

Aston Clinton Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

Aston Clinton Parish Council fully supports the safeguarding of the well-being of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm while they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

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

2. 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 and vulnerable adults by being aware of child and vulnerable adult 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.

3. Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of the Parish Council and any co-opted members of committee should any child protection issue or any issue concerning the safeguarding of vulnerable adults arise during their work.

4. Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Officer

A named Safeguarding Officer will be appointed by the Council from amongst the councillors at the Annual Council Meeting and will be reviewed annually. Their responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that participants are briefed before any Parish Council organised event which is considered likely to involve children or vulnerable persons.
- Ensuring that Council 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.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with partner organisations, councillors, employees, volunteers, parents and carers.
- Before any volunteers or paid members of staff are recruited to work with children and vulnerable persons, ensuring that 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.)

5. Procedures

- All members of Aston Clinton Parish Council should be proactive in providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable people who are involved in Parish Council activities. To this end, all Councillors are provided with a copy of this Safeguarding Policy and are required to confirm they will abide by it.
- 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 use any Parish Council owned facilities.
- 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 present, then that contractor will be asked to provide a copy of its Safeguarding Policy.
- The Council and organisers of any event which uses any Parish Council owned premises, or any other event associated with the Parish Council will be instructed to ensure adherence with the 'List of Recommended Behaviour' namely:
 - At least two adults must be present when supervising children and numbers must follow the government guidelines.
 - Not to play physical contact games.
 - Adults to always wear appropriate clothing.
 - 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 Council member or volunteer.
 - Refer any cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the Parish Council's Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.
- The facilities offered by the Parish Council will be inspected on a regular.

6. Declaration

Aston Clinton Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and vulnerable adults.

All members of Aston Clinton 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.

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

Cllrs Signature to acknowledge Policy.

Date: