**GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Policy Statement**

In the interests of child protection and the welfare and protection of adults at risk, Great Paxton Parish Council is committed to ensuring that children and adults at risk are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Parish Council.

**Policy Objectives**

To ensure that all facilities and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to limit risk to children and adults.

To promote 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.

To actively respond swiftly and appropriately to accidents and complaints and to alleged or suspected incidents of abuse and neglect.

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

**General Principles**

This policy applies to Councillors and the Clerk working on behalf of Great Paxton Parish Council. The policy and good practice will be reviewed annually at the Annual Council meeting or at such time when new legislation impacts on existing policy. All new Councillors will be provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy. This policy will guide Members of Great Paxton Parish Council should any child protection issue or any issues associated with adults at risk arise during their work. The Council will appoint a named person responsible for this policy. That person currently is the Parish Clerk & responsible Financial Officer – Christine Brandon.

**The Policy in Practice**

Great Paxton Parish Council will seek to safeguard children and young people. In practice the Parish Council will -

* Create a healthy and safe environment for all activities on Council land, where children and adults at risk feel safe and secure;
* Put in place appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and adults at risk and to protect them from abuse;
* Where possible, work in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies to promote the welfare of children and adults at risk;
* Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and adults at risk and ensure that they are listened to;
* Ensure that any allegations and suspicions made are investigated appropriately and acted upon promptly;
* Ensure that Councillors and the Clerk are well informed and maintain high standards of conduct and observe best practice;
* Ensure that all new councillors/employees/volunteers who work with, or meet, children and adults at risk in the course of their parish council activities are subject to checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service

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 **IMPORTANT** **NOTES:**

 Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered to be a child.

The Care Act (2014) defines safeguarding as "protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect." Adult safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

* has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
* is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse and neglect; and
* as a result of their care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse and neglect.

First Adopted: January 2017

Last reviewed: May 2018