

## **1. Introduction**

This policy addresses the Streatley Parish Council (SPC) maintenance and inspection regime for the play and leisure facilities and the assets within these facilities. The policy outlines the legal responsibilities of the Parish Council and how SPC meets these responsibilities through a system of inspection, assessing risk and responses to faults and risks. SPC aim to provide challenging play while identifying an acceptable degree of risk.

## **2. Legal Requirements**

There is no specific legislation on play safety. However, legislation that may apply includes:

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984
- Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

SPC have a duty to take actions to ensure the safety of people at work and members of the public who may be affected by the facilities provided by the Parish Council. It is governed by the test of “reasonable practicability”. In other words, it is reasonable to correct major hazards; it is unreasonable to spend considerable resources on minor faults where risk is negligible and potential injury very minor.

## **3. Industry Standards and Guidance**

Standards and Safety Guidelines are not a legal requirement but are considered good professional working practice.

EN1176 – ‘Playground Equipment’ is the European Standard which replaced the old British Standards. The standard is not retrospective and provides advice on design layout and the inspection of playground equipment. Contained within the guidance are the following key recommendations:

- The equipment must be inspected and maintained.
- if the equipment is not safe, access by the public should be prevented.
- An inspection record should be maintained for 21 years.

## 4. Recreation Facilities

SPC is responsible for the Cleeve Recreation Ground under this policy. Facilities include:

- Play equipment for smaller children
- exercise equipment for teenagers and adults
- a cinder track,
- basket ball practice area
- Open, grassed, sports area

## 5. Inspections

The Routine Visual inspection of the play and leisure facilities in the Recreation Ground is carried out by councillors and the Clerk.

The table below details the frequency of inspections and the inspector responsible for carrying out the on-site inspections. The inspector and frequency rates are currently feasible given resources available to the Parish Council and the current contractual arrangements which are set until further consideration should the situation change.

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR
Weekly Mar-Oct, fortnightly Oct-Mar	Routine Visual	Clerk's Office
Once per annum	Operational	RPII inspector qualified to an Operational Level
Once per annum	Annual Detailed	RPII inspector qualified to Annual Level - RoSPA or other external organisation
Bespoke	Reactive	Clerk's Office , RoSPA (or other external organisation)

### **Routine Visual Inspections – EN 1176-7.6.2a – ‘Look & See’**

Includes the identification of obvious hazards resulting from use, weather and vandalism, broken parts or bottles, litter, graffiti, equipment misuse. These inspections are recorded on a tick box sheet and retained on record.

### **Operational Inspection – EN1176-76.2b – ‘Poke & Prod’**

Operational Inspections provide a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of all equipment and surfaces especially for wear.

Frequency of Operational inspections may alter to a period of no longer 1 year in certain areas. In using resources better, SPC may alter frequencies of the operational inspections and this decision will be dependent of the grading of the area which will consider factors such as popularity, profile and equipment type.

- Check repairs carried out by others; rust and rot; bearings.
- Cleanliness
- Equipment Ground Clearance
- Exposed Foundations
- Sharp Edges
- Missing Parts
- Excessive Wear (of moving parts)
- Structural Integrity

Inspectors will be trained to RPII Operational inspector's level enabling them to perform an operational inspection.

### **Annual Main Inspections – EN1176-7.6.2c**

These inspections will be performed annually with the maximum time between inspections not exceeding 15 months.

- The overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces
- The effects of weather, evidence of rotting or corrosion and any change in the level of safety because of repairs made or added or replacement components.

The annual Inspections are to be carried out by an independent inspector qualified to RPII Annual Level.

**Bespoke** - Typically, bespoke inspections may follow an enquiry from a community member, an accident in a play facility, in response to an urgent request or to carry out a post installation inspection following the installation of new equipment.

Inspections can be performed by a Parish Councillor or independent inspector depending on the level of inspection required. The inspection is performed using the same inspection system as the other Routine Visual or Annual Level inspections.

## **6. Accidents, Enquiries and Claims**

SPC record all accidents that are reported to them relating to the play areas and associated. Details of an accident will be recorded. to enable SPC to collate a clear



Signed : .....

Colin Smith  
Chairman, Streatley Parish Council

Date : 09 December 2024