



Bothenhampton & Walditch

Parish Council since 1886

BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL

PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION POLICY

Adopted 9th June 2020

Parish Council Chairman

INTRODUCTION

Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council will comply with all the appropriate British Standards to minimise the risk of accidents and help provide a safe environment for children to enjoy play.

The Parish Council has three Play Areas:

John Holt Play Area – Bothenhampton
John Gundry Play Area – Walditch
Lower Walditch Play Area and Orchard – Walditch

The Council have engaged an Independent Play Area Inspector who will carry out regular quarterly inspections and undertake any minor remedial works during the course of the inspection. The Play Area Inspector will produce a quarterly report for each play area and each report will contain detailed findings.

PROCEDURE

- The Independent Play Area Inspector will carry out a risk assessment, as recommended by HSE, and will indicate any control measures the Parish Council should undertake in order to comply with its legal obligations under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. and the general duties of The Management of Health & Safety Regulations 1999.
- The Independent Play Area Inspector will examine the playground, its setting and operation to determine any issues of civil liability under the laws of Tort and with reference to The Occupiers Liability Act 1954.
- The Independent Play Area Inspector will carry out an examination of compliance with any relevant standards where appropriate.
- The Independent Play Area Inspector will provide a description of any issues requiring attention, and a proposed course of action including timescales and materials required to undertake the works. Where necessary this will include a description of why this is a problem and the impact on users and operators.
- The reports provided by the Independent Play Area Inspector will include a description of; and a price for, the supply only of any parts required to carry out more substantive works to allow the Parish Council the option of undertaking the work themselves. The reports will indicate the urgency of the works and the severity of the issue.

COMPLIANCE

The inspections carried out by the Independent Play Area Inspector will focus on the Parish Council's duty to ensure safety and will provide assurances on whether the Parish Council is meeting its legal requirements.

This approach means that no recommended action from the Inspector's report remains outstanding for more than three months without it being examined again and that the period since the safety of the Parish Council's playgrounds has been verified by a competent person never exceeds three months. This meets the Parish Council's legal requirements and will be welcomed by its insurers.

CONCLUSION

The approach to immediate and regular maintenance ensures continuing safe operation of the equipment in the Parish Council's play areas and reduces wear and tear. It protects the Parish Council's investment and, by early intervention, can help prevent the development of significant and costly faults.