

# LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

July 2023

## Policy for use of the Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground (“the Ground”) was donated by the Countess of Warwick in 1930 to Little Easton Parish Council (“LEPC”) solely for the purpose of a *Playing Field*. In recognition of receiving the Ground LEPC was charged with the responsibility to support, maintain and improve the Ground at their own cost in perpetuity under the Open Spaces Act of 1906.

The Ground consists of a cricket pitch and practice net, children’s playground, basket-ball hoop, Zip-wire and a football goal. Benches and picnic tables are also situated for public use.

The Ground is managed by LEPC. The abutting Memorial Hall and car park are managed by the Trustees of Little Easton Memorial Hall, a separate charitable trust.

### General Use

1. Residents of Little Easton Parish and surrounding areas are entitled to use the Ground free of charge and encumbrance for recreational purposes and general enjoyment provided they cause no hindrance or annoyance to neighbouring residences.
2. All areas of the grassed Ground are usable and crossable with the exception of the roped-off cricket pitch in the centre of the Ground.
3. The Ground is not widely accessible on days and times scheduled for a cricket match. These days and times are published in advance on the Ground’s Notice Board.
4. From time-to-time LEPC may sponsor an event (e.g. a children’s sports day) for which the Ground is then exclusively used for purposes of the event. In such cases a notice will be published in advance on the Ground’s Notice Board.
5. No fixed apparatus [e.g. tent(s), gazebo(s), barbecue(s), bouncy castle but not limited to these examples] where the Ground is likely to get damaged by fixings are permitted to be erected or used on the Ground without the prior permission of LEPC. Such apparatus is erected at the owner’s expense and liability. A valid insurance policy must be shown to LEPC before permission is granted. Damage to the Ground caused by fixed apparatus whether permissioned or not is chargeable to the users.
6. Excepting machinery used for cricket field maintenance and mobility scooters no motorised vehicles are allowed to be driven on the Ground without the prior permission of LEPC.
7. No organised groups are allowed to use the Ground without the prior permission of LEPC if in using the Ground such a group is paying a fee to the group organiser for a service. If permission is granted this will be on a non-exclusive use basis and a charge may be made. Appropriate public liability insurance must be shown to LEPC and dependent upon the nature of usage, LEPC may impose additional conditions.
8. All users of the Ground should note that the car park is private and controlled by the Trustees of Little Easton Memorial Hall who may demand a fee for usage. Available parking places are determined by whether the Memorial Hall is in use.

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9. Following use, the Ground must be left in a satisfactory state with all litter removed or placed in litter bins. A charge will be levied for any litter remaining or damage caused.

**Memorial Hall**

10. The Ground is separate from the Memorial Hall and hirers of the hall have no implied rights to use the Ground as part of their Memorial Hall hire contract.
11. Hirers of the Memorial Hall can request (via the Trustees of Little Easton Memorial Hall) permission to use the Ground which, if granted by LEPC, will be on a non-exclusive basis and a separate charge may be made. All relevant conditions under 'General Use' apply. Dependent upon the nature of usage additional conditions may also apply.

**Cricket Club**

12. LEPC have issued a licence to The Eastons Cricket Club to use the Ground for 15 annual matches to be mostly played on Sundays, with the exception of August Bank Holiday where one match is played over two days on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday. Additional club fixtures will be considered upon request with Memorial Hall bookings taking precedence.
13. A list of scheduled matches will be displayed at the start of each cricket season on the Ground's Notice Board.
14. LEPC strongly recommends that when a cricket match commences and until completion the Children's Playground, Basket-ball hoop, Zip-wire and Football Goal should not be used due to a danger of a cricket ball causing injury. However, LEPC have no ability to enforce this recommendation and reliance is placed upon parents and other adults applying common sense when a match is in progress.
15. Spectators are welcome to watch the matches but do so at their own risk.
16. Valid public liability insurance must be submitted by The Eastons Cricket Club to the Parish Clerk at the start of the cricket season covering all matches absolving LEPC from any liability for personal injury or property damage caused by the playing of cricket on the Ground.

**Playground**

17. Rules for use of the playground are displayed on the Playground fence.
18. The playground gate must must kept shut at all times.
19. No dogs are allowed in the playground.
20. All litter to be placed in the bin.
21. Uncertainty about the safety of any play equipment should be reported to the Parish Clerk using the contact details displayed on the Playground fence.

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**Withdrawal of Permission**

22. LEPC reserves the right to withdraw any permission(s) in their sole discretion.