

FILLONGLEY PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy Statement

Fillongley Parish Council is committed to ensuring that 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.

Definitions

Children and young people:

Anyone under the age of 18 years

Vulnerable Adult:

Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services

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 organisation.
- As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

Expectations of behaviour

All users of Parish Council facilities, organisers of parish events and volunteers should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional.
- Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other groups using the Parish Council facilities.
- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chair of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk or parents/carers, as appropriate.

Councillors will adhere to the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:

- 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 of any incidents or allegations a person may make to any committee member or volunteer.

Procedures

- Ensure 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.
- Ensure that before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children and vulnerable persons they are interviewed and two references taken up.
- Decisions on whether any person should be DBS checked will be made by the Council or the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk following a risk assessment.
- 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.

Declaration

Fillongley 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 Fillongley Parish Council should read the Safeguarding Policy. Having read the Policy they should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities.

Confirmed

21 / 11 / 24
25 / 5 / 25