

Great Oakley Parish Council (GOPC)

Recreation Field Risk Assessment 4th April 2023

Activity	Potential Hazards	Risks	Mitigation	Risk Level	Additional Measures
Driving vehicles within the boundary of the Recreation Field.	Collision with the public, animals, buildings, or hedges as a result of equipment malfunction or driver error.	Potentially serious injury to both staff, the public and animals.	Only GOPC authorised vehicles are allowed in the field. Competent and trained contractors to be used. Speed within the boundaries of the playing field restricted to 5 mph.	Low	GOPC lockable vehicle access gate. Warning signs to be used / equipment closed from use whilst maintenance work carried out.
Grass & Hedge Cutting	Risk of injury to operatives / public through malfunction of equipment or inappropriate use.	Malfunction or inappropriate use of the equipment exposes both the operative and the public to the risk of potentially serious injury.	The contractor must ensure that all equipment is functioning correctly Contractor Operatives must be trained in the use of the equipment and given the necessary protective clothing.	Low	GOPC to only use Approved Contractors with appropriate Public Liability Insurance
Application of weed killer/pesticides.	Skin or eye contact and inhalation or ingestion may lead to serious reactions in both humans and animals.	Risk of adverse reaction following contact with the weed killer, to both humans and animals.	The use of weed killer is non routine and will need sanctioning by GOPC. Warning notices should be posted, and staff given the appropriate level of protective equipment.	Low	Manufacturers / Suppliers / Government Health & Safety Guidance should be used.

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Seats on Playing Field.	Seats can be subject to weathering and vandalism making them increasingly unfit for purpose.	Minor injuries may result from a deterioration of the surface, but more serious injury may result from a failure of the seat.	Annual inspection of seating. Seats that are deemed unsafe must be taken out of use.	Low	
Waste Bins/Dog Waste Bins/Fouling/Hazardous Waste.	Waste bins are subject to deterioration by weather and damage by users. Dog fouling is a result of owners not picking up after their dog. Hazardous waste includes broken glass, needles and discarded drugs.	The main risks arise from children touching canine faeces, with the potential to contract several serious infections. Equally serious is the potential for children to come across hazardous waste.	Tendring District Council empty Bins weekly and any issues will be reported.	Medium	TDC can provide visits by the Dog Warden if faeces become a problem.
Trip hazards.	Trip injuries are common, and do not discriminate between staff and the public.	Trip injuries can happen anywhere and result from unseen obstacles, uneven ground or the individual not noticing. The extent of the injury can be from trivial to Severe.	The field is inspected annually. There are no designated paths on the field, and we rely on users to report any hazards to GOPC.	Low	The Football Team that uses the pitch regularly during the season report issues they encounter.

Boundary Edges.	The boundary is defined by a tall hedge on the two road facing sides with some chestnut paling below, and lower hedges adjacent to the two end properties on Orchard Close at the end of which bollards prevent vehicle access. The side adjacent to the farmland is a hedge maintained by the Farmer.	Injuries would usually be minor and results from falls / contact with the hedge. More serious injuries are often the result of the public trying to access or egress through non prescribed entrances.	Regular inspection and maintenance by GOPC Grounds Contractor	Low	
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Access / Egress	There are designated entrances:				
	1. Pedestrian through bollards at the end of Orchard Close, Fig 1.			Low	
	2. Close to the Central Village Sign a pedestrian passage through the hedge, Fig 2.	There is a slight risk of people inadvertently cycling / running out directly onto the B1414.	This exit has a steel barrier in front to prevent inadvertent direct egress.	Low	
	3. Vehicle and pedestrian gate at the Northeast corner, Fig 3.	There is a risk of people inadvertently cycling / running out directly onto the B1414.	Exit gates kept locked at all times with keys held by GOPC. The entrance will be supervised when opened or the adjacent Trim Trail will be closed for the duration.	Low	Make the pedestrian gate self-closing. Add chestnut paling either side to prevent 'access gaps' being opened up.

	4. Fig 4. - undesignated entrance through the hedge on the West side leading directly onto verge adjoining B1414		This entrance is well away from play areas so inadvertent egress risk is low	Low	Install a barrier inside the hedge. A designated entrance / road crossing is due to be installed as part of Beaumont Rd Estate Development
Children's play area – ground surface.	The majority of the surface below play equipment, trail and gym areas is covered by a synthetic soft surfacing, that prevents injury should a user child fall. Other areas are grassed. In wet conditions, or when the matting is covered in leaves the surface can become slippery, increasing the risk of falls.	<p>The nature of the floor covering mitigates against the risk of serious injury, but there is always the possibility of a user falling against a piece of equipment.</p> <p>The Basketball Hoop Area is concrete by design, so slips & falls could possibly result in minor injuries.</p>	<p>The equipment is inspected annually and GOPC relies on users / parents to report any condition issues.</p> <p>Contact numbers for support services are posted on signs.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	Signs to be posted advising users of their responsibilities and contact details in case of problem / injury.

Children's play area Equipment	The very nature of the play equipment encourages children to explore the equipment through play. Minor injuries are possible.	The soft floor surface and CE designed play equipment installed reduces the chance of injury.	The equipment is inspected annually, and defects repaired as soon as GOPC are aware. Parents should be encouraged to supervise their children to ensure safe play. In addition TDC carries out an annual inspection.	Low	Signs to be posted advising users of their responsibilities and contact details in case of problem / injury.
Trim Trail	The very nature of the equipment encourages users to explore the equipment. Minor injuries are possible. A specific risk assessment (all Low) for the use of the equipment is available.	The soft floor surface and CE designed play equipment installed reduces the chance of injury.	The equipment is inspected annually, and defects repaired as soon as GOPC are aware. Parents should be encouraged to supervise their children to ensure safe play. In addition, TDC carries out an annual inspection.	Low	Signs to be posted advising users of their responsibilities and contact details in case of problem / injury.
Outside gym.	The equipment provides aerobic, muscular, and cardio-vascular exercise. Falls from the equipment are unlikely but the effects of over- exertion / physical injury is possible. A specific risk assessment (all Low) for the use of the equipment is available.	Any equipment with moving parts has the potential to trap clothing and body parts resulting in injury. Over enthusiastic exercise by unfit persons raises the possibility of cardio injury.	Annual, documented inspection of the equipment will quickly identify faults or damage. GOPC relies on users to report any condition issues. If necessary, the equipment will be taken out of use until it has been repaired. Notices should warn users of the risk of excessive exercise.	Low	There is a Defibrillator at All Saints School and The Maybush Inn. Signage to advise users of sensible precautions

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Football & 5-a-side pitches are provided for hire from GOPC and recreational use when not booked.	There are many hazards associated with team / ball games. Users must carry out their own activity risk assessment The football areas should be marked out to keep a safe distance from installed play / gym equipment.	Minor injuries are possible.	Contact numbers for support services are posted on signs.	Low	Hire users should provide their own First Aid Support. Defibrillator available at All Saints School and Maybush Inn.
Signs	Subject to deterioration by weather, vandalism and accidents. The signs may even be stolen.	Users being unaware of use conditions.	Part of annual inspection and maintenance. GOPC relies on users / parents to report any condition issues. Remedial action to be taken when issues arise.	Low	
Vandalism to any of the equipment on the sports field.	Vandalism can render equipment unusable and represents a financial loss to the Council.	Vandals may hurt themselves / other users	Vandalism is a criminal offence reportable to the Police who can take action. The Parish Council cannot be held responsible for vandalism but will ensure equipment is safe to use.	Medium	Signage for users to check equipment condition and a GOPC Disclaimer. Consider the use of CCTV which may help in catching those responsible.

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Noise from playing facilities.	Increasing the number of facilities on the playing fields is going to attract more users, and more users means more noise.	Noise arises from two sources – the participants and the equipment. It is unreasonable to request that children play quietly. However, action can be taken to ensure that the equipment does not contribute significantly to the noise.	Regular inspection of the equipment to ensure its integrity, and to repair any element that is causing additional noise.	Low	



FIG 1.



FIG 2.



FIG 3.



FIG 4.