



## **Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Safeguarding Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This policy outlines practices that will promote the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults using Hemingford Abbots Parish Council facilities.
- 1.2 This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of Hemingford Abbots Parish Council whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.
- 1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly.

### **2. Definitions**

- 2.1 Children and young people: anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 2.2 Vulnerable adult: anyone over 18 who is unable to care for themselves; unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation; or may need community care services.

### **3. Promoting a safe environment**

- 3.1 In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Parish Council will promote a safeguarding culture in its activity areas by
  - providing safe facilities and undertaking regular safety assessments;
  - ensuring that employees and councillors are aware of safeguarding expectations;
  - making relevant contact details available to employees, councillors and on notice boards
- 3.2 Whilst Employees, councillors and volunteers have a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults they are not responsible for deciding whether abuse is taking place. Any concerns will be passed on to the relevant authorities. as soon as possible.

### **4. Allegations against staff and volunteers**

- 4.1 All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child or vulnerable adult. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in view of other adults.

- 4.2 No attempt should be made to investigate or act on any allegation before consultation with the appropriate authority at Cambridgeshire County Council

Telephone: 0345 045 5203 (8-6pm Monday to Friday) 01733 234 724 (out of hours)

Email: [referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

In an emergency– for example when someone is seriously injured or a life is at risk - call 999.

### **5. Whistleblowing**

- 5.1 The Parish Council recognises that children or vulnerable adults cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff or volunteers fail to do so.
- 5.2 All staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from the Safeguarding Teams at Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **6. What should be a cause for concern**

- 6.1 Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any behaviour, action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or vulnerable adult.

6.2 Abuse falls into five main categories:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- neglect

6.3 All staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that there are many other forms of abuse.

## **7. Training**

7.1 Ideally, staff and volunteers who engage with children or vulnerable adults will have accessed appropriate training.