

CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Allotment Risk Assessment

RISK	LEVEL	COMMENT	ACTIONS/INSTRUCTIONS TO MINIMISE RISK
1) <u>Machinery</u> To user	Medium	Operating machinery carries a medium level of risk unless the appropriate safety equipment is worn, and the machinery is operated correctly. Injuries to hands, feet and face need to be guarded against.	Instructions for the use of machinery lie with the owner/operator it is a requirement that plot holders wear the recommended safety equipment when operating machinery (irrespective of the owner).
To other plot holders and visitors	Low	When strimmers and mowing machines are being used on an adjacent plot, stones and other flying objects can cause injuries to the face etc.	The instructions for these items of equipment make particular reference to the dangers. It is the responsibility of the operator take due care.
To children	High	Children can act unpredictably, exposing themselves to risk from machinery.	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to ensure that their children are supervised. When young children are present on a plot, cultivators or strimmers should only be used where there are two adults – one operating, one supervising. No children to operate machinery under any circumstances.
2) <u>Weed-killers & Pesticides</u> To user	Low	There is a risk if chemicals are not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.	All chemicals should be used and sprayers etc. rinsed after use, in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. If chemicals are held on a plot holder's plot they should be stored securely and clearly identifiable.
To other plot holders and visitors	Negligible		
To children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from chemicals.	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.
3) <u>Garden Tools and Equipment</u> To User	Low	Injuries to hands and feet if equipment is not used correctly.	Garden tools and equipment should be used correctly, and appropriate gloves and footwear worn as necessary.
To other plot holders and visitors	Negligible		Garden tools and equipment should not be left on common paths or left available for others to use.
To children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from garden tools and equipment.	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.

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4) <u>Overhanging Branches</u> To user	Low	Overhanging branches can cause injuries to plot holders, visitors and children.	Low hanging branches and dangerous branches should be reported so that appropriate action may be taken.
5) <u>Trip hazards</u>	Low	Poorly maintained paths and the entrance can present a trip hazard to plot holders, visitors and children.	It is the responsibility of all plot holders to maintain their paths and to assist in the maintenance of the common path.
6) <u>Ponds and Water butts/baths etc.</u>	Low	Ponds and water butts/baths can be a hazard to young children.	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to conform to the rules in the agreement and ensure that children are supervised at all times.
7) <u>Bonfires</u> To user/plot holder To other plot holders and visitors To children	Low Negligible Medium	There is an inherent danger in a bonfire spreading if unattended. Children can act unpredictably, exposing themselves to risk from bonfires	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to conform to the rules covering bonfires. It is the responsibility of the plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.
8) <u>Broken Glass and materials with sharp edges</u> To user To other plot holders and visitors To children	Low Low Medium	There is a risk of cuts to hands and feet and also infection if broken glass or sharp-edged materials are left on the ground and not disposed of safely. Unsuspecting plot holders and visitors may not be expecting to come across such materials lying around. Children can act unpredictably, exposing themselves to danger from broken glass and materials with sharp edges.	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to wear adequate safety clothing and dispose of such materials in a safe and responsible manner. Tetanus injections should also be kept up to date. It is the responsibility of the plot holder to confirm to the agreement rules regarding keeping plots and shared areas safe and rubbish free. It is the responsibility of all plot holders to dispose of all broken glass and sharp-edged waste material in a safe and responsible manner, and to ensure that children are supervised and adequately vaccinated.
8) <u>General Hazards</u> (including seeds, berries, pathogens from compost heaps and manure)	Negligible		It is the responsibility of the plot holder to ensure that children are supervised, and normal hygiene is observed.
9) <u>Rats & Vermin</u>	Medium	Rats and vermin can carry Weil's disease. Although this is rare, it is a serious disease.	The presence of rats etc should be reported to the Parish Council. Where rat and other poisons have been laid down, notices are to be displayed to inform plot holders.

Please ensure that if any hazards or potential problems can or could be identified, a member of the Parish Council is informed so that appropriate action can be implemented.

Reviewed January 2025. Minuted 4th February 2025

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