



Geldeston Parish Council

Lone Working Policy

Purpose of this Policy.

The following policy and procedure has been written in order to minimise risks for staff working alone in the office, at home and working away from their fixed base, for members visiting or attending meetings, for volunteers assisting with council projects and activities.

Legal Background.

Under the Health and Safety Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, it is the duty of the Parish Council to assess risks to lone workers, members and volunteers and take steps to avoid or control risks where necessary. Employees of the council have responsibilities to take reasonable care of themselves and other people affected by their work and to co-operate with their employers in meeting their legal obligations.

Lone Working.

These are the people who work by themselves without close or direct supervision.

Employees – working in the office and at home on their own and outside of normal hours; travelling on their own to and from work, attending meetings and so on.

Members – these are individuals who visit parishioners or travel on their own to attend meeting and so on.

Volunteers – these are individuals who take part in voluntary activities organised by the council.

- **Potential Risks to Lone Workers.**

- a) Open access and unlocked doors – accessible to the public.
- b) Being taken ill whilst at work.
- c) Lack of training regarding Health and Safety procedures.
- d) Hazards in areas of activity.
- e) Working in remote areas, and areas with no signal.
- f) Parking in car parks which are poorly lit and going into buildings which are inadequately lit.
- g) Aggressive and abusive members of the public.
- h) Entering public buildings, when alone.

- **Assessing the Risk**

Before drawing up and recording the assessment of risk, it must be established:

- a) Whether the work can be done by a lone worker.
- b) What arrangements will be in place to ensure an individual is not exposed to unnecessary and unacceptable risk?

Risk Assessments

The following should be taken into consideration to minimise risk:

- a) Risk assessment on all activities will be undertaken and wherever possible will minimise risk to individuals by encouraging working in pairs. Where work is undertaken by one person then that person must advise someone of the place of activity and the time of the activity. Persons must always carry a mobile phone with battery charged.
- b) Environment. Where the environment is isolated, and access is difficult the person should always advise someone of where they are going and the time they expect to be there and return.
- c) The Task. Employees working from home should not invite members of the public into their home unless the person is known, and the meeting is pre-arranged.
- d) History. Where there is potential for difficulty employees should always arrange for another individual – chairman or councillor – to attend at the same time. This meeting should not be at the Clerk's home but in a public building with a telephone.

Responsibility

- **Employees Responsibility and Personal Safety:**
 - a) To take reasonable care for the health and safety of herself and of other persons who may be affected by her acts or omissions at work.
 - b) Always maintain a line of communication on a regular basis with members of the council to identify and minimise risk(s).
 - c) The Clerk to use the Council online calendar Time Tree to report when she arrives at the office and when she leaves. The Councillors that have access to keep an eye on her whereabouts.
 - d) The Clerk to keep close by her whilst working the personal alarm, so that she can alert people if she is in trouble and needs assistance. The Clerk to notify the Nurse staff of this.
 - e) The Clerk is responsible for writing and implementing this policy. This is undertaken under the direction of the council.

- **Employers Responsibility:**
 - a) To take reasonable care for the health and safety of staff by identifying and assessing potential risks to ensure that staff are safe at all times.
 - b) Always maintain a line of communication on a regular basis with staff to identify and minimise risk(s).
 - c) Through the winter months, the Clerk will be able to bring her dog into the office for security.
 - d) The Council has provided the Clerk with a car parking space within the park, close to her office.
 - e) Movement detector lights have been installed on the Pavilion and close by the Clerk's parking space. The avenue will be having streetlights installed.
 - f) Ensure staff receive all relevant training and information available.

Chairman

Review Date September 2021