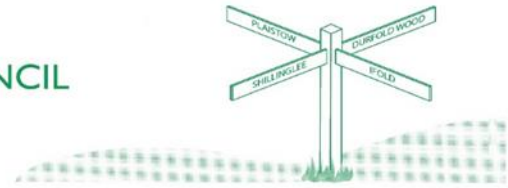


PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL



Plaistow Pond Policy

1. The aim of this policy is to ensure that Plaistow Pond is a safe place for the community's enjoyment.
2. Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council ('the Council') will produce and/or review a Pond Risk Assessment annually. To be appended at the end of this policy.
3. The Council will maintain the public footpath around the pond. Specifically, the Council will: -
 - 3.1 Cut the grass throughout the cutting season (March – October).
 - 3.2 Manage the vegetation growing around the edge of the pond and either side of the path.
 - 3.3 Take any necessary action to mitigate trip hazards.
4. The Council will review the scope /adequacy of the land management contract's work specification in relation to the pond area annually, in conjunction with the Risk Assessment.
5. The Council will manage the trees growing around the pond in line with its Tree Management Policy.
6. The Council will provide a rescue/floatation aid at the pond, to be used if someone falls in.
7. The Council will monitor the rescue/floatation aid in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.
8. The Council will monitor the pond jetty in accordance with the installation company and/or manufacturer requirements.
9. The Council will set an annual budget to ensure that any emergency works required can be undertaken. This will be a separate/additional budget to the Tree Surgery budget.
10. The Council will consider the need to maintain a record of the depth of the pond and if necessary, from time to time, instal a depth gauge.
11. The Council will ensure signage is maintained in the area to warn of the dangers and who to contact at the Council in the event the rescue/floatation aid is used.

12. The Council will liaise with Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School & Plaistow Preschool to ensure children are made aware of the dangers and the requirement to always be accompanied by a responsible adult around the pond.
13. The Council will monitor water levels during hot weather and when necessary, fill the pond.
14. The Council will monitor the presence of blue-green algae. Should any appear, the Council will work with West Sussex County Council and the Environment Agency to remove the blue-green algae.
15. The Council will seek professional advice regarding safeguarding the pond's biodiversity whenever the Council is required to undertake major works to the infrastructure, vegetation and/or landscape. Whenever possible, this advice will be sought in advance of the works being undertaken. However, the Council recognises that in some circumstances health and safety concerns may require emergency works which cannot wait for an environmental assessment.
16. The following legislations apply to this policy:
 - 16.1 Commons Act 1965 (relating to land ownership only)
 - 16.2 Land Drainage Act 1991 (Riparian Responsibilities)
 - 16.3 Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984
 - 16.4 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (as amended)

Plaistow Pond (PP) Risk Assessment

Risk	Level of Risk	Considerations	Mitigation	Action required and by whom
<p>Footpath running alongside PP area. Risk of someone falling into the water.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Someone viewing the pond from the edge, overstepping and falling in.</p>	Low	<p>Attention must be given to ensure the edge of the path /pond is clearly visible to avoid anyone mistakenly walking too close to the edge and slipping/falling.</p> <p>Depth: The design of a pond should ensure the edges are shallow and any deeper area positioned either in the middle or to one end where access is limited.</p> <p>Attention must be given to ensure the edge of the pond is clearly visible to avoid anyone mistakenly overstepping the edge, and falling in.</p>	<p>Path mowed monthly throughout the cutting season (March – October).</p> <p>Vegetation cut back/managed throughout the growing season (March – Oct).</p> <p>Signage to warn of dangers of water.</p> <p>Rescue aid situated at PP.</p>	<p>Council’s land management contractor (Sussex Land Services Ltd).</p> <p>Councillors to review the scope /adequacy of the land management contract annually.</p> <p>Councillors to consider signage to be erected at each entrance to PP.</p> <p>Councillors to consider assessing/recording the depth of the pond and installing a depth gauge.</p> <p>Councillors to consider monthly check of rescue aid / area, particularly outside of the season (November – February).</p>
<p>Unaccompanied children playing around PP and falling in.</p>	Low	<p>The path and pond edge should be free from potholes and other trip hazards. The edges of the pond must be clearly distinguishable and protected against any possible erosion to reduce the risks of unintentional falls.</p>	<p>Path mowed monthly throughout the cutting season (March – October).</p> <p>Vegetation cut back/managed throughout the growing season (March – Oct).</p>	<p>Council’s land management contractor (Sussex Land Services Ltd).</p> <p>Councillors to review the scope /adequacy of the land management contract annually.</p> <p>Councillors to consider signage to be erected at each entrance to PP.</p>

			<p>Signage to warn of dangers of water.</p> <p>Rescue aid situated at PP.</p>	<p>Councillors to consider assessing/recording the depth of the pond and installing a depth gauge.</p> <p>Councillors to consider liaising with the School & Preschool to ensure children are aware of the requirement to always be accompanied by a responsible adult around PP.</p> <p>Councillors to consider monthly check of rescue aid / area, particularly outside of the season (November – February).</p>
<p>Person remains in the water unable to attract help.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The pond is visible from the public highway / all areas and surrounding buildings. Therefore, an incident is likely to be seen / heard by someone who can take the appropriate action.</p>	<p>The area to be kept in full sight via management of vegetation.</p> <p>Rescue aid situated at PP.</p>	<p>Council’s land management contractor (Sussex Land Services Ltd).</p> <p>Councillors to review the scope /adequacy of the land management contract annually.</p> <p>Councillors to consider liaising with the School & Preschool to ensure children are aware of the requirement to always be accompanied by a responsible adult around PP.</p>

				Councillors to consider monthly check of rescue aid / area, particularly outside of the season (November – February).
New visitors to the area not realising the proximity of a pond	Low	Signage required to advise of the hazards of the area.	Sign(s) at both entrances to the area to warn of dangers.	<p>Councillors to consider signage to be erected at each entrance to PP.</p> <p>Councillors to consider assessing/recording the depth of the pond and installing a depth gauge.</p> <p>Councillors to consider liaising with the School & Preschool to ensure children are aware of the requirement to always be accompanied by a responsible adult around PP.</p>