Kingston St Mary Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

INTRODUCTION

In the interests of protecting children and young people and the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults, Kingston St Mary Parish Council recognises that safeguarding these members of society is everyone's responsibility.

Kingston St Mary Parish Council provides the following activities:

- Village Parties to celebrate National Events;
- General day to day running of the Parish including Parish Meetings

As the Parish Council does not directly provide services or support for children, young people and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

OBJECTIVES

Kingston St Mary Parish Council is 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 by:

- ensuring where possible that all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and vulnerable adults;
- promoting 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;
- developing procedures in recording and responding to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

AIMS

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

RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES

Kingston St Mary Parish Council will designate a Safeguarding Officer from within the Parish Council, whose responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that participants are appropriately briefed before any Parish Council organised event with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that members are aware of the risk they may face in certain circumstances whilst carrying out their duties.
- Ensuring, that whilst members are unlikely to be involved with children 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 DBS checked will be made by the Parish Council or the Clerk, after consultation with the Chairman, following a risk assessment.
- 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.
- Keep records in an incident book of any allegations a young person may make to any committee member or volunteer.
- If there is a child abuse incident it should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring the matter is handled in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Partnership procedures 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 or vulnerable adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide their Safeguarding Policy.

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 participate in the use of any Parish Council owned facilities.

If you are worried about a child, a young person under the age of 18, or a vulnerable adult you should contact Somerset County Council on 0300 123 2224.

If you or the person you are concerned about is in danger and immediate action is required, you should ring the emergency services on 999.

DECLARATION

Kingston St Mary Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect.

All members of Kingston St Mary 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 at the Annual Council meeting in May each year.