

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION & VULNERABLE PERSON POLICY

Policy Statement

Rangeworthy Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable people 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 facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable people.
- 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 Rangeworthy Parish Council does not directly provide care or supervision services to children or vulnerable people, it expects all children and vulnerable people using its facilities to do so with the consent and necessary supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Rangeworthy Parish Council should any child protection issues arise during their work.

Responsibilities & Procedures

A Child Protection Officer will be appointed from within the Parish Council and his/her responsibilities will include –

- Ensuring that before any Parish Council organised event with children or vulnerable persons, the Child Protection Officer brief participants appropriately.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring that whilst Parish Council members are unlikely to be involved with children or vulnerable people during the performance of their duties, they are mindful of the risk they face.
- Ensuring 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 CRB checked will be made by the Parish Council or the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk following risk assessment.
- All new Parish Councillors are to be provided with a copy of the Child Protection & Vulnerable Person Policy and are required to acknowledge they will abide by it.

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- Parish 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 in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any Parish Councillor, Committee Member or volunteer. The incident book to be presented to the full Parish Council meeting following the organised event.

If there is a child abuse incident, it should be reported to the Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure and also referred to the Parish Council for further action as appropriate and future risk assessment.

Facilities offered by the Parish Council have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar organisation. Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, Councillors, employees, volunteers, 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 may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Child Protection Policy.

Declaration

Rangeworthy Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All members of Rangeworthy Parish Council should read the Parish Council’s Child Protection & Vulnerable Person 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.

This Policy will be reviewed annually or upon notification of legislative changes.

Date Policy Adopted: 7th September 2021

Minute Reference: 32.09.21

To be Reviewed: September 2023 or sooner if legislation dictates.