

## **Health and safety policy for Preston Bissett Village Hall (January 2024)**

*The Health, Safety and Welfare of all those managing, using and visiting the Village Hall is paramount at all times.*

1. The Management Committee (Committee) have no legal requirement to record Health and Safety assessments. However, as Trustees of the charity and as manager of non-domestic premises, recognises and accepts its general duties under The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 to ensure that the premises are safe and that risks are assessed and managed, so far as is reasonably practicable.
2. The policy of the Committee is to take reasonably practicable measures in relation to the management of the Village Hall (Hall) to comply with all legislative requirements and Codes of Practice relating to the duties which it has, in order to:
  - a. Provide healthy and safe working conditions, equipment and systems for the Committee Members and Hirers;
  - b. Keep the Hall and equipment in a safe condition for all users;
  - c. Provide all necessary support and information to Hall users, hirers and outside contractors.
3. The Committee will work in the furtherance of these aims by:
  - a. Identifying and assessing risks;
  - b. Recording risk assessments and regularly reviewing them;
  - c. Eliminating or controlling risks;
  - d. Monitoring contractors, their compliance and work conditions;
  - e. Establishing a clear, sensible and practical safety organisation, structure and arrangements.

### **Duties**

4. All Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall are expected to recognise and accept their duties:
  - d. To follow health and safety instructions and to report hazards;
  - e. To take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons who may be affected by their acts and omissions;
  - f. As regards to any duty imposed on the Committee they will co-operate so far as is necessary, to enable that duty to be performed or complied with.

### **Organisation**

5. General Responsibilities:
  - a. All persons have responsibility for ensuring that their actions do not compromise the health and safety of themselves or any other person on the premises.
  - b. Anyone who observes a practice or potential hazard, that could compromise the health and safety of any person, has the responsibility to act to remove such hazard and further to report in detail such incidents in the Incident Book for the attention of the Committee.
  - c. Any Hirer or Committee member noticing potentially hazardous, broken or defective equipment has the responsibility to remove such equipment from use immediately, to draw attention to the defects and other members of the public

by the use of appropriate means (e.g. a warning label) and to note such action in the Incident Book for the attention of the Committee.

6. **Hirers** are responsible for:

- a. Complying with all conditions of hire, as set out in the Hire Agreement, and for ensuring that their organisation/party conducts its activities in line with such conditions, particularly in respect of compliance with all safety requirements and safety notices. Hirers may have responsibilities above and beyond these with regard to insurance and statutory requirements relating to their particular organisation/activity;
- b. Ensuring familiarity with fire safety checks (e.g. keeping fire exits clear) and evacuation procedures;
- c. Designating a responsible person at each hiring/event who will take charge of evacuation in case of emergency;
- d. Ensuring that highly flammable substances are not brought into or used in any part of the premises;
- e. Seeking the consent of the Committee before erecting any internal decorations that may contain combustible materials and ensuring that any allowed decorations are not placed near light fittings or heaters;
- f. Checking that, if any portable electrical equipment is brought onto the premises, it is safe for use and has been P.A.T. tested.

7. **Contractors** are responsible for:

- a. Safe working practices in respect of themselves and their employees and for meeting their statutory obligations with regard to Health & Safety legislation and Public Liability Insurance;
- b. Having regard to the safety of hall users when working on the premises and/or in respect of anything left/stored on the premises;
- c. Advising the Committee of any flammable or toxic substances that may be used in the course of work on the premises.

8. **The Committee** are responsible for:

- a. Ensuring that all Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall are aware of the Health and Safety Policy;
- b. Ensuring that the Health and Safety Policy is fully implemented;
- c. Monitoring compliance with Health and Safety guidelines;
- d. Regularly assessing and reviewing risks and recording such risks;
- e. Keeping an Incident Book in which any incidents or actions that have, or might have, affected the health and safety of any person may be reported and in which any defective or broken equipment may be noted;
- f. Taking such action as may be necessary to rectify the situation, to correct faults or to arrange repair of equipment to ensure health and safety and noting such action;
- g. Making such arrangements and releasing such funds as may be necessary to assist in the implementation of this Policy;
- h. Making such representations to Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall, as may be necessary to ensure their co-operation with Health and Safety Policy, particularly with regard to their actions and activities while on the premises;
- i. Co-operating with Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall in pursuance of Health and Safety requirements.

9. The following persons have been delegated by the Management Committee to manage the following:

Risk Assessment Manager	Trustee responsible for updating policies and risk assessments and presenting them to the Committee for approval.	Mark Payne
First Aid Box	Check and replenish monthly.	TBA
Reporting Accidents/RIDDOR	Minor accidents to be logged by users in the Accident Book. Complete RIDDOR forms as necessary.	Mark Payne
Checking Incident Book at least weekly or as advised of incidents.	Instigate any actions necessary to remove risks e.g. repairs. Advise Risk Assessment Manager and report to committee at each meeting or as soon as necessary.	TBA
Information to Hirers	For each booking check that new hirers have read and agreed to the Hire Agreement. When amendments are made to the policy or risk assessments contact all hirers to inform and gain their acknowledgement.	Sam Judge
Information to Contractors	Liaise with contractors (including self-employed persons) before work is started. Gain their acknowledgement that they have seen the Health & Safety Policy/Risk Assessments and are aware of their responsibilities.	Carl Shute
Risk Assessments/ Monitoring	Complete Risk Assessment forms, monitor and update as necessary. Report to committee at each meeting and advise relevant people to inform hirers/contractors as necessary if amendments are made.	All Committee members
Fire Risk Assessments/ Monitoring	Complete Fire Risk Assessment, monitor and update as necessary. Report to committee at each meeting and advise relevant people to inform hirers/contractors as necessary if amendments are made.	Mark Payne
Annual Testing/Safety Certificates	Make arrangements for annual inspections of gas appliances, electrical appliances, fire extinguishers by suitably qualified contractors. Keep relevant certificates and display copies on notice board as required.	Mark Payne
Safety Notices	Produce and display relevant safety notices in appropriate areas, including copies of Fire Evacuation Procedures and Floor Plans.	Mark Payne
Implementation of Policy	Co-ordinate overall management of policy, including amendments and annual review.	Mark Payne

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10. **Procedures** - The H&S policy document is available to download from the Village Hall website – [www.prestonbissett.co.uk/old-school-hall](http://www.prestonbissett.co.uk/old-school-hall)
- a. All hirers will be expected to read through the whole of the Hire Agreement and sign the form as evidence that they agree and accept these conditions. The hiring conditions will inform all hirers about safety procedures at the hall, which

- they will be expected to follow, e.g. fire evacuation; use of equipment; reporting of incidents/accidents.
- b. All contractors will be made aware of Health & Safety Policy, any identified risks and their responsibilities.
  - c. Committee members with specific responsibilities for aspects of Health & Safety will report to the Committee at each full committee meeting.
  - d. The full policy will be reviewed annually, with risk assessments and necessary amendments being made as necessary throughout the year. Such amendments will be appended to the policy documents and made known to the Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall.
11. **General guidelines** are provided to assist users in fulfilling their Health & Safety responsibilities and are as follows:
- a. Premises
    - i. The entrance must be clear of obstacles and hazards at all times to ensure there is safe access and egress for people entering or leaving the building.
    - ii. Wet floors must be made safe by the application of an absorbent, non-slip surface until such time as the floor can be thoroughly dried.
    - iii. The premises should be adequately heated and is controlled by the Committee. Such heating is to be used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and to be adequately maintained and regularly serviced. Radiators and pipes should not be allowed to become excessively hot and heating controls should be checked and adjusted accordingly.
    - iv. Water should not be heated above 60 degrees Centigrade.
    - v. Any floor coverings should lie flat and edges of rugs/carpets should not present a trip hazard.
    - vi. Spillages must be cleared up quickly to prevent slipping.
    - vii. Any concerns regarding any electrical installation, plug, lead etc must be notified to the appropriate person/authority immediately.
    - viii. Any electrical equipment where there are signs of damage, exposure of components or water penetration etc. must be isolated from use, not operated and brought to the immediate attention of the Committee.
    - ix. All hirers should acquaint themselves with the position of the fuse box/main switch. Electrical leads must not be allowed to trail across floors or from areas where they might be pulled or become tangled or be a trip hazard.
    - x. Fire extinguishers are regularly serviced and all users should fully acquaint themselves with the position and mode of operation of all extinguishers in case of emergency.
    - xi. All hirers must make themselves aware of the procedure to follow in the event of fire.
    - xii. All hirers should be aware of the position of Fire Exits and must ensure that these are kept clear at all times.
    - xiii. As good practice Hirers should have a method to account for the number of persons present during their hire.
    - xiv. If the oven/cooker is in use it should not be left unattended, even for a short time.
    - xv. Kettles should not be over-filled, nor should the leads be left to trail over the edge of the work top.
    - xvi. Children are not allowed in the kitchen at any time.
    - xvii. All cleaning solutions etc. must be kept out of the reach of children in original and clearly labelled tamperproof containers.

- xviii. Due care should be exercised in the playground area.
  - xix. All equipment should be adequately maintained to ensure that there are no sharp edges, loose screws, splinters etc. and that it is fit for purpose.
  - xx. Any freestanding equipment should be sturdy or adequately secured to prevent it from being moved or toppled.
  - xxi. All persons should exercise care in storage areas, both while removing and replacing items. Each person is responsible for ensuring that any item they stack or replace on a shelf cannot fall or be knocked and so cause injury.
  - xxii. Hirers are responsible for the safety of people on the premises during the period of their hire and should supervise as necessary.
- b. Working Practices - It is everyone's responsibility to protect themselves from injury when lifting, carrying, pulling or pushing items or equipment. In order to do this the following guidelines should be observed:
- i. Do not attempt to lift anything that you know to be beyond your capability.
  - ii. Ask for help with large, heavy or awkward items.
  - iii. Where possible, lighten the load, separate items so that they are more manageable.
  - iv. When lifting heavy objects bend the knees and keep the back straight, ask for assistance if necessary. Similarly, with reaching to remove/replace something on a high shelf or to position something on the wall above head height, it is the individual's responsibility to protect themselves from injury, as well as to safeguard others by acting responsibly. In order to do this the following guidelines should be followed:
    - a) Ensure that you are sufficiently elevated to see what you are doing, do not attempt to pull something from a shelf above head height without first checking that it is safe to do so.
    - b) Use an appropriate ladder or step to reach, do not stand on chairs, as this may cause injury to yourself or others nearby. Ask for help if necessary.
    - c) Do not work at height, on steps or ladders until they are properly secured and another person is present. Wear suitable protective clothing/eye protection when undertaking tasks that may involve contact with toxic substances or dust/debris etc.
- c. Hygiene - In the interests of health good hygiene practices are essential. The following guidelines should be observed:
- i. Disposable paper hand towels must be provided.
  - ii. Plastic gloves should be readily available and should be worn at all times if dealing with contact with body fluids, e.g. when cleaning toilet areas or for dealing with spilt blood from whatever cause.
  - iii. All surfaces at which food is to be prepared or eaten must first be thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate cleaner and sanitised.
  - iv. Hands must be thoroughly washed before food preparation.
- d. First Aid – An adequately stocked and appropriately labelled First Aid Box is available in the Kitchen (adjoining the Hall).
- e. Incident Book - This book is used to record all cuts, bumps, falls etc. as well as more serious accidents and near misses. It is kept in the Kitchen. The important details to be recorded are:
- i. the name of the casualty
  - ii. the date, time and place that the incident/accident occurred
  - iii. the cause of the accident i.e. what happened
  - iv. a brief description of the injury (if any) sustained
  - v. the first aid (or other) treatment administered and by whom

- vi. whether or not medical aid had to be sought
- vii. the name of the person who dealt with the incident.

## **12. Feedback Book**

- a. Any person being aware of any practice, action or incident that has, or could have been, injurious to the health of any person, has a duty to record such incident in the Feedback Book for the attention of the Committee.
- b. The book is kept in the Kitchen.
- c. Any person discovering a faulty or broken piece of equipment should take appropriate action to remove or make safe such equipment and should record all details in the Feedback Book for the attention of the Committee.

## **Annexes**

- A. Fireplace risk assessment
- B. Evacuation procedures

## Preston Bissett village hall – fireplace risk assessment

### Introduction

It is intended to use a fire / wood burner to create heat and atmosphere in the hall. This document details the risks and mitigations to be put in place every time the fire is lit.

### Risks and mitigation

	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
1.	The chimney catches fire.	Sweep the chimney annually and obtain a certificate using a qualified and accredited chimney sweep.
2.	People burn themselves: a. People too inexperienced to know how to manage a fire. This includes children. b. People inadvertently get too close to the fire. c. People who are not in full control of their actions.	a. A person is designated, for the occasion, to be responsible for the fire and its management until it is extinguished. This person is known as the Responsible Person. b. A safety guard is to be put around the fireplace. The height is to exceed 50 cms and the width to be at least 30 cms wider than the opening. It is to be sturdy enough to prevent someone accidentally walking / falling into the fire. c. An emergency fire blanket to be situated next to the fire. d. Fuel is to be kept within the surround. e. Means to light the fire are to be held by the responsible person.
3.	The fire ignites the building or contents.	a. All flammable items and materials are to be removed from the vicinity of the fireplace. b. In the event to fire spits out sparks the Responsible Person is to extinguish the fire and replace the fuel. c. Two fire extinguishers to be placed in the hall, one near the fire. d. The emergency exits to be clear and unlocked for access. e. The evacuation point is out the front of the hall along the side of the road.

### In the event of a fire:

1. The Responsible Person, or their deputy, or a Trustee if present, is to take charge of the situation.
2. The building is to be evacuated immediately.
3. The Responsible Person, or their deputy, or a Trustee if present, is to ensure a call has been made to the emergency services.
4. If the fire can be managed at no risk to anyone then deal with the fire. Otherwise, wait for the emergency services to deal with the situation.

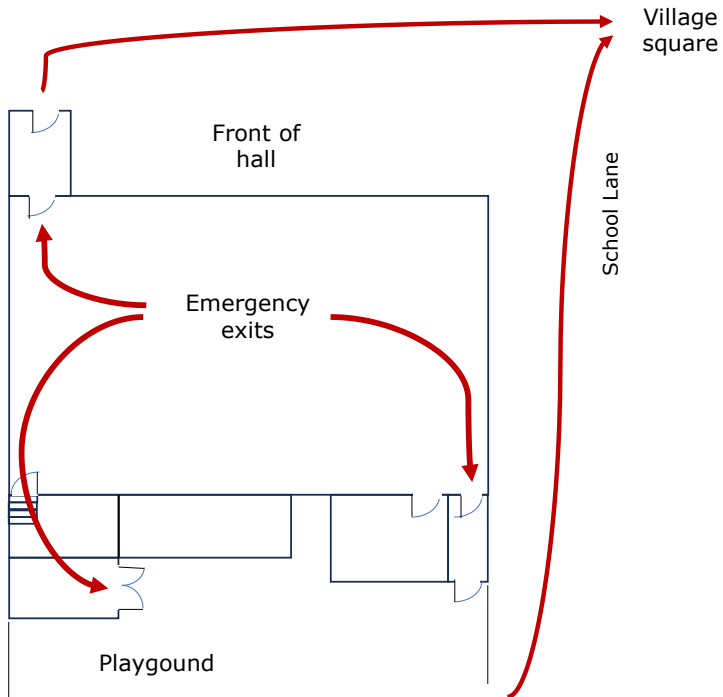
### After the event

The Responsible Person is to write a report within 24 hours of the incident and share it with the Trustees.

### Preston Bissett village hall - Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an emergency requiring the evacuation of the building the Responsible Person (normally the Hirer), or their deputy, or a Trustee if present is to take control of the situation.

All present are to exit the building through the nearest exit:



The evacuation point is the village square.