

Ruskington Parish Council



Health and Safety Policy Statement

Based on the Health and Safety Executive's Model Statement

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Adopted by Council on 12 November 2024

Minute Ref: 9.3, page 85-2024

For review in October 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 sets out the general duty of employers and states the main principle as 'it shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, the health, safety and welfare at work of all its employees.'

1.2 Ruskington Parish Council (RPC) recognises and accepts this responsibility, and for the health and safety of any other person who may be affected by its activities as far as is reasonably practical.

1.3 RPC also recognises that every accident, however slight, is a matter for concern and will actively promote health and safety at all times.

1.4 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 also sets out the duties of employees while at work.

1.5 Employees have a duty 'to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.'

1.6. Deliberate breaches of Council's Health and Safety procedures is an act of Misconduct. (As per staff handbook 15.6. Gross Misconduct, pg., 43).

2. SCOPE & RESPONSIBILITY OF POLICY

2.1 RPC will:

- Comply with the spirit as well as the letter of current health and safety legislation.
- Maintain safe and healthy working conditions for all employees.
- Maintain all property in safe condition.
- Remind all employees to take reasonable care for the safety and health of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts, to co-operate with maintenance of health and safety measures, and to report any known defect which could endanger the safety or health of themselves or any other person.

2.2 In addition to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, the RPC will comply with the subsidiary legislation set out at Annex A to this Policy.

2.3 RPC is responsible for the Council's Safety Policy. Responsibility for ensuring implementation rests with the Parish Clerk. This policy will be subject to annual review by the RPC's Human Resources Cttee, or more frequently, as required, such as following a H&S incident

3. RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Council will adopt a sensible approach to risk management designed to:

- Ensure staff and the public are properly protected.
- Ensure that risks that are created are managed responsibly.
- Ensure that precautions taken are appropriate to the perceived level of risk.
- Establish an audit trail of risk assessment records.

3.2 This risk management approach will:

- Demonstrate that all reasonable precautions have been taken to support the safety of any agreed activity.
- Give confidence to those that may come into contact with the activity – be they RPC employees, councillors, temporary volunteers, or members of the public - that all reasonable health and safety precautions have been to ensure their health and safety.
- Remove any unrealistic demands prior to agreeing an activity.

4. RISK ASSESSMENTS

4.1 Risk assessments will be carried out in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

4.2 A risk assessment will be a practical exercise examining what could cause harm to people, and putting in place controls to minimise the identified risks.

4.3 The following HSE-approved risk assessment process will be followed:

- Identify the hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- Record the findings and implement them
- Review the risk assessment and update if necessary

4.4 The RPC Clerk (supported by appointed competent H&S Advisors) will be responsible for the coordination of all routine and 'one-off' Risk Assessments – both internal and those carried-out by external agencies - (RoSPA, Fire Checks, PATs etc) and report the findings to Full Council. A full list of all areas of RPC responsibility is in Annex B to Policy.

4.5 A full record of all risk assessments will be kept in the Parish Office, including details of any remedial action taken.

4.6 A written record of any accidents, injuries or incidents will be retained in the Parish Office and referred to when completing any risk assessment.

5. INSURANCE

RPC will meet its legal obligations to insure against liability to their employees arising out of their employment under the provisions of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969.

**ANNEX A TO
RPC H&S POLICY
DATED NOV 2024**

APPLICABLE SECONDARY LEGISLATION

- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992
- The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
- The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- The Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 – Lone Workers

RPC H&S POLICY

DATED Nov 2024

SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Playing Field and Children's Play Areas

- RPC will diligently exercise its responsibilities with regard to the Health and Safety of all Staff, Contractors, temporary volunteers, members of the Public and 'users' of the facilities, particularly with regard to children.
- RPC has considered the potential impact of Ground Maintenance works and specific Policy Requirements are written into the Ground Maintenance Contract.
- Byelaws relating to the Protection of the Public whilst using the Playing Fields and Play Areas are prominently displayed.
- The risk of injury from debris, trees, damage, and vandalism is mitigated by continual inspection and maintenance.
- The risk to users resulting from defective or damaged equipment caused by wear-and-tear, poor maintenance or vandalism is mitigated by:
 - Weekly inspections by RPC's operatives.
 - Irregular inspections by RPC's Proper Officer and/or Councillors
 - Annual (May) 'in-house' Inspection by the RPC Recreation Committee
 - Annual (August) formal inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to include all Playing Field Goal Posts
 - Timely action on reports from the Public
- Subsequent reports from the above are passed for further comment or 'Action' to:
 - RPC Clerk – who will determine what immediate action may be required, especially RoSPA- generated advice/directions
 - Chair of the Parish Council
 - Chair and Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee, then if necessary
 - Full Council.
- If equipment is thought to be a potential hazard it is to be dismantled or taken out of use immediately.
- The RPC holds Public Liability Insurance Cover for all Playing Field and Play Areas.
- Playing Field 'User Groups' are informed of their responsibilities with regard to the proper use of space and equipment.

Pavilion

- Playing Field 'User Groups' who request to use the Pavilion facilities, agree to abide the Terms and Conditions of use.
- The condition, cleanliness and safety of the facilities is maintained by RPC. All reported problems are acted upon immediately by the RPC.
- RPC Public Liability Insurance covers these premises.

Churchyard

- Safety inspections of the All Saints' 'Closed Churchyard' are undertaken by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Wardens and the local Vicar, who are directly responsible under 'occupier's liability' for Headstone inspection and arranging repairs.
- The Parish Council retains a general 'Duty of Care' for the Churchyard and will report potential or identified hazard to the PCC.
- The RPC and PCC undertake an annual General Condition Survey.
- RPC operatives will regularly monitor the Churchyard and report to the RPC Clerk (for onward reporting to the PCC Wardens/Vicar) the potential 'Risks' from unstable headstones and monuments and/or overgrown trees, bushes, or other vegetation.

Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance

- The safety concerns for these areas are the same as those identified in the Churchyard: reporting requirements follow the same schedules and protocols.
- The Garden of Remembrance is inspected and maintained on a regular basis by RPC operatives.
- The RPC'S Public Liability Insurance Cover both of these areas.

Parish Office, other RPC Buildings and Equipment

- The RPC recognises and accepts its responsibility to maintain all buildings (including outbuildings) fixtures, fittings, machinery, electrical and gas services in a safe condition. Regular internal and external inspections are carried out and auditable records kept by the Parish Clerk. Areas where RPC personnel are conducting potentially hazardous activities, are suitably identified by signage or isolated by physical barriers as required.

Fire Precautions

- Firefighting equipment will be visually inspected at least weekly by staff and annually by a competent person or external contractor.
- Appropriate 'Fire Exit,' 'Evacuation Arrows' and 'Action in event of Fire' signs will be displayed as required by the Fire Safety Authority.
- All RPC operatives are 'briefed' on all Fire precautions as part of their Induction Training, and periodically as required.

Accident Reporting

- All accidents will be reported in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (1995) and recorded in the BI 150 (Accident Book).

First Aid.

- An adequate supply of first aid equipment will be kept in the First Aid Box located in the RPC Office.
- Contents are to be checked at least weekly and inspection records/actions kept. Staff are encouraged to take First Aid Courses.

Personal Protective Clothing (PPE)

- When determined necessary after a suitable Risk Assessment, the RPC will issue appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing to ensure the safety of its operatives.
- The Wearing of PPE is mandatory; it is for 'Personal' use so must not be shared by other operatives.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

- Substances defined as Toxic, Harmful, Corrosive or Irritant will be subject to Risk assessments in accordance with manufacturers data sheets. Where a variety of products are available, RPC will use the least hazardous variant. All substances will be securely stored in accordance with current regulations and recorded in a COSHH Register. A COSHH 'Spillage Kit' will be kept in the COSHH Store. Hazard Warning Signs will be prominently displayed both externally on the COSHH Store door, and affixed to individual substance containers. Creating a 'cocktail' of different substances is strictly forbidden as is decanting substances into unmarked containers. Any accidents must be reported to the Parish Clerk immediately.

Confirmation that this H&S policy is understood, and the measures will be followed:
Please note: If you do not understand any part of this policy please speak to the Clerk of Council.

Name	Signature	Date