

**Safeguarding Policy**

**Policy statement.**

In the interest of child protection and welfare and protection of vulnerable adults. Heybridge Parish Council is committee to ensuring children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone’s responsibility.

In this policy a child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989)

**Aims**

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Heybridge Parish Council should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults rise during their work.

**Policy Objective:**

* To ensure that where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are

designed and maintained to reduce the risk to children and vulnerable adults.

* To promote the general welfare, health and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government association.
* To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
* As the Parish Council does not provide care or supervision to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and necessary supervision of a parent, care or other responsible adult.

**Responsibilities and Procedures:**

The Clerk and Councillors will be responsible in:

* Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event with children and vulnerable persons, the Designated Safeguarding Lead briefs participants appropriately, (usually the Clerk)
* Ensuring that member are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
* Ensuring that whilst Council members are unlikely to be involved with children during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.
* Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council after consolation with the Clerk.
* All Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy.
* Councillors will adhere to:
  + 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
  + When supervising children, a minimum of tow adults much be present.
  + Keep records of any incidents or allegations a person may make to any council member or volunteer.
  + Refer cases of suspected abuse of allegation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead while will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Procedures (Maldon District Council and Essex County Council, are the Safeguarding Authority)
  + Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteer, 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.

Any organisation which may make contact with children or vulnerable adults shall be required to show proof of its own appropriate Safeguarding Policy before being allowed to participate in the use of any council owned facilities.

**Photography.**

All photography should be made in public where young people are involved. The child or young person should be happy with having their picture taken. The name of children or young people should not be used in photographs or video footage, unless with the express permission of the child or young person’s parent.

There may be occasions when photographs of groups of children are taken at public events, e.g., at the opening of a playground. Permission to use such images in the press, in village magazines, or on the website would not normally be expressly sought, as this is common practice.

**Declaration.**

Heybridge Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm, neglect including cyber bullying, sexting and peer on peer abuse.

All members of Heybridge Parish Council should read the Safeguarding Policy and should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.

Clerk 2023.