

OWSLEBURY & MORESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL



PLAY AREA POLICY DOCUMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Adopted by the Council: 10 June 2019

Reviewed by the Council: 11 July 2022 and 10 July 2023, 8 July 2024 and 7 July 2025

Foreword

Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council believes that play is a vital component of growing up and is how children develop skills, physical, social and intellectual.

This document is intended to guide Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council in its role of the play area known as Hilly Close Playground. This policy applies only to play equipment upon the Hilly Close playground and is not applicable beyond this, such as equipment on private land.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 recommends that owners and managers of premises should undertake a risk assessment of their facilities – this includes the children’s playground. This document defines and makes clear the duties and responsibilities of Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council as the owners of the play equipment within its boundaries. This also includes a risk assessment setting out the key hazards and the Council’s risk mitigation process.

Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council Play Area Management Policy Document – Risk Assessment

The purpose of the document is to:

- Assess the risks relating to the play area in the Recreation Ground
- Provide a formal way for the Parish Council to identify and be notified of potentially dangerous equipment within the play area
- Ensure the Council has sufficient information to make decisions on play equipment condition
- Ensure that play equipment damage can be detected in a reasonable time
- Ensure that potentially dangerous equipment is properly dealt with and appropriate action taken

OWSLEBURY & MORESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL



Control measures are then applied to the significant risks where the remaining residual risks are re-scored to ensure all risks are suitably managed and controlled.

Hazardous Event	Consequence	Affected	Management Controls	Residual Risk and Further Measures
Equipment which is dangerous is not identified	Play area condition deteriorates and is not recognised	Public	The ACSO will confirm that he has undertaken inspections to identify any problems/hazards that have been created by use, abuse, weather and age. ROUTINE INSPECTIONS: An inspection will to be carried out every two weeks, by the ACSO All routine inspections will be recorded on the Play Area inspection sheets whether or not there are problems or hazards identified and sent to the Clerk INSPECTIONS: An annual inspection will be undertaken by WCC once a year and an accredited independent Inspector will inspect the	Tolerable No further action needed

OWSLEBURY & MORESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL



			paly area once a year and will be arranged by the Parish Council. These reports will determine any action that needs taking	
Equipment which is damaged and is not dealt with correctly	People are injured whilst using the play equipment	Public	All items within the Recreation Ground, whether or not shown on the Asset Register, will be inspected by the ACSO. All routine inspections will be recorded on the sheets provided by the Parish Council. All inspection reports will be retained by the Parish Council within its records. They will be available for inspection by request. Any issues raised by any inspection will be brought immediately to the Parish Council's attention. Any questions will be raised with the Annual Inspecting Body, and in the event of immediate remedial action needing to	Tolerable No further action needed

OWSLEBURY & MORESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL



			be taken the Chair or Vice Chair of the Parish Council will have delegated powers to close any piece of play equipment by either its removal, isolation or rendering harmless any dangers found.	
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The person responsible for play equipment inspections is as nominated by the Parish Council as the owner of Hilly Close play area

To be reviewed July 2026