# RISK ASSESSMENT

# WARCOP PARISH COUNCIL Date: 16/05/2024

This risk assessment is intended to cover the activities and work carried out by volunteers (including Councillors) on behalf of Warcop Parish Council. It includes activities using Council-owned equipment within and for the benefit of the Parish. It is recognised that many people carry out activities unbidden for the greater good of the Parish and do so at their own risk but are expected to take reasonable precautions to protect their health and the health of others.

Volunteers may use their own equipment but should ensure it is in good working order (particularly any safety features) and they are comfortable and familiar with its use.

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| **Activity** | **Who might be harmed** | | **Risk** | **Mitigating Actions** |
| 1. GENERAL | | | | |
| Moving heavy items | Community Volunteers | | Strain injuries  Crush injuries | Only lift within limit of ability  Use good lifting techniques (legs not back)  Seek help lifting heavier objects  Be aware of trap potential when putting down heavy objects, place hands accordingly  Use lifting and carrying devices (e.g. sack trucks, trolleys) where appropriate. |
| Work on roads/tracks or involving crossing them | Volunteers may be hit by vehicles. | | Injury from collision with vehicles | Follow the green cross code.  Wear a high visibility tabard or jacket.  Carry a torch for night-time activity.  Use signage and/or a banksman to slow/warn traffic |
| Moving about | Volunteers | | Slip and fall injuries | Be aware of terrain and surfaces when moving about.  Wear appropriate footwear for the terrain and conditions.  Pay attention to the pathway ahead and any potential trip hazards.  Carry a torch for night-time activity. |
| Snow & Ice | Volunteers | Risk of slips  and falls. | | Wear stout footwear with good grip on soles.  Avoid icy areas. |
| Cold / Freezing weather | Volunteers. | Inadequate clothing can bring about hyperthermia. | | Wear warm and waterproof clothing suitable for the conditions. |
| Dark/Night | Public or volunteers. | Falling-type injuries from losing balance in poor visibility. | | Carry a charged and bright torch and a spare torch.  Do not enter flood water  Avoid poorly lit areas where possible. |
| Verbal/Physical Abuse | Volunteers. | Risk of physical abuse with attendant risk of injury. | | Avoid conflict at all times.  Remain calm and sympathetic or back away. |
| Accident needing minor first aid | Volunteers | Cuts and grazes can lead to blood loss and infection | | Carry small first aid pack containing plasters, alcohol wipes and a small bandage. |
| Accident whilst working on own | Volunteers | Risk of increasing the severity of an accident when no-one is available to help | | Work in pairs if working in a remote area.  Carry a mobile phone and check signal at work location; ensure phone is charged.  Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.  Provide a contact number for yourself. |
| Tiredness | Volunteers | Long hours, insufficient breaks or nutrition or fluid intake can result in tiredness. This can result in poor decisions, errors and accidents. | | Take regular breaks as an when needed  Take easy snack food – e.g. chocolate bar and sandwich.  Take a bottle of water/ small flask.  Take enough money to buy extra food and drink. |
| Falls from height | Volunteers | Serious fall injuries (broken bones etc.) | | Check ladders etc. are in good order before use.  Always foot ladders and/or tie-off is possible.  Don’t overreach.  Assess the possible consequences of the activity (e.g. tree limbs hitting and dislodging the ladder) and take appropriate precautions. |
| Injury from dogs or farm animals. | Volunteers. | Bites, trampling | | Do not visit properties where you suspect that animals are not adequately controlled. Vacate the property if threatened.  Be vigilant in fields etc. where animals are present. Do not enter areas where young animals are present (calves, foals etc.) and the adult animals may become protective. |
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| 1. USE OF PARISH EQUIPMENT | | | | |
| Grass Cutting | Volunteers | | Various injuries from powered equipment | Equipment must only be used by persons over 18 years of age.  Equipment must be kept in a good serviceable condition.  Equipment must be switched off during maintenance activities (e.g. grass clearing)  Avoid as far as possible working on slopes; be aware of tipping hazard. |
| Strimming | Volunteers and Passers-by | | Injuries from flying debris; hearing harm from noise of engine. | Wear a face mask (one is kept with the strimmer for your use)  Wear long and strong trousers - work jeans or work trousers  Wear strong footwear - safety boots, walking boots or wellingtons  Wear ear defenders (a pair are kept with the strimmer for your use)  Make sure all other people are at a good distance. If a person or animal or vehicle approaches too close, stop strimming until they pass. |
| Refuelling equipment | Volunteers | |  | Make sure engines are stopped/turned off.  Ensure no nearby ignitions sources (cigarettes etc.)  Take care to avoid spillage – make sure equipment is stable and the filler level; do not overfill.  Wash thoroughly if any fuel is spilt on the skin. |
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| 1. ACTIONS DURING AN EMERGENCY (C.F. PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN) | | | | |
| Toxic or other hazardous material spillages | Volunteers  Passers-by | | Contact with hazardous material | Volunteers should not attempt any remedial actions with these materials; report to the appropriate authority.  Form a safe cordon and prevent inadvertent access to the affected area until help arrives. If safe to do so, advise any residents in the affected area. |
| Flood water | Volunteers | | Risk of drowning. Cold water immersion can bring about hyperthermia. | Plan route before entering flood waters.  Only enter shallow water; underlying ground should be visible.  Avoid fast flowing water. |
| High Winds | Volunteers | | Risk of falling or impact injury from being blown over or hit by flying objects | Avoid any outside work in extreme winds. Take shelter indoors when necessary or advised to do so. |

This risk assessment will be reviewed once a year or more frequently if changes to response arrangements mean that an intermediate

necessary.

Next review due: 05/2025