



# **Little Yeldham, Tilbury-Juxta- Clare & Ovington Parish Council**

## **Safeguarding Policy**

**Next Review: May 2025**

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The **Parish Council** purchased an area of land in School Road, Little Yeldham in 1974 for the sole purpose of providing a Recreation Ground for the use of villagers incorporating a children's play area and open space.
- 1.2 Councillors administer and arrange maintenance of the equipment on the Recreation Ground and whilst ensuring the area is well kept, and safe access is provided, residents of the village and surrounding area are free to use the facilities as and when they require.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- 2.2 This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding for those using the Recreation Ground.
- 2.3 The **Parish Council** commits to reviewing this policy annually.

## 3. Definitions

### 3.1 Safeguarding and Child and Adult Protection:

- Safeguarding is about embedding a culture and practices to ensure the protection of children, young adults, and adults at risk wherever possible;
- Child and adult protection is about responding to circumstances that arise.

### 3.2 Abuse:

- Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation, and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority;
- Abuse can be caused by those inflicting harm or by those who fail to act to prevent harm;
- Abuse can take several forms, including, but not limited to:
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Sexism and Racism
  - Bullying
  - Neglect or negligent treatment
  - Maltreatment
  - Financial (or material) abuse
  - Radicalisation or exploitation

### **3.3 Children and Young People:**

- Anyone under the age of 18 years.

### **3.4 Vulnerable Adult:**

- Anyone over 18 who is:
  - Unable to care for themselves;
  - Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation;
  - or
  - Is in need of community care services.

## **4. The Purpose of this Policy**

- 4.1** To protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who use the Recreation Ground.
- 4.2** To provide Councillors, Volunteers and Contractors with a principle that guides our approach to safeguarding and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults whilst using the Recreation Ground.

## **5. To Whom This Policy Applies**

- 5.1** Any individual or organisation working for or on behalf of the **Parish Council**, whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity: e.g. those contracted to do work.
- 5.2** Leaders of any organised activities, agreed by the **Parish Council**, on the Recreation Ground that may involve children, young people or vulnerable adults.

## **6. Promoting A Safe Environment**

- 6.1** In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults using the Recreation Ground, the **Parish Council** will:
- Provide safe play equipment and do regular safety assessments;
  - Display the appropriate safety signage as advised by RoSPA <https://www.rospa.com/play-safety/advice>;
  - Ensure that Councillors and leaders of activities on the Recreation Ground are aware of the **Parish Council's** safeguarding expectations;
  - Display on its village notice boards the safeguarding contacts for reporting concerns and for advice and help. This information will also be available on the **Parish Council** website.

## 7. Responsibilities and Expectations of Behaviour

- 7.1** The **Parish Council** does not supervise children, young people, or vulnerable adults at risk as part of their function and therefore Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks are not required. Should DBS checks become necessary due to an unusual situation where there is unsupervised access to children or adults at risk, they will be undertaken in compliance with the relevant legislation;
- 7.2** Councillors, Volunteers and Contractors working on our behalf have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young persons, and vulnerable adults and to keep them safe and we are committed to ensuring we practise in a way that protects them;
- 7.3** The **Parish Council** expects all users of the Recreation Ground to ensure that children are supervised by a parent or guardian and adults at risk are accompanied by a carer or responsible adult;
- 7.4** Any persons using the Recreation Ground for the purposes of running a Group or activity to provide specific services to children and/or adults at risk must have the appropriate policy and procedures in place, including DBS checks, in accordance with legislation. They must first seek Parish Council approval before proceeding with any such Group or activity on the Recreation Ground and all relevant documentation must be produced at the time of the request;
- 7.5** All users of the Recreation Ground and Contractors working on the Recreation Ground are expected to:
- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional;
  - Treat each other with respect and show consideration for other people using the **Parish Council** facility;
  - Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia, and bullying.
- 7.6** Any instances, concerns or allegations of children, young persons or vulnerable adults being at risk or subject to bad behaviour should be reported to the Chair of the **Parish Council**, the Parish Clerk or the parents/carers, as appropriate.

## 8. Incident Reporting Procedure

- 8.1 IF THERE IS ANY CONCERN OF IMMEDIATE DANGER OR BREACH OF SAFETY TO A CHILD, YOUNG PERSON OR VULNERABLE ADULT ON THE RECREATION GROUND, THE POLICE SHOULD BE CONTACTED IMMEDIATELY BY PHONING 999.**

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- 8.2** All concerns regarding the safety of children, young people or vulnerable adults or of bad behaviour on the Recreation Ground should be reported immediately to the Chair of the **Parish Council** [cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com) and to the Parish Clerk [clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com). The report will be logged and dealt with speedily and appropriately;
- 8.3** Dependent on the nature of the report, the **Parish Council** will contact the following for their help and assistance:
- **Children/Young People**
    - If there is immediate danger the Police will be phoned on **999**
    - **Essex Children & Families Hub** will be contacted on **0345 603 7627** (Out of hours and bank holidays emergency Duty Service **0345 606 1212**)
  - **Vulnerable Adults**
    - If there is immediate danger the Police will be phoned on **999**
    - **Essex Adult Social Care** will be contacted on **0345 603 7630** or Textphone **0345 758 5592** (Mon-Thurs 8.45am-5.00pm; Friday 8.45am – 4.30pm) Out of hours emergency Duty Service **0345 606 1212** or e-mail: [socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk](mailto:socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk)
- 8.4** As required, further Safeguarding information and help will be obtained from **Braintree District Council** on **01376 552 525**:
- **Safeguarding Leads:**
    - Cherie Root** – Corporate Director
    - Tracey Parry** – Community Safety Manager

## 9. The Parish Council Commitment

- 9.1** The **Parish Council** is committed to ensuring the safety of all users of its Recreation Ground and takes its responsibilities seriously.
- 9.2** The **Parish Council** is committed to working with other agencies, Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.
- 9.3** The **Parish Council** commits to reviewing this Safeguarding Policy annually in May and updating it as soon as possible after being notified of any future legislative/best practice changes.