

## PORTSKEWETT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### PLAY AREA AND RECREATIONAL GROUND RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated and controlled enabling the Community Council to avoid, or minimise, damaging actions or events. The nature of a playground is to provide a stimulating and challenging environment to the users, which carries an inherent risk. The Community Council's objective is to provide challenging play whilst managing the level of risk.

There is no specific legislation on play safety, however the following legislation is applicable:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984
- Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

The Health and Safety Executive, British Standards Institution and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport recommend the following inspection regime:

- a daily or weekly visual inspection
- a monthly or quarterly operational inspection
- an annual independent expert inspection for play equipment and surfaces

The following Industry Standards and Guidance are not a legal requirement but are considered to be good working practice:

- BS EN 1176 - Playground Equipment and Surfacing - this is the European Standard which provides advice on design layout and the inspection of playground equipment. The guidance recommends that if the equipment is not safe public access should be prevented, that the equipment must be inspected and maintained, and that inspection records should be retained for 21 years.
- BS EN 1263-1:2014 - provides guidance on the safety requirements for netting.

The Community Council is responsible for The Quest Play Area which is located behind 39 Main Road, Portskewett. Visual inspections of the play equipment and play area are carried out weekly, and an operational inspection of the play equipment is carried out quarterly. These inspections are conducted by the Village Caretaker who has undertaken Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) approved training in playground inspections. The annual inspection is carried out by a RoSPA approved company.

The Community Council has a duty to ensure the playground is safe to use. This is governed by the test of "reasonable practicability" i.e. it is reasonable to correct a major defect, however it is unreasonable to use considerable resources to correct minor faults which carry negligible risk, and may lead to very minor injury.

This document has been produced to enable the Community Council to assess the risks associated with use of the playground and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. In conducting this exercise the following steps were taken:

- Identify the areas to be reviewed
- Identify what the risks might be
- Evaluate the management and control of the risks and record all findings
- Review, assess and revise if required

**PORTSKEWETT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - PLAY AREA AND RECREATIONAL GROUND RISK ASSESSMENT**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Risk(s) identified</b>	<b>H/M/L</b>	<b>Management/Control of Risk</b>	<b>Review/Assess/Revise</b>
Financial	Inadequate insurance cover	M	Ensure the Council's insurance policy covers all relevant risks Ensure the Council's insurer is aware of the play area facility Ensure adequate cover is provided in the policy	Cover to be reviewed annually and revised if required
	Inadequate budget provision	L	Ensure all service requirements are detailed in the budget process	Review annually
	Legal liability arising from asset ownership	L		
Administration and Legal	Records not maintained and updated	L	Ensure that proper records of any complaints or injuries are kept and maintained by the clerk	Review annually
Physical	Personal injury whilst using play equipment	L	Public use the play area at their own risk Weekly visual inspection of equipment and play area by Village Caretaker Quarterly operational inspection of equipment and play area by Village Caretaker Annual inspection and report by RoSPA approved external company Maintain records of all inspections and maintenance Damaged equipment to be taped off and "out of use" signage installed until repair or replacement has been carried out	
	Injury arising from an accident	L	Accident Book to be maintained specifically for the purpose of reported accidents Site inspected weekly and cleared of litter and fly tipping	
	General Health and Safety	L	Site inspected weekly for any dangerous or foul matter i.e. glass, needles etc which are safely removed Litter bin and dog waste bin provided for public to use Maintain records of all inspections	
Environmental	Vandalism	L	Public use the play area at their own risk The site is in view of housing, so vandals could be noticed	
Dog Fouling	Infection/ill health	L	Dog waste bin provided for public to use. Contractor engaged to empty bin weekly	
Vegetation	Poison/injury	L	Site inspected weekly. Hazardous plants reported and removed	
Security	Personal injury or abduction	L	Public use the play area at their own risk Responsible adult required to accompany young children The site is in view of housing, so strangers would be noticed	

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Entrance	Personal injury	L	Entrance to play area is open Adjacent seven bar gate kept locked	
	Entrapment	L	Rails on seven bar gate meet required standards Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Injury to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Signage	Personal injury	L	Signage inspected weekly for signs of damage and wear and tear	
Site	Personal injury	L	Site inspected weekly for hazards, any found are reported right away and dealt with Surfaces are inspected weekly, any issues found are reported right away and dealt with Contractor engaged to cut grass and strim around equipment. Contractor required to have their own insurance and risk assessment Signage at entrance state terms of use - No smoking, no BBQ, no dogs in play equipment area and no dog fouling.	
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Fencing	Personal injury	L	Fencing inspected weekly for signs of damage and wear and tear Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Trees	Personal injury	L	Trees inspected weekly for signs of damage Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Contractor engaged to carry out tree surveys every two years	
Litter Bin	Personal injury	L	Litter bin inspected weekly for signs of damage and wear and tear Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Litter bin emptied weekly	
Dog Waste Bin	Personal injury	L	Dog waste bin, located outside the area, inspected weekly for signs of damage and wear and tear, any issues found are reported straight away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Signage at entrance prohibiting dogs from play area and prohibiting dog fouling	

Contractor engaged to empty bin weekly

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Risk(s) identified</b>	<b>H/M/L</b>	<b>Management/Control of Risk</b>	<b>Review/Assess/Revise</b>
Seating	Personal injury  Risk to health  Risk to third party, property or individuals	L  L  L	Benches are inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with  Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
Picnic tables	Personal injury  Risk to health  Risk to third party, property or individuals	L  L  L	Picnic tables are inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with  Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
Goal Posts	Personal injury	L	Goal posts are inspected weekly for damage and wear and tear Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
Carousel - flush	Personal injury  Risk to health  Risk to third party, property or individuals  Entrapment	L  L  L  L	Carousel and surface are inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with  Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected  Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Multiplay	Personal injury  Risk to health  Risk to third party  Entrapment	L  L  L  L	Multiplay inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with  Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected  Responsible adult required to accompany young children  Responsible adult required to accompany young children	

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Rocker - seat	Personal injury	L	Rocker seat inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Rocker - sweeping seesaw	Personal injury	L	Rocker sweeping seesaw inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Slide	Personal injury	L	Slide inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Swing - junior - 1 bay 2 seat	Personal injury	M	Swing inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Swing - pod	Personal injury	M	Swing inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	

	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
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Swing - toddler - 1 arch bay 1 seat A	Personal injury	L	Swing inspected weekly for damage, wear and tear and bird fouling Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Swing - toddler - 1 arch bay 1 seat B	Personal injury	L	Swing inspected weekly for damage and wear and tear Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
	Entrapment	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	
Cableway	Personal injury	M	Cableway inspected weekly for damage and wear and tear Any issues found are reported right away and dealt with	
	Risk to health	L	Bird fouling removed and equipment disinfected	
	Risk to third party	L	Responsible adult required to accompany young children	

**APPROVED AT THE MEETING OF PORTSKEWETT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 20th MAY 2026**