

Health and Safety Policy

Introduction

The policy of Swanmore Village Hall Association with regard to the implementation of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 . This document is the Health and Safety policy of the Directors and Trustees of Swanmore Village Hall, herein after referred to as the 'Trustees'.

Our policy is to:

- i. Provide healthy and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for our volunteers, members, visitors, hirers, and any future employees.
- ii. Keep the hall premises and their facilities and equipment in a safe condition for all users.
- iii. Provide such training and information as is necessary to volunteers, users and any staff.

It is the intention of the Trustees to comply with all Health and safety legislation and to act positively where they can reasonably do so to prevent injury, ill health or any danger arising from the activities and operations within the Hall.

The Trustees consider the promotion of health and safety of all who use the premises, including contractors who may work there, to be of great importance. They recognise that the effective prevention of accidents depends as much on a committed attitude of mind to safety as on the operation and maintenance of equipment and safe systems of work. To this end, they will seek to encourage all visitors, contractors and users and any staff to engage in the establishment and observance of safe working practices.

Any employees, contractors, visitors, and users will be expected to recognise that there is a duty on them to comply with the practices set out by the Trustees, with all safety requirements set out in the hiring agreement and with safety notices on the premises and to accept responsibility to do everything they can to prevent injury to themselves and others.

1.0 Responsibilities for Health and Safety

1.1 The Trustees have overall responsibility for health and safety in the hall and for the implementation of this policy. It is the intention of the Trustees to comply with all Health and safety legislation and to act positively where they can reasonably do so to prevent injury, ill health or any danger arising from the activities and operations on the hall and field.

1.2 All users of the facilities are expected to read this Health and safety Policy statement as a condition of their hire and to recognise that it is their duty to comply with the procedures and all safety requirements, including safety notices at the site. They will be required to sign the hiring form as evidence that they agree to the hiring conditions.

1.3 It is the duty of all contractors, hirers, visitors, and any staff to:

- take care of themselves and others who may be affected by their activities
- do everything they reasonably can to prevent injury to themselves and others
- co-operate with the Trustees in keeping the premises and field safe and healthy including the car park

1.4 Should anyone using the hall come across a fault, damage or other situation which might cause injury and cannot be rectified immediately, they should inform the Chairman or Bookings Secretary as soon as possible so that the problem can be dealt with. Where equipment is damaged a notice should be placed on it warning that it is not to be used and it should be reported immediately to the Bookings Secretary.

1.5 Routine reviews, checks and safety inspections of safety procedures and equipment are conducted by appointed Trustees or their nominees. Further information can be obtained from the Chairman or Bookings Secretary upon request – contact details are provided in Appendix.

2.0 Safety Information

2.1 Fire Precautions and Checks

2.1.1 A plan of the hall showing the location of fire exits and fire extinguishers is displayed on the board near the entrance.

2.1.2 A copy of the Hall Emergency evacuation procedure is attached at Appendix 2 and is also displayed on the Hall noticeboard. In addition, each group that meets regularly in the Hall may have its own evacuation procedure and fire drill procedure.

2.1.3 The service record for the fire safety equipment is available from the Bookings Secretary upon request.

2.2 Risk Assessments

The Trustees carry out Risk assessments to assess and examine activities that could cause harm to people to help decide whether enough precautions are in place or whether more needs to be done to prevent harm. These risk assessments also help the Trustees to comply with the various laws and regulations contained in a wide range of legislation. Copies of the risk assessments are available from the Bookings Secretary on request.

The risk assessments, together with the actions and outcomes they may identify, are kept under review in order to aim for the lowest level of risk possible. However, the Trustees are aware that risk can never be eliminated completely. New risk assessments are carried out if new or changed circumstances are identified and are part of the Trustees' on-going commitment to safety.

3.0 SAFETY PRACTICES

The following practices must be followed in order to minimise risks:

- Make sure that all emergency exits doors are clear and unlocked as soon as the hall is to be used and throughout the hiring.
- Do not operate or touch any electrical equipment where there are signs of damage, exposure of components or water penetration, etc.
- Do not work on steps, ladders or at a height until that are properly secured and another person is present.
- Do not leave portable electrical or gas appliances operating while unattended.
- Do not bring onto the property any portable electrical appliances which have not been Portable Appliance Tested.
- Do not attempt to move heavy or bulky items (e.g., stacked tables or chairs) without the proper equipment.
- Do not stack chairs more than six high.
- Do not attempt to carry or tip a water boiler when it contains hot water. Leave it to cool.
- Do not allow children in the kitchen except under close supervision. Avoid overcrowding and do not allow running.
- Wear suitable protective clothing when handling cleaning or other toxic materials.
- All faults or repairs should be sent to the Hall Committee as soon as possible.

Report every accident in the accident book and to the Bookings Secretary.

Be aware and seek to avoid the following risks:

- i. Creating slipping hazards on steps or wet floors. Mop spills immediately.
- ii. Creating tripping hazards such as buggies, umbrellas, bags, mops and other items left in the foyer, kitchen, main hall and storage areas.
- iii. Avoiding:
 - a. tripping by using adequate lighting
 - b. risk to individuals while in sole occupancy of the building
 - c. risks involved in handling kitchen equipment e.g. cooker, water heater and knives
 - d. Creating toppling hazards by piling equipment e.g. in store cupboards

4.0 IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS

4.1 The nearest Accident and Emergency/Casualty dept. is:

Queen Alexandra Hospital
Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3LY

4.2 The nearest doctor's surgery is:

Bishops Waltham Surgery
Lower Ln, Bishops Waltham SO32 1GR
Tel [01489 892288](tel:01489892288)

4.3 The First Aid Box is located in the kitchen.

4.4 The accident book is kept in the desk in the kitchen. This must be completed whenever an accident occurs. All accidents, even minor ones, must be reported to the Bookings Secretary.

4.5 The following major injuries or incidents must be reported on RIDDOR forms:

- Fracture, other than to fingers, thumbs or toes.
- Amputation

- Dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine
- Loss of sight (temporary or permanent)
- Any penetrating injury to eye (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 unconsciousness 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 skin.
- Acute illness requiring medical attention which may have resulted from a biological agent or its toxins or infected material.

Should there be an incident / accident in the Hall that requires the completion of a RIDDOR form then please contact the Bookings Secretary for assistance.

5.0 INSURANCE

A copy of the Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurance certificate for the Village Hall is displayed on the hall notice boards and can also be obtained from the Bookings Secretary upon request.

6.0 CONTRACTORS

Before any contractor or person on site begins any work, they should:

- a) Carry out their own risk assessment
- b) Ensure they have adequate liability cover
- c) Familiarise themselves with this Health and Safety Policy.

7.0 REVIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Trustees will review this policy annually after each AGM and also as required by any change of circumstances. Individuals with responsibility for aspects of Health and Safety will report to the Trustees regularly, including any accidents, faults, misuse by hirers or other matters which could affect health and safety of users or employers. These reports and subsequent actions will be recorded in the minutes of Trustees' meetings.

APPENDIX 1

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY

***Fire Assembly Point is in Car Park ***

IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE:

1. SOUND THE ALARM BY SOUNDING ONE OF THE AIR HORNS.
2. IMMEDIATELY EXIT THE BUILDING.
3. DIAL 999 FOR FIRE SERVICE
- 4.

THIS ADDRESS: SWANMORE VILLAGE HALL, NEW ROAD, SWANMORE, SO32 2PF

1. ALL PRESENT TO LEAVE BUILDING AND MEET ON ASSEMBLY AREA AND START RECORDING THOSE ASSEMBLED.
2. IF POSSIBLE, SWEEP/CHECK OF ALL ROOMS AND TOILETS – DO NOT ENDANGER YOURSELF.
3. ONLY ATTEMPT TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE USING THE FIRE APPLIANCES PROVIDED IF IT IS CONSIDERED SAFE TO DO SO.

IF YOU HEAR THE FIRE ALARM

1. LEAVE THE BUILDING BY THE NEAREST FIRE EXIT.
2. CLOSE ALL DOORS BEHIND YOU.
3. REPORT TO PERSON IN CHARGE AT ASSEMBLY POINT.
4. DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT BELONGINGS.
5. DO NOT TAKE RISKS – JUST GET OUT.

APPENDIX 2

Typical Emergency Plan For The Hirer/Person Responsible.

A Caretaker is not present on the premises.

As the responsible person for the event/function, you have legal duties with regards to the safety of those persons assisting or attending the event.

Key holders should keep the key and alarm code secure.

Before the event you should be aware of:

- What fire protection systems are available.
- How fire will be detected.
- How people will be warned if there is a fire.
- What people should do if they discover a fire.
- How evacuation of the building should be carried out, including arrangements for those identified as being especially at risk, such as those with disabilities or children.
- Where people should assemble after they have left the building and procedures for checking everybody has evacuated the building.
- Arrangements for fighting a fire.
- How fire and rescue services and any other services will be called.
- Procedures for meeting the fire and rescue services on arrival.
- Limitation on numbers of people.
- Checking all escapes are clear of obstruction.

At the start of an event, you should notify all present about:

- The smoking policy.
- The emergency air horns.
- Location of exits and escape routes.
- Taking only valuables immediately to hand and not to go and collect other belongings.
- Not leaving items on the floor that could cause obstruction, e.g. handbags.
- The location of the Assembly Point.
- What will happen after an evacuation.

During an event, you should ensure that:

- The smoking escape routes and exits do not become obstructed.
- The No Smoking policy is adhered to.
- No naked flames are started (unless authorised).
- Rooms do not become overcrowded.
- Permitted numbers are not exceeded.
- Noise levels cannot drown out the need for emergency announcements.

- You are aware of the disabled call alarm in the disabled toilet.

At the end of the Hiring, you should ensure that:

- The premises are left clean and tidy, and equipment is returned to its correct position/storage area.
- Any rubbish is removed from the premises and disposed of by the hirer
- All items brought onto the premises are taken away.
- All heaters including water heaters and cookers are turned off.
- All electrical appliances are turned off and unplugged.
- All lights not required for security reasons are turned out.
- All internal doors are closed.
- All exits to the premises are locked/secured and the key is returned as arranged with the Booking Secretary.