**Tetsworth Parish Council**

**COVID – 19 Risk Assessment**

**Re-opening of Play Equipment**

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. It is made very clear that “Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law”. On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place.

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| **Key Principle** | **Government Guidance** | **Assessment** | **Conclusion** |
| General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown | Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening. | All equipment is inspected on a weekly basis records kept and defective equipment repaired as and when necessary. | The equipment in the Play Area and the Adult equipment have been checked and are in good order. Skate Ramp has parts where wood has lifted, awaiting repair. |
| Social Distancing | Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:   * Limit number of users at any one time * Booking system * Advisory signage * Create waiting areas with barriers | Social distancing of 1-2 Metre necessary depending on the equipment  One way in through Gate and out over the stile.  Advisory signs necessary.  Booking system not practicable.  Accompanying adult to be responsible for ensuring their children observe social distancing.  Maximum 10 children at one time. | Two swings have been removed temporarily to enable social  Distancing.  Notices placed around the Play Area advising accompanying adults of conditions of use.  Only 10 children playing in the Play Area at one time. Must always be accompanied by an adult. |
| Cleaning and Hygiene | Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:   * All Play Equipment * Seating Areas * Refuse Bins   In addition, use signage to encourage:   * Users to clean equipment before and after use * Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing   Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points. | Tetsworth Parish Council has no employees to clean equipment and seating.  Responsibility should be with the Parents/Guardians of the children.  Encouraged to bring sanitiser/wipes to clean the equipment before and after use.  It is not practicable for Hand Sanitiser to be provided by Tetsworth Parish Council. | Signage will state that it is the responsibility of the accompanying adult to clean whatever equipment their children use, this is for practical reasons.  Adults advised to bring Hand Sanitiser and ensure children wash their hands when they get home. |
| Face Coverings | If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn’t possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly). | The Play Area is enclosed by fencing. Face Covering would not be necessary as long as social distancing is observed. | Face Covering is not mandatory but should be encouraged. |
| Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents | Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that:   * consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned * parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided. | Food and drink to be banned in the play area.  Litter bins are available outside the play area. | No Food or drink to be taken into the Play Area. Accompanying adult to ensure they keep to this rule.  All litter must be either put in the bins provided or taken home. |
| Considering Children with Additional Needs | Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs. | Children with additional needs must be helped by their accompanying adult. Children unable to use the stile could use the gate for entry and exit with accompanying adult responsible for social distancing. | Responsibility of the accompanying adult |
| Keeping Staff Safe | Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:   * cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas * managing queues of those waiting to use equipment * stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator | No staff employed. Not possible for Councillors to be available for cleaning equipment etc. Play Area for use by children and one accompanying adult only per family. | It is expected that the accompanying adult will take full responsibility for the equipment and supervise what their children play on and manage social distancing. |

**Conclusions**

**It is recognised by Tetsworth Parish Council that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID 19 in the Play Area. Having carried out a full inspection of the Play Area and Skate-ramp on 30th June 2020 it was unanimously agreed that the Play Area and Adult Equipment may open on 8th July 2020. This is conditional that users respect the advice given on the Notices which are placed around the space, following guidance from Government legislation. Parents and guardians of the children should clean the equipment with Sanitiser prior to use and afterwards to ensure strict hygiene is observed and to protect other users of the Play Area. Food and Drink is banned and must not to be consumed in the Play Area. Parents and Guardians should take full responsibility for their children. Maximum number of 10 children may use the Play Area at one time and should be encouraged to distance themselves from their peers. Only one accompanying adult permitted inside the area with their children at a time. These are ongoing conclusions which may be subject to change. Tetsworth Parish Council hopes that users will follow the Guidelines necessary and enjoy their time in the Play Area.**

**Risk Assessments undertaken by Tetsworth Parish Councillors on 30th June 2020 and conclusions agreed by all councillors.**

**7th July 2020**