

Aldbury Parish Council

Safeguarding Policy

In the interests of Child protection and the welfare and protection of Vulnerable Adults, Aldbury 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.

AIMS

The aim of this policy is to guide members of Aldbury Parish Council in how the Council intends to act in relation to the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults and how they individually should respond should they become aware of any Child protection or Adult Safeguarding issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The children's play areas, the recreational ground and the allotments and orchard are the responsibility of Aldbury Parish Council.

Aldbury Parish Council has no specific person, either Councillors or staff members who are involved in the care of children or adults at the facilities but will ensure that whether or not a concern arises, this policy is adhered to.

Aldbury Parish Council expects all Children and Vulnerable Adults using its facilities will do so with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

The attendance of Children and Vulnerable Adults at any event organised by Aldbury Parish Council should be with the consent and the necessary supervision of a parent, carer or other responsible adult.

The Parish Clerk will perform the functions of the Safeguarding Officer and their responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring facilities offered by the Parish Council such as play equipment have been inspected on a regular basis and at least annually by a representative of RoSPA or a similar registered organisation.
- Decisions on whether any person working on behalf of the Council should be DBS checked will be made by the Chairman after consultation with the Safeguarding Officer following a risk assessment of the role.
- In the event of a contractor working directly for the Parish Council being deemed by the Safeguarding Officer to be working in any area where Children or Vulnerable Adults may be at risk, then that contractor will be asked to provide a copy of their Safeguarding Policy for inspection and retention. If such a policy is found to be inadequate or absent, Aldbury Parish Council reserve the right to refuse access to the premises or permission to work for the Council.
- Any third party organisation or user will be expected to abide by this policy and provide a copy of their own safeguarding policy if appropriate upon first use and then annually thereafter.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS

Any concerns regarding the safety of children or vulnerable adults using Parish Council facilities should be reported immediately to:

For Child Protection: Hertfordshire County Council Child Services 0300 123 4043 anytime or 999 if immediate danger or if a crime is being committed.

For Adult Safeguarding: Hertfordshire County Council Adult Social Services 0300 1234 4042 anytime or 999 if immediate danger or if a crime is being committed.

The Safeguarding Officer should subsequently be informed of any reported incident.

DEFINITIONS

Child: Any person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable Adult: A person over the age of 18 who may be unable to take care of themselves and protect themselves from harm or exploitation because they are physically disabled, have mental health problems, learning difficulties or are frail, elderly or ill.

COMMITMENT

This policy is fully supported by all Members of the council.

The Policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure it remains commensurate with the law and best practice.

Dated: 20 February 2020

Reviewed and adopted: February 2024