



# **CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL**



# **OPEN SPACES POLICY**

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# **OPEN SPACES POLICY**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the Policy of Codsall Parish Council to protect all open space owned by the Parish Council and ensure a safe and well managed environment for all users

## **KEY PRINCIPLES**

The Parish Council –

- Recognises that the provision of open space and their design and layout are important for play and recreation and are important in contributing to the quality of the environment
- will build into the Council's Risk Assessment procedures clear processes for the management of Parish Council owned Open Spaces, including play equipment and trees
- provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all employees and the Council's contractors
- provide such information, training and supervision, as they need for this purpose
- give a high level of commitment to health and safety and will comply with all statutory requirements.

## **WHO DOES THE POLICY APPLY TO**

The Policy applies to all users of Parish Council owned Open Spaces, employees and Councillors of Codsall Parish Council and Council contractors

## **REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

Subject to any new legislation or changes in case law which require immediate amendment; or any changes in the needs of the Parish Council, the Open Spaces Policy will be reviewed annually.

# **1. AREAS OF OPEN RECREATIONAL SPACE**

## **1.1. Open Spaces**

- Oaken Drive Field Open Space
- Codsall House Field Open Space
- Singing Lady Gardens
- Wheel Field

## **1.2. Play Areas**

- Village Hall Play Area
- Chapel Lane Play Area
- Moatbrook Lane Play Area
- Village Hall Playing Fields
- Wheel Field Natural Play Area

## **1.3. Allotment Sites**

- Watery Lane Allotment Site

## **1.4. Other areas of Open Space**

- Moatbrook Nature Reserve
- War memorial& Gardens

# **2. PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS**

**2.1.** The Parish Council seeks to protect the physical environment of the Open Spaces, the wildlife and the public by putting into place, prohibitions on activities, which may cause damage to the Open Spaces and the public

**2.2.** The following activities are prohibited, unless the permission of the Parish Council has been obtained in writing –

- The removal of any barrier, post, seat or any other item provided for use on the Open Spaces and Play Areas or for the maintenance of them
- The erection of any barrier, post, ride, swing or any other structure
- The removal of any plants, trees or soil from the Open Spaces
- The killing, injuring, taking or disturbing of any animal; and no person shall engage in hunting, shooting or the setting of traps or the laying of snares
- The turning out of or permitting any animal to graze on the Open Spaces
- The erection of a tent or the use of a vehicle, caravan or other structure for the purpose of camping
- The lighting of fires or the disposal of a match or any other thing likely to cause a fire
- The use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices
- Engaging in the sport of archery

- The throwing of or the striking of a hard cricket ball with or without a bat
- The playing of golf, including the driving, chipping or pitching of a hard golf ball
- The holding of any event, be it charitable, commercial or private, without seeking the consent of the Parish Council beforehand
- That there be no driving or other use of any motor vehicle, motor cycle or other mechanically propelled vehicle
- The depositing or dumping of litter or other waste materials of any description

### **3. DAMAGE TO OPEN SPACES**

- 3.1.** Any damage or faults to items on the Open Spaces or any other related issues should be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Parish Office at Codsall Parish Council, Station Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1BY

### **4. PLAY AREAS**

- 4.1.** The Parish Council seeks to provide Play Areas to a high standard to all children visiting the Play Areas.
- 4.2.** All Parish Council owned Play areas are inspected as follows –
- Twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays – by visual inspection looking at equipment
  - Daily – visual inspection
  - February of each year – by our insurers – operational inspection
- 4.3.** Gates into the Play Areas should be kept shut at all times
- 4.4.** Dogs, with the exception of guide dogs, are not permitted in any of the Play Areas
- 4.5.** The play equipment provided by the Parish Council is suitable for children up to the age of 12 years. Users and visitors to the Play Areas can obtain more specific information on the various facilities available, by contacting the Parish Office at Station Rod, Codsall, tel 01902 842426
- 4.6.** The safety of children whilst using and visiting the Play Areas is the responsibility of the child's parent, guardian or carer.
- 4.7.** Any damage or faults with the play equipment, fencing, gates or other items in the Play Areas; or any other related issues should be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the Parish Office at Station Road, Codsall, WV8 1BY tel 01902 842426.

## **5. ALLOTMENT SITE**

- 5.1.** The Allotment site at **Watery Lane** is owned and managed by the Parish Council; with assistance from Watery Lane Allotment Association. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office at Codsall Parish Council Office, Station Road, Codsall, WV8 1BY tel 01902 842426

## **6. OTHER AREAS OF OPEN SPACE – specific areas**

- 6.1. Moatbrook Nature Reserve** owned by the Parish Council.

Users of this area should take care at times of heavy or prolonged periods of rain. The site can get waterlogged, with natural deep pools forming. Visitors are advised to wear suitable waterproof shoes and keep to the mowed grass paths.