Itchen Valley Parish Council

Serving the Communities of Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas & Martyr Worthy

Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

Itchen Valley Parish Council is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and adults at risk. Although the Council's activities involve very limited direct contact with these groups, we recognise our responsibility to respond appropriately if safeguarding concerns arise.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- The Parish Council's employee.
- Parish councillors when acting on behalf of the Council.
- Volunteers carrying out Council activities.

Our Commitment

The Parish Council will:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Take any safeguarding concerns seriously.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to concerns or disclosures.
- Cooperate with statutory agencies where necessary.
- Review this policy regularly.

Council Activities

The Parish Council does not provide services specifically for children or adults at risk and does not normally undertake activities involving unsupervised contact with them.

Where Council events are open to the public:

- Parents, carers, or responsible adults remain responsible for supervising children in their care.
- The Council will take reasonable steps to provide a safe environment.

Reporting a Concern

If anyone working on behalf of the Council becomes aware of a safeguarding concern, they should:

1. Remain calm and listen carefully.

2. Avoid asking leading questions or promising confidentiality.
3. Record the facts as soon as possible.
4. Report the concern immediately to the Parish Clerk or, if the concern relates to the Clerk, to the Chair of the Parish Council.
5. If a person is in immediate danger, contact the emergency services by calling 999.

Where appropriate, concerns should be referred to the relevant local authority safeguarding team or the police.

Recruitment

Given the Council's limited role, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are not normally required for councillors or the employee. If the nature of any role changes and involves regulated activity, the Council will review whether DBS checks are necessary.

Confidentiality

Information relating to safeguarding concerns will be handled sensitively and shared only with those who need to know or where required by law.

Training

The Parish Clerk and councillors should have a basic awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and know how to report concerns. Formal safeguarding training will be considered where appropriate to the Council's activities.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if legislation, guidance, or the Council's activities change.

Adopted by Full Council:

Minute Number: FCM

Signed by Chairman: _____