

GOSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH & SAFETY

FOOTPATHS (COUNTRYSIDE) & PUBLIC BENCHES RISK ASSESSMENT

Note: This risk assessment relates to footpaths designated on the Footpath Map.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
Personal Injury	Parish Councillors Volunteers Members of the public Employees of the Parish Council	<p>Footpaths & Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be inspected regularly with any hazards identified & reported to the Parish Council Where a hazard has been identified, with the use of signage & hazard tape, the hazard must be clearly marked to warn other footpath users The Parish Council shall ensure that the hazard is removed or mitigated as soon as possible Signage shall be used to warn footpath users of poor walking conditions – i.e. ice/heavy mud/ deep puddles. <p>Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be inspected regularly ensuring there are no hazards. Any hazards identified must be reported to the Parish Council. Where a hazard has been identified, with the use of signage & hazard tape, the hazard must be clearly marked to warn other footpath users. <p>Other hazards</p>	<p>In the event of serious mole activity, the Parish Council will seek guidance from a pest controller.</p> <p>The public shall be encouraged to report any diseased or damaged trees to the Parish Council.</p> <p>If cutting back is required, the parish council will ensure works are carried out to prevent the hazard. If necessary, signage will be erected to warn users of a hazard</p>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The footpaths will be regularly inspected to ensure overgrown hedges, bushes & other vegetation are not causing a hazard. <p>Fixed Furniture (e.g. Benches, bins etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All benches & equipment shall be inspected regularly to ensure that they are in good & safe condition & firmly fixed to the ground/wall. Any hazards relating to benches or bins etc. must be reported to the Parish Council. Where a hazard has been identified, with the use of signage & hazard tape, the hazard must be clearly marked to warn other users. The Parish Council shall get any damage remedied as soon as possible. Any damage to dog bins must be reported to the Parish Council <p>Posts/Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be inspected regularly ensuring there are no hazards. Any hazards identified must be reported to the Parish Council. Where a hazard has been identified, with the use of signage & hazard tape, the hazard must be clearly marked to warn other footpath users. The Parish Council shall get any damage remedied as soon as possible. 	<p>The Parish Council will undertake a quarterly check on all benches & report & action any hazards</p> <p>The Parish Council will report any hazards with regard to dog bins to Braintree District Council.</p> <p>If not owned by the Parish Council, the Parish Council shall contact the landowner to report the damage.</p>			
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		<p>Dog Fouling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council will help to educate the public through regular communications & signage <p>Drug Use or Anti-social behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any reported hazards including the discovery of drug use paraphernalia to the Parish Council must be passed on to the relevant authorities. Under no circumstances should a Parish Councillor, employee of the parish council or a member of the public be requested to remove any such hazard. On the reporting of these hazards, signage & hazard tape shall be used to warn other footpath users. <p>Pavements & 'hard' paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any hazard that is reported (e.g. potholes etc.) will be actioned appropriately. 	<p>The Parish Council will liaise with the landowner/responsible organisation to ensure repairs are carried out.</p>			
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Re-Adopted

Date 19th May 2025

Minute reference 25/078 Item W

SignedChairman

Review Date: May 2026