

Great Bedwyn Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

Statement:

In the interests of child protection and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, the Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are safe and protected from harm when participating in any activity associated with the council.

Objective:

- Where possible facilities and activities are designed and maintained to limit risk
- Promote general health, welfare and development of children in the parish by being aware of child protection issues and responding as appropriate as a local government organisation.
- Create and develop procedures for recording and responding to accidents and complaints.
- Create and develop procedures for recording and responding to alleged or suspected incidences.
- The Parish Council does not directly provide care for children or vulnerable adults and so expects all those using its facilities to do so with the consent and supervision of a parent, carers or other responsible adult.

Aims:

The Chairman of the council and the Clerk are designated as the Safeguarding Officers. As such their responsibilities will include:

- Before any council organised event proceeds the participants are briefed accordingly where children or vulnerable adults will be attending.
- Ensuring that members of the council are aware of any risk they may face when carrying out certain duties.
- Whilst Councillors are unlikely to come into contact with children during their duties, to make them aware of any risks they may face.

- Any volunteers or members of staff who may come into contact with children during their duties will be DBS checked, and have 2 references taken up.
- Any decision on when a DBS check is required will be decided by the council, or the Clerk following consultation with the Chairman, following a risk assessment.
- All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the councils Safeguarding policy and are required to acknowledge that they will abide with the contents.
- Should Councillors come into prolonged contact with a child during the nature of their of their role. A list of guidelines will be provided to the Councillor by the Chairman and Clerk, highlighting all behaviours and procedures to be followed.

As a suggestion, the list will contain the following:

- A minimum of two adults present when supervising children.
 - Not to play physical contact games.
 - Adults to wear appropriate clothing at all times.
 - Ensure that accidents are recorded in an accident book.
 - Never do anything of a personal nature for a young person.
 - Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer.
 - If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and also referred to the Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.
 - Facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation.
 - Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.
 - In the event of a contractor, working directly for the Parish Council, being deemed to be working in any area where children or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.
-
- If an outside organisation is taking part in a Parish Council run event, they will be required to show their own Safeguarding policies and procedures before the event/activity begins.

Declaration:

Great Bedwyn Parish Council is committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from all forms of harm, whether that be physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect.

All members of the council will read the Safeguarding policy annually and be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are engaged in any council activity.

Policy to be adopted 11th November 2021

Review date: November 2022