STOCKBURY PARISH COUNCIL
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, Councillors, or anyone working on behalf of Stockbury Parish Council.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children, young and other vulnerable people who utilise Stockbury Parish Council facilities. This includes the children of adults who use our facilities;

- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding. Stockbury Parish Council believes that a child, young or other vulnerable person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young or other vulnerable persons and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding

3. The Parish Council recognises that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting vulnerable people's welfare.

4. The Parish Council will seek to keep children, young and other vulnerable people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to, and respecting them
- Developing and implementing effective safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff, and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.

5. Status

This policy will be subject to annual review.