

Risk Assessment of playground and brook maintenance

Date of assessment: 04/10/2017

Assessors: Jason Jones (Qualified HSE Professional), Reviewed and approved by Andrew Martin (Parish Council Clerk)

Description of activities identified

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| <p>Volunteer autumn cleaning</p> <p>Painting play equipment and benches</p> <p>Control of vegetation around boundaries</p> <p>Control of vegetation in brook and sheep wash</p> <p>Litter picking and general tidying</p> |
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| Hazards and risks | Likelihood (Max 3) | Severity (Max 3) | Risk (LxS) (Max 9=3x3) | Controls |
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| <p>Painting: Risk of paint splashes</p> <p>Use of paint brushes - Risk of splashes to the eyes, paint on peoples hands and paint on clothing.</p> <p>Products used:</p> <p>Benches - Ronseal quick drying woodstain - low VOC</p> <p>Play equipment - Hammerite Direct to rust metal paint - high VOC</p> <p>Hammerite brush cleaner and thinners - very high VOC</p> <p>Application outside by brush means there are no significant chemical exposure risks.</p> <p>The products can be a skin irritant and thorough washing of yourself and any contaminated clothes is therefore required.</p> | 3 | 1 | 3 | <p># Volunteers should wear glasses or safety glasses to prevent splashes to their eyes. Stain contact with your eyes can be harmful.</p> <p>#Gloves will be made available and should be worn to prevent skin irritation. People should wear work clothes where splashes of paint and staining will not be an issue.</p> <p>These clothes should be washed after the event to avoid skin irritation.</p> <p>Instructions on the product tins should be followed.</p> <p>The council do not accept liability for any clothing damage resulting from painting.</p> |
| <p>General tidying : Manual handling risks : Risks include back strains</p> <p>There a number of tidying jobs which may require lifting and moving heavy items.</p> | 2 | 2 | 4 | <p># Volunteers manually handling heavy items should be physically capable. This is an assessment that each volunteer should make about themselves.</p> <p># Volunteers must 'ask for help' wherever necessary.</p> <p># Gloves and other protection must also be worn.</p> |
| <p>Removal of vegetation : Manual handling of equipment and waste : Risks include back strains and contact with equipment used to remove debris from the site.</p> <p>The job moving the cut debris into the tippers can be heavy work and should only be completed by those who are physically capable. The work should also be shared amongst as many people as possible to reduce the risk of injury and spread the effort.</p> | 2 | 2 | 4 | <p># Volunteers manually handling grass, brambles and debris should be physically capable. This is an assessment that each volunteer should make about themselves.</p> <p># Volunteers must 'ask for help' where ever necessary.</p> <p># Gloves and other protection must also be worn.</p> <p># Take care when working around tippers and other vehicles, see separate note on tippers and dumpsters.</p> <p># Heavier duty gloves (cut resistant) should be considered when handling brambles or sharp objects</p> |
| <p>Road traffic : Risk of road traffic accidents</p> <p>Work may take place at boundaries adjacent to roads.</p> <p>With so many helpers (which will inevitably involve some younger children), we will need to look at measures of traffic calming and warning drivers and cyclists of the presence of people, in particular younger children.</p> | 3 | 2 | 6 | <p># Traffic calming measures need to be implemented near to the sites where activities are taking place. This may include cones, signs and a notice on the blog to advise people to slow down and "strategic parking".</p> |

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| <p>Tipper and dumpsters - Risk of people being run over, risk of contact injuries To help clear away the debris we may use the tippers and dumpsters supplied by local people. It is vital that these volunteers are skilled and trained to drive and operate these vehicles. It is key that children are managed around the on-site vehicles.</p> | 1 | 3 | 3 | <p># Volunteer helpers must be trained and skilled if they are to operate site vehicles such as dumpsters. # Volunteers (especially young children) should be cautious and aware of the dangers with the vehicles and should not go near to the vehicles when they are switched on, or being operated. See notes on 'General safety of children' below.</p> |
| <p>General use of domestic garden or other tools : risk of injury from the use of tools, or from others using tools Everyone using tools must ensure they are capable, able and if necessary trained / competent in the use of tools, especially in the use of power tools. People using power tools should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment for the specific tool. People using tools (and power tools) should ensure the safety of those around them.</p> | 2 | 2 | 4 | <p># Volunteers must only use tools that they are able and capable of using. # Those using power tools must be suitably skilled / competent and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. # Volunteers must take care of their own safety and that of fellow volunteers # Children should not use tools or equipment unless they have been trained and/or have been given permission. Children must take extra care when using any tools and be aware of others around them.</p> |
| <p>Use of strimmers or hedge cutters. Everyone using strimmers or hedge cutters must ensure that they capable and competent to use the equipment. People using strimmers or hedge cutters should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment for the task such as eye protection, safety footwear and gloves. People using strimmers or hedge cutters should ensure the safety of those around them. The most significant risk from strimmers or hedge cutters is flying debris and cuts when moving cut material</p> | 3 | 1 | 3 | <p># Volunteer helpers must be trained/competent and skilled if they are to operate strimmers. # Strimming requires significant effort and regular breaks and fluid intake is essential. Volunteers should also be aware of the physical strains using a strimmer and must therefore be physically capable. # Volunteers should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, especially eye protection, gloves and safety footwear. # Volunteers helping to clear away the cut materials, should not work near to the strimmers and should also wear gloves and eye protection to protect from flying debris.</p> |
| <p>General safety of children : risk of falling, inappropriate use of tools, risk of traffic or on-site vehicle incidents It is vital that children are involved in the clean-up activities and are engaged in community clean-up projects. Children (depending upon their age / abilities and maturities) will need varying levels of supervision. Where possible the parents of the children should be present to help supervise them. Volunteers can not be wholly held responsible for other peoples children. Children must wear appropriate protection from risks i.e. eye protection gloves, sturdy shoes or wellies. Children must also take care lifting heavy items. Children must ask for help and must also seek safety advice if they are unsure of how to complete a task or activity safely.</p> | 3 | 3 | 9 | <p># Parents of 'volunteer children' allow their children to attend the clean-up activities at their own risk. There will be <u>no formal</u> supervision of your children by the other volunteers. # Children <9years old <u>must</u> be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised at all times. # Children should not use tools or equipment unless they have been trained and/or have been given permission. Children must take extra care when using any tools and be aware of others around them. # All children should wear and other appropriate clothing for the activities they will be performing. # It is important that children look out for each other # The greatest risk for children will be the on-site traffic movement of tippers and dumpsters. It is known that children have fun may safely ride on these vehicles, if we are to avoid accidents it is vital that these children listen very carefully and follow the safety instructions of vehicle drivers. # Before commencing the clean-up children should receive a short safety briefing warning of any dangers and things to look out for.</p> |

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| <p>Litter picking - Risk of cuts, contamination and disease: Generally most litter will be food wrappers, drinks bottles (plastic or glass) and other forms of waste. It is possible that some of the litter will be sharp, may contain degrading food and mould, insects may be present and there is a possibility that animal faeces will be present around the areas. It is vital that each of the volunteers wears suitable strong gloves when handling litter and that any animal faeces is handled only by an adult using disposable gloves and/or a disposable plastic bag.</p> | 2 | 2 | 4 | <p># Volunteers must wear strong gloves for collecting / handling litter. # Volunteers should take extra care when handling glass or other sharp objects # Care must be taken handling animal faeces, in rare cases contact with faeces can cause toxocariasis (blindness) in young children, if ingested or contacted. Only adults must handle animal faeces and this must be done using disposable gloves or suitable plastic bags. # All volunteers should wash their hands thoroughly after handling litter.</p> |
| <p>Water - Slip, trip and fall into the brook or sheep wash: There is a high likelihood that someone will slip or fall into the water given the types of tasks that will be undertaken. The banks are less than 1m high and the water is very shallow. Given that people will not be working alone the risk of drowning is very low.</p> | 3 | 1 | 3 | <p># Volunteers will need to wear suitable footwear i.e. wellington boots with a good grip. # Volunteers will need to take care of themselves and if necessary ask for assistance climbing up and down the banks. # Volunteers should not work in isolation or alone.</p> |
| <p>Water - Other contamination and diseases: There are <u>no known</u> contaminants or diseases present within the stream that are likely to cause harm to human health.</p> | 2 | 1 | 2 | <p># Following the pond and bank clearance all volunteers should wash themselves thoroughly to remove dirt and stream water, especially before consuming food</p> |
| <p>Pneumonia, cold, overheating: It is likely that the water temperature will be cold during the activities. The outside temperature during the activity at the time assessment was completed is unknown. It could be that volunteers will witness both cold and hot times (i.e. hot once they have been actively helping).</p> | 2 | 1 | 2 | <p># It is important that people come dressed in appropriate clothes for the weather conditions on the day of the event. Correct footwear is essential. # If there are any extreme weather conditions i.e. thunderstorms, high winds, lightning strikes, etc. then the activity will be suspended or cancelled. # Volunteers should also consider bringing with them a flask with a hot drink. Sycamore to provide refreshments after the event</p> |