

Aldingham Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment 17 July, 2020

Risk Assessment

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. It is made very clear that “Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law”. On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of the play areas at Scales & Baycliff.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	Playground Inspections have just taken place. Actions required were all low risk and have been either carried out or are being monitored as per the report. Weekly visual inspections take place.	Satisfied
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit number of users at any one time• Booking system• Advisory signage• Create waiting areas with barriers	Signage advising maintain social distancing. Some equipment taken out of service so correct distance observed. (see at end of risk assessment) Some picnic tables also taken out of service. Waiting areas are not appropriate for the size and layout of the play area.	Satisfied and will be monitored periodically.

<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>It is not possible to clean the equipment frequently due to size and nature of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Signage advises of this and recommends users clean equipment before and after use and make use of hand sanitisers provided.</p>	<p>Risk is moderate but mitigated by signage/ hand sanitisers.</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly).</p>	<p>Face coverings are not mandatory in open areas and is not appropriate for young children.</p> <p>Signage gives guidance on social distancing.</p>	<p>Not necessary.</p>
<p>Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents</p>	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area 	<p>Signage gives guidance for parents and guardians.</p> <p>Food and drink not permitted.</p> <p>Personal PPE to be taken home by users.</p> <p>Any litter bin emptying to be done safely. To be reviewed to arrange a District Council bin emptying.</p>	<p>Satisfied by signage.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is banned parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided. 		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Signage/guidance provided for parents and guardians.	Satisfied by signage
Keeping Volunteers Safe	Consider the risks volunteers may be exposed to	Volunteers aware of risks. Parish Steward/any volunteers to wear appropriate PPE to carry out any inspections and fortnightly clean.	Satisfied

Conclusions:

That the play areas can re-open with visual and written signage to observe government guidelines.

& Hand sanitisers provided at entrance/exits.

This will be kept under regular review to reflect government guidelines and monitoring.

Resolution made at Aldingham Parish Council meeting (via zoom meetings) on 16.7.2020

Measures taken at Scales play area:

One child swing removed (of a pair)

One larger swing removed (of a pair)

One picnic table taped up with red & white tape

One 9 foot bench taped up

One 7 foot bench taped up. (For social distancing)

A sanitising unit to be placed at the entrance/exit.

Measures taken at Baycliff play area

One of each pair of swings removed.

Picnic tables removed.

Hand sanitisers being installed.

Remaining 2 benches to be taped off to say "not in use"