

Ferring Village Hall

Health and Safety Policy

Ferring Village Hall is a charity registered under Charity No. 1167736 and is managed by a Management Committee of volunteer trustees. Ferring Village Hall's objects are to run a village hall and to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Ferring without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions, the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure.

The Management Committee, although having no legal requirement to undertake Health and Safety risk assessments, as trustees of the charity and as manager of non-domestic premises, recognise and accept its general duties under The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to ensure that the premises are safe and that risks are assessed and managed, so far as is reasonably practicable, and to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of all those managing, using and visiting Ferring Village Hall is paramount at all times.

The policy of the Management Committee is to take reasonably practicable measures in relation to the management of Ferring Village Hall to comply with all legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to the duties which it has, to:

1. provide healthy and safe working conditions, equipment and systems for our Management Committee Members and Hirers.
2. keep the Village Hall and equipment in a safe condition for all users.
3. provide all necessary support and information to Hall users, hirers and outside contractors.

The Management Committee will work in the furtherance of these aims by:

- a) identifying and assessing risks.
- b) recording assessments and regularly reviewing them.
- c) eliminating or controlling risks.
- d) monitoring compliance and work conditions.
- e) establishing a clear, sensible and practical safety organisation and arrangements.

DUTIES

All Management Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall are expected to recognise and accept their duties:

- a) to follow health and safety instructions and to report dangers.
- b) to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons who may be affected by their acts and omissions.
- c) as regards any duty imposed on the Management Committee, to co-operate so far as is necessary, to enable that duty to be performed or complied with.

ORGANISATION

General Responsibilities:

- i) All persons have a responsibility for ensuring that their actions do not compromise the health and safety of themselves or any other person on the premises.
- ii) 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 danger and further to report such incidents in the Incident Book for the attention of the Management Committee.
- iii) Any person noticing potentially hazardous, broken or ineffective equipment has the responsibility to remove such equipment from use immediately, to draw attention to defects 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 Management Committee.

Hirers are responsible for:

- i) complying with all conditions of hire, as set out in the Terms & Conditions of hire document, 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.
- ii) ensuring familiarity with fire safety checks (e.g. keeping fire exits clear) and evacuation procedures.
- iii) designating a responsible person at each hiring/event who will take charge of evacuation in case of emergency.
- iv) ensuring that highly flammable substances are not brought into or used in any part of the premises.
- v) seeking the consent of the Management 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.
- vi) checking that, if any portable electrical equipment is brought onto the premises, it is safe for use/has been P.A.T. tested.

Contractors are responsible for:

- i) 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.
- ii) having regard to the safety of hall users when working on the premises and/or in respect of anything left/stored on the premises.
- iii) advising the Management Committee of any flammable or toxic substances that may be used in the course of work on the premises.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- i) ensuring that all Management Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall are aware of the Health and Safety Policy.

- ii) ensuring that the Health and Safety Policy are fully implemented.
- iii) monitoring compliance with Health and Safety guidelines.
- iv) regularly assessing and reviewing risks and recording such risks.
- v) 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.
- vi) 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; vii) making such arrangements and releasing such funds as may be necessary to assist in the implementation of this Policy.
- viii) making such representations to Management Committee Members, 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.
- ix) cooperating with Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall in pursuance of Health and Safety requirements.

PROCEDURES

This Health & Safety Policy will be available to download from the Village Hall website – www.ferringvillagehall.org.uk

All hirers will be expected to read through the whole of the Terms & Conditions of hire 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).

All contractors will be made aware of the Health & Safety Policy, any identified risks and their responsibilities.

Management Committee members with specific responsibilities for aspects of Health & Safety will report to The Management Committee at each full Management committee meeting.

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 Management Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO BE ADHERED TO

These guidelines are provided to assist users in fulfilling their Health & Safety responsibilities.

Premises

- The entrance must be clear of obstacles and hazards at all times that people are entering or leaving the building.
- 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.

- The premises should be adequately heated, such heating 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.
- Any floor coverings should lie flat, and edges of rugs/carpets should not be allowed to curl up. • Spills must be cleared up quickly to prevent slipping.
- Any concerns regarding any electrical installation, plug, lead etc must be notified to the appropriate person/authority immediately.
- Any electrical equipment where there are signs of damage, exposure of components or water penetration etc. must not be touched or operated.
- Electrical leads must not be allowed to trail across floors or from areas where they might be pulled or become caught up.
- Fire extinguishers will be regularly serviced, and all persons should fully acquaint themselves with the position and mode of operation of all extinguishers.
- All hirers must make themselves aware of the procedure to follow in the event of fire. • All hirers should be aware of the position of Fire Exits and must ensure that these are kept clear at all times.
- As good practice hirers should have a method to account for the number of persons present during their hire.
- If the oven/cooker is in use it should not be left unattended, even for a short time. • Kettles should not be over-filled, nor should the leads be left to trail over the edge of the work top.
- Children should only be in the kitchen when under the direct supervision of an adult and not at any other time.
- All cleaning solutions etc. must be kept out of the reach of children.
- Due care should be exercised in the car park area.
- 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.
- Any freestanding equipment should be sturdy or adequately secured to prevent it from being moved or toppled.
- 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.
- Hirers are responsible for the safety of people on the premises during the period of their hire and should supervise as necessary.

Working Practices

It is your responsibility to protect yourself from injury when lifting, carrying, pulling or pushing. In order to do this the following guidelines should be observed:

- Do not attempt to lift anything that you know to be beyond your capability. •
Ask for help with large, heavy or awkward items.
- Where possible, lighten the load, separate items so that they are more manageable. • When lifting heavy objects bend your knees and keep your 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 your responsibility to protect yourself from injury, as well as to safeguard others by acting responsibly. In order to do this the following guidelines should be followed:

- 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. • Use an appropriate ladder or step to enable you to reach, do not stand on chairs, not only could a resultant fall cause you injury but could also lead to the injury of others nearby.
- Ask for help if necessary.
- 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.

Hygiene

In the interests of health good hygiene practices are essential. The following guidelines should be observed:

- Disposable paper hand towels must be provided.
- Plastic gloves should be readily available and should be worn at all times that there might be contact with body fluids e.g. when cleaning toilet areas or for dealing with spilt blood from whatever cause.
- All surfaces on which food is to be prepared or eaten must first be thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate cleaner.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed before food preparation.

First Aid

A well-stocked and appropriately labelled First Aid Box is available in all the kitchens, and in the main corridor.

Accident Book

This book is used to record all cuts, bumps, falls etc. as well as more serious accidents and near misses. Accident books are kept in all the kitchens.

The important details to be recorded are:

- the name of the casualty
- the date, time and place that the incident/accident occurred
- the cause of the accident i.e. what happened
- a brief description of the injury (if any) sustained
- the first aid (or other) treatment administered and by whom
- whether or not medical aid had to be sought
- the name of the person who dealt with the incident

General Advice – Be aware and seek to avoid the following risks:

- creating slip hazards on polished or wet floors – mop spills immediately
- creating trip hazards by leaving items in halls and corridors – keep areas clear •
use adequate lighting to avoid tripping in poorly lit areas
- risk to individuals in sole occupancy of the building
- risks involved in using kitchen equipment such as cooker, water heaters, kettles etc •
creating toppling hazards by piling equipment in store cupboards

Procedure in case of accidents

The location of the nearest hospital accident & emergency department is – Worthing Hospital, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing. BN11 2DH

The First Aid Boxes are located in each kitchen, and also near to the main entrance door.

The Accident books are kept with the first aid boxes.

Any accident must be reported to the Health & Safety Trustee – Debbie Dilks at debsdilks27@yahoo.com.

The Health & Safety Trustee will ensure that all completed accident reports are removed from the accident book (for data protection and data handling purposes) and retained and stored securely.

RIDDOR Reporting

The person responsible for completing RIDDOR forms and reporting accidents is – Debbie Dilks

The following major injuries must be reported on RIDDOR forms:

- fracture (other than fingers, thumbs or toes)
- amputation
- dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine
- loss of sight
- any penetrating eye injury (including chemical)
- injury from electric shock/burn leading to unconsciousness or requiring resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- any other injury leading to hypothermia, heat induced illness or requiring resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- unconsciousness caused by asphyxia or exposure to harmful substance or biological agent • acute illness requiring medical treatment or loss of consciousness arising from absorption of any substance by inhalation, ingestion or through the skin
- acute illness requiring medical attention which may have resulted from a biological agent or its toxins or infected material.

Review

This policy shall be circulated to all Trustees for information and reviewed every two years.

Approved by the Trustees on 15 October 2025