

Safeguarding Policy

Cross Roads Parish Council

Policy Statement:

In the interests of child protection and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, Cross Roads Parish Council and any associated committees are 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.

Policy Objective:

- To ensure that where possible all events and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit 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.
- To develop procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.
- As the Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children and vulnerable adults during any organised events or activities it expects all children and vulnerable adults attending any events and activities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

Aims:

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Cross Roads Parish Council and any associated committees should any child protection issue or any issues with vulnerable adults arise during an event or activity.

Responsibilities & Procedures:

A Safeguarding Officer(s) will be appointed from within the Council and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event or activity where children or vulnerable persons may be in attendance, the Safeguarding Officer, briefs event officials appropriately.
- Ensuring that members 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.

- All new Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.
- 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.
 - Keeping records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer.
 - Ensure that photos or videos of individuals are not taken without written permission from parents/carers.

Becoming Aware of a Safeguarding Issue:

- All Councillors and volunteers (who are working with the Parish Council, for example, a Parish Council event) should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult.
- If an allegation is made against a Councillor or volunteer, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Safeguarding Officer and the Parish Clerk.
- If the allegation made concerns, the Safeguarding Officer/Parish Clerk will immediately inform the Chair of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council will follow LSCB procedures for managing allegations against staff/volunteers on the LSCB website. No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- All Councillors and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns over the attitude or actions of Councillors and volunteers.

What should be a cause for concern:

Councillors and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child. Abuse falls into four main categories:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

Declaration:

Cross Roads Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All members of Cross Roads Parish Council and associated committees 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 events and activities.

Policy Details / Version History

Date First Adopted: 17/09/2025 **Minuted:** 67/25

Document Status: Adopted

Review Period:

Version: **Disposal Period:**