

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)