual visitors who may not be members of the Club may attend for practice and recreation. The Club must recognise that the Bowling Green was provided at public expense and it must therefore be available for ad hoc use by non – members. (See Para 15)

8. The Club shall levy a fee to be paid by its members to contribute towards the costs of running and maintaining the Green and for any other relevant purpose as it sees fit. At its discretion the Club may charge reduced fees for different categories of membership, e.g. “Family” membership for second and subsequent members of a household, “Junior” for persons under an age determined by the Club, and “Senior” for persons who have reached normal retirement age.
9. Membership shall be open to all persons; there shall be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
10. The Club shall implement such policies as are necessary to ensure compliance with the legal requirements for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
11. The Club shall not deny membership to any person without a substantive reason.
12. Notwithstanding the preceding requirement the Club must “close” to new members if it becomes clear that the total number of persons wishing to use the Bowling Green as members of the Club exceeds the

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number that can reasonably be accommodated in the time that is available for use. If the Club decides it must close to new applicants it must notify the Council accordingly. Preference for applications must apply to Euxton residents.

13. The Club shall be responsible for ensuring that it has Public Liability Insurance in place for all its activities. A copy of the Insurance Certificate shall be lodged with the Council.
14. The Club shall insofar as is practicable be responsible for the conduct of its members, and shall ensure that Club members do not act in a manner detrimental to the Club's interests as well as those of the Council and local residents whose property is close to the Green.
15. Notwithstanding the requirements set out above the Club shall recognise that casual use by members of the public (i.e. non Club Members) is permitted, subject to the limitations set by the publication of the Club "timetables" as described in paragraph 7 above.
16. The Green (i.e. the area within the fence) will not be used for any recreational activity other than bowling.
17. Club members may use the narrower of the two roller shutter doors to access the inside of the pavilion; this is to enable members to use the toilets and kitchen area. Care must be taken to ensure that the "bullet" securing devices are safely stored when removed from the door, and that they are correctly replaced when leaving the site.

Note 1: this roller shutter door must remain closed and locked if the pavilion is being used by football teams accessing the building from the front.

Note 2: The right of access to the pavilion does not apply to casual users of the bowling green. If Club members are present when casual users are using the green then any access granted is at the discretion of the Club.

Note 3: Notwithstanding the restriction imposed in Note 2 above members of visiting Clubs who are present for the playing of competitive matches shall have the same rights of access as Club Members. Club Members must ensure that visitors do not breach the "conditions of use" specified by the Council.

18. Any keys issued by the Council to enable bowlers to access the pavilion or the car park shall remain the property of the Council. Keys must not be copied other than with the express permission of the Council. The Council reserves the right to charge the Club for the complete replacement of any lock assembly (or assemblies) in the event of a key or lock being lost or damaged; any such loss or damage must be notified without delay. The Club must not *replace* any lock without the express permission of the Council.

The main gate to the car park is secured with a combination lock. When the gate is open the lock must be left in the "closed" position and the combination scrambled. The same rule shall apply to any other combination lock provided elsewhere.

If it is decided that the gate in the perimeter fence is to be left unlocked (in order to facilitate casual use by persons who are not members of the Club) then the gate must be kept closed other than is necessary for persons, their personal equipment and any maintenance equipment to gain access or egress. Gates must not be anchored in an open position.

19. Club members may use the kitchen for heating water for making drinks; tea and coffee (etc) must be provided by the members themselves; consumable items will not be provided by the Council. Flammable items must not be left in the pavilion.
20. The use of cooking appliances in the pavilion is not permitted. Club members must not bring and use any of their own electrical appliances in the pavilion without the prior permission of the Council.

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21. Benches have been provided by the Council; any person bringing their own chair must not take it on to the playing area.
22. The lighting of fires for any reason is not permitted; "fires" shall be interpreted so as to include any barbecue unless express permission has been granted by the Council.
23. Dogs are not permitted within the bowling green perimeter fence.
24. Any defect or damage to the Bowling Green (including the perimeter fence) or the pavilion howsoever arising must be reported to the Council without delay.
25. Bowlers may use the car park, but must accept that there is no entitlement to *exclusive* use and that the car park may also be used by footballers. If parking "on street" bowlers must not use the parking areas reserved for Greenside Residents and must show due consideration to other residents who do not have specifically allocated parking spaces.
26. Persons using the car park, the bowling green, and the pavilion whether club members or not, do so at their own risk. The Council will accept no responsibility for accident, injury, loss, or damage unless it can be proved that such an event was attributable to the negligence of the Council or one of its employees.
27. The Council shall have the right to review this document and amend it as required to ensure that the interests of the Council and the residents of Euxton are properly maintained.
28. The Club may request amendments to this document if it believes that any parts of it are inadequate or detrimental to the effective running of the Club or the management of the playing area. Any such request must be submitted in writing to the Clerk.

29. Interpretations:

Official communications with the Council: All formal communications to the Council shall be to the Clerk via the published telephone number, email address or postal address as circumstances dictate.

"The Club" shall be interpreted to include the Club as a body and its individual members.

MAINTENANCE (General)

30. The Club shall be responsible for keeping the playing area (including the surrounding channel) clear of leaf litter and other detritus throughout the year.
31. The Club shall be responsible for ensuring that the playing area is adequately watered during dry spells.
32. The Club shall monitor the playing area for any signs that the drainage system is not performing adequately and shall report any concerns to the Council without delay.

MAINTENANCE (If carried out by Club Members)

33. The Club shall maintain the playing area to an appropriate standard between the middle of March and the end of October annually.
34. Maintenance equipment will be stored in the pavilion, with access via the wider of the two roller shutter doors at the rear of the building. See Paragraph 17 above in respect of the loss of a lock or key.
35. No more than 5 litres of petroleum spirit (for use in grass cutting equipment, etc) will be stored in the pavilion other than in the fuel tanks on the equipment itself. Any fuel stored will be in an approved container. Care shall be taken when entering the storage container that any residual fumes have

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dissipated to the point that they do not pose a risk to the health of the persons entering. The use of naked flames or lights is prohibited.

36. The Club shall ensure that a suitable fire extinguisher is available when any fuel tank is being charged.
37. Fuel will not be transferred from a container to the tank of any powered equipment on the playing area.
38. The Club shall ensure that persons operating maintenance equipment are competent to use it.
39. The Club shall ensure that a suitable First Aid kit is available at all times, and that there is a person present who is competent in its use.
40. Grass cuttings, fallen leaves and any other "garden waste" must not be left anywhere on the site unless agreed in advance with the Council. Such waste must be taken to a suitable location and recycled for compost. Waste must not be burnt on site.
41. The Council may inspect the playing area at any reasonable time, and require improvements to be made if, in its considered judgement, the standard of maintenance is inadequate. If the Council later decides that the maintenance has not improved to a satisfactory standard it may employ a contractor (or Council employees) in order to achieve the required standard. If this action is required the Council may at its discretion levy a charge not exceeding the cost of the work upon the Club.

MAINTENANCE (If carried out by the Council or a Contractor)

42. Paras 30, 31, & 32 above shall continue to apply, subject to the agreement of any contractor appointed. Any such agreement will apply "per season", and not "per occasion".
43. Other than as described in Paras 30 and 31 above the Council will maintain the playing area, using its own personnel or by employing specialist contractors.
44. The Council will determine any period of closure over the winter months following discussions with the Club. During this period maintenance activity shall be minimised to a level consistent with prevention of long – term degradation of the playing area.
45. The Club shall reimburse the Council to TBA% of the invoiced costs of maintenance. Any work carried out by Council personnel shall be included in the above calculation.
46. The Council shall make every effort to advise the Club of those occasions when the playing area will be closed for routine maintenance. Insofar as is practicable the Council will pay due regard to the timetable of matches provided by the Club as described in Paragraph 7 above.
47. The Club shall recognise that the Maintenance Contract exists between the Council and the Contractor, and must not contact the Contractor on any matter without the express permission of the Council. The Council shall not be liable for any costs arising from any unauthorised direct contact between the Club and the Contractor.

Presented to Euxton Parish Council, Bowling Committee and agreed: 16/10/2017

Presented to Euxton Bowling Club and agreed: 26/10/2017

6. Millennium Green update report and proposals to consider

Euxton Parish Council

Leisure Committee

Report to the Committee by Cllr Vyn Thornhill

Euxton Millennium Green

The Millennium Green is a beautiful facility which the Parish is very lucky to have. I have been a frequent user of the Green in recent months (and a regular user before that) and have several issues that I wish to report to the Committee and to seek improvements which address them. This may help make it an even better asset for the Parish and beyond.

1) Paths

The pond platform staging is connected to the footpath network through a single route which means that, from other directions, pedestrians must either walk a long way round or cut corners across the grass. One particular well used route is that around the north west of the pond. I suggest that we should construct a path along this route. The length would be roughly 40m.

If the Committee supports this proposal, it may also wish to review the footpath network on the Green and suggest further enhancements. My view is that the network with the above addition is all that is needed and pedestrians can and do make use of the grassed areas when the ground is dry without any other well- defined routes appearing.

Proposal 1. The Council should provide this path and review the need for further paths

2) Seating

The large Green has only a limited number of seats, mostly in the form of picnic tables. These are very useful and appropriate for many users of the Green. There are, however, only two seats that have backs (and some benches without backs). For older, less able users of the Green, and more able users who simply want to sit, relax and enjoy their surroundings, a seat with a back is preferable, if not necessary. These should be available in several locations around the green, giving users options for their view of the green and for shaded or open locations. Many less attractive and smaller local greens, recreational grounds etc in Chorley Borough have much more backed seating than does the Millennium Green. The Parish's policy on memorials etc, which Council will consider at their November meeting, will, if approved, suggest that memorial benches would be welcome on the Green but the Committee may wish to see the Council provide more from its own resources.

Proposal 2. The Council should encourage the donation of memorial benches on the Green and should provide an additional 3 (or more) backed bench seats from its own resources.

I note that Mawdesley Millennium Green (also very attractive, although not as much so as Euxton's) has, in addition to conventional seats, two very robust sheltered seats. I believe that the terms of our lease restrict the Council's ability to provide facilities on the Green and I, for one, would not wish to see excessive development there, but the Committee may wish to consider whether such facilities might enhance the Green for its users. For example, dog walkers and others, who wish to enjoy the Green in poor weather could use sheltered seating (and, inevitably, so could less public-spirited members of the local community – although the facilities at Mawdesley appear able to withstand ill usage, even though not visible from surrounding roads and properties).

Proposal 3. The Committee should review the need for covered seating and shelters on the Green and, if minded, seek information/advice from neighbouring Parish Councils and Chorley BC.

3) The pond

The pond was created in Spring 2018 and was allowed to fill naturally. Unfortunately, a very long, dry spell of weather followed and the pond did not fill throughout 2018. This, in turn, allowed grass and many undesirable plants to become established in areas intended to be underwater. Many of the trees planted near the pond died, despite the efforts of Council staff and members (and others) to keep them watered (in fact the success rate was good compared to plantings carried out by Chorley BC at Dob Brow Pastures at the same time). The many remaining trees are now established and growing. The water related wildflower planting has also got a good hold and, indeed, is now excessive – the purple loosestrife has been particularly successful and attractive. However, some undesirable plants, such as thistles, are present to excess.

The pond is now developing as a wildlife resource. There was a small number of tadpoles present in 2020 although I did not see any in 2021. (a nearby area of the Green where frogspawn is regularly present, but which dries up before many tadpoles mature, could be used as a source for the pond). In 2021 there were many adult and tadpole common newts present and the surrounding area looks ideal for them to overwinter and return. There are many pond insects such as dragon and damselflies, pond skaters, backswimmers, whirligig beetles etc. I have seen occasional mallard ducks, moorhens and herons on the pond.

In my experience there has not been much littering and other damage – the village caretakers may tell a different story. Sticks and branches, many thrown for dogs, are frequent and untidy. The pond has still not cleared fully and I feel that this is primarily due to the frequent presence of dogs in the water (I must plead guilty as I regularly walk a dog which can't resist the lure). I have seen professional dog walkers encouraging their "pack" of dogs to go for a swim. The cloudiness mainly spreads into the pond from either side of the platform with more remote areas relatively clear.

To some extent, the present untidiness must be attributed to the seasonal decay of tall vegetation, but the excessive growth in the vegetation also contributes, especially the grass growing in what should be clear water.

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When the Lancashire Wildlife Trust designed the pond, they provided a maintenance schedule. I do not believe this was implemented (I was not a Council member from when the pond works were completed until I re-joined in 2019)

Now that the pond is established, I feel we should take stock and follow a programme of maintenance and improvement to correct issues and to steer the pond in the right direction for its future health. I suggest the following measures:

a) measures to prevent dogs from entering the pond

1) Dogs can enter the pond from all directions but most easily from the areas either side of the platform. An unobtrusive fence placed around the perimeter of the pond would make it more difficult for them to enter or, if this is thought excessive, a fence some distance either side of the platform would deter many. Advice on fence design should be sought from a suitable designer or contractor

2) A fence could be coupled with signage requesting dog owners not to let their dogs in the pond. Signing to this effect was provided at one time, and I thought it successful, but it was then removed. This would be particularly effective in combination with a suggestion for dog owners to use an alternative pond.

3) At this stage, I offer the suggestion that an alternative pond could be provided. There are other reasons for providing such a pond, not connected with the dog issue. It is therefore treated as a separate item in this report.

Proposal 4. An unobtrusive fence should be provided to deter dogs from entering the pond together with signing asking dog owners not to allow their dogs in the pond. See also Proposal 7

b) measures to control the growth of vegetation in and around the pond and to stimulate its attractiveness to wildlife

My view is that we need a project for adjusting the vegetation growing in and around the pond in order to:

- 1) reduce its growth into the water area
- 2) eliminate the grass that is growing within the designated water area
- 3) remove or limit any undesirable plants

This should perhaps be an ongoing maintenance task but, because it has not yet been undertaken, the scale and nature of the works required is probably beyond the Council's members and workforce. A further factor is that it needs to be undertaken without causing damage to the pond lining. I suggest that the Council should seek professional advice in defining and probably in carrying out the work. I believe that the best time for carrying out works within the pond is early autumn, when most pond life breeding cycles are complete and before creatures start to hibernate in and around the pond.

Proposal 5. The Committee should seek professional advice with a view to undertaking a major maintenance project, probably in September 2022 to control and adjust the vegetation growing in and around the pond.

Proposal 6. The Committee should review the LWT proposed maintenance schedule and either adjust it or accept it and ensure that future Council budgets make sufficient provision (although I think expenditure on the Millennium Green has generally been well below budget in recent years)

4 The western part of the green (a second pond?)

There are several areas on the west side of the Green with surface water for much of the time and which, even in dry spells, remain marshy. Would it not add interest to the Green if one of these could be dug out to become a permanent pond? The pond could be readily available to dogs and could be left to develop its own ecology, or be assisted if required, and would become an attractive element of the Green that would benefit wildlife.

Unlike the main pond, it would not be a central feature of the Green and the water level could fluctuate more quickly and to a greater degree and would not need to be lined. The pond should be simply excavated by a contract digger to a maximum depth of 1m, gradually reducing to ground level.

If the Committee is minded to endorse this proposal, then this could also benefit from professional advice.

Proposal 7. A 'boggy' area at the west of the Green should be converted to be an informal pond

5 Wildflower planting/meadow

The area of pollinator planting near to the car park entrance has been very attractive for the last two years and much appreciated by users of the Green. It is not, however, wildflower planting and is not self-sustainable but needs to be ploughed in and freshly seeded each year. It could not, realistically, be extended over a much larger area of the Green. (It is also, in my view, a foreign element in the generally more subdued and natural colours of the Green - I accept that I might be in a minority of one).

In Chorley, there is the splendid example of Lower Burgh Meadow where a large area of reclaimed land has been converted to be an attractive and interesting (albeit less spectacular than the pollinator planting) area of truly native self-perpetuating wild flowers – although it requires maintenance to keep it in good condition. With suitable guidance and management, the Millennium Green could give much of its western half over to a project of this nature, adding interest and increasing the attractions of the Green, for its users and for wildlife.

Proposal 8. If the Committee is interested in developing a wildflower meadow in the western part of the Green then professional advice should be sought

6 Ash Die Back

There are a number of ash trees on the Green. I think they are all suffering from Ash Die Back. Some have already died and the rest are likely to die in the next few years. I am aware of locations locally where trees suffering from die back on publicly accessible land have been felled and removed. The Chorley BC Tree Officer may be able to advise (they are the primary leaseholders on the Green).

7 The Coffee Lady.

Throughout the summer a lady has been selling good coffee and very nice confectionary from a modified "tricycle" on the Green. I presume that she has permission from the Parish Council although I am not aware of the matter coming before the Council or one of its committees.

I consider that she provides a very welcome asset to the Green that only adds to enjoyment of it and I hope that she can continue to do so as the weather worsens.