



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Health and Safety Policy for all Employees (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)

Policy effective from: April 2023

Next review due May 2025

The Council recognises its responsibility for the health and safety of its employees and is committed to pursue a policy which ensures so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety and welfare of its employees.

The commitment exists at all levels of the organisation.

The Council notes and accepts its duty as an employer to take all practical and reasonable steps to:

- Safeguard, health, safety, and welfare at work
- Provide safe systems of work.
- Provide a safe and healthy working environment.
- Provide information and training in safe practices.
- Have regard for the health and safety of others who may be affected by the activities of the Council e.g. self-employed people, contractors, other users of premises, members of the public

The Council will have regard to health and safety legislation approved Codes of Practice. Guidance Notes and other relevant information issued by the Health and Safety Executive. The Council will review the Policy as is necessary and appropriate and will bring any amendments to the attention of the employees. The ultimate responsibility for health and safety rests with the Members of the Parish Council. Day to day responsibility for implementation is delegated to the Clerk. However, all employees have responsibility for health and safety matters during their day-to-day duties.

1. Supervisors/Line Managers must ensure information and instruction is cascaded down to the employees for whom they are responsible and to monitor that they carry out their work duties in a safe manner. Any health and safety issues that cannot be addressed adequately should be referred to the Chairman of the Parish Council or if he/she is unavailable to the vice chairman advice will be sought if considered necessary.
2. All employees have a duty to:
 - a. Take reasonable care to avoid injury to themselves or other employees, contractors, public etc. by their actions or inactions cooperate to meet statutory requirements.

- b. To cooperate to meet statutory requirements.
- c. Not to interfere with or misuse anything provided to protect safety.
- d. To obey safety rules.
- e. To familiarise themselves and ask for advice (where considered necessary) in relation to health and safety instructions.
- f. To report all accidents and incidents immediately to the clerk and to the council or as soon as is reasonably practicable, and to assist with the investigation of such.

3. The employee will be mindful of detailed guidance, instruction and training given for their health, safety and general wellbeing as follows:

a. To take reasonable care to avoid injury to themselves or others (employees. Contractors, public etc.)

- b. To cooperate to meet statutory requirements.
- c. Not to interfere with or misuse anything provided to protect safety.
- d. To obey safety rules.
- e. To familiarise themselves with health and safety instructions.

To report all accidents and incident and to assist with the investigation of such.

- 4. The Parish Clerk and/or other supervisors may from time to time carry out checks/ audits to ensure that employees are working safely. Workplaces and equipment will also be subjected to regular health and safety checks.
- 5. Hazards and defects should be reported to the Clerk/Assistant Clerks immediately. If reports are made verbally, they should be followed up by a written report confirming the nature of the problem, its severity, and any recommendation for action.
- 6. The Council will engage the services of specialists as necessary to advise or carry out tasks if it is unable to do so itself.
- 7. The Council will make such reasonable resources available as are required to ensure health and safety at work.
- 8. Good communication is vital to the success of health and safety arrangements and all employees must make this an intrinsic part of their day to day activities to achieve to good levels of health and safety.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored periodically by the council to judge its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with changes in the law.

This is a non-contractual procedure which will be reviewed from time to time.

Date of policy: April 2023

Date of meeting: 06th April 2023

Policy version reference: v1.0

Supersedes: N/A – New Policy

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Date for next review: May 2025