Stilton Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment/skate park

Risk Assessment for the SKATE PARK, STILTON

The Government recently announced that outdoor Skate parks could be re-opened on 29 March 2021 and subsequently produced guidance offering "practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19". The guidance is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms

The guidance includes a requirement to "carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment". It is made very clear that "Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law". On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of the Skate park in Stilton.

Key Principle	**Government Guidance**	**Assessment**	**Conclusion**
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	General maintenance work required as highlighted in recent RoSPA report has been addressed and completed.	**RE-OPEN**
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers	Signs to be put at the entrance, stating maximum of 6 users on the SP at any one time or 2 family groups. Booking system is not feasible. A large PVC sign to be purchased is mounted at the rear of the site reminding users to socially distance.	**RE-OPEN**
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points	The PVC sign to remind users to	**RE-OPEN**

	frequently. This includes: • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins In addition, use signage to encourage: • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.	wash their hands. Signs to be placed on the 4 railings up on the ramps advising users to wash their hands after touching. The SP has been closed so risk of Covid-19 minimal on equipment currently. No high traffic touch areas to clean (but signs as above on those that may be used.) No bin on site (one on the field is emptied often and monitored,) no seats on site. Provision of hand sanitiser not practicable nor hand washing facilities.	
Face Coverings	If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly).	Face coverings may be a hazard to children playing on the equipment so not feasible. Social distancing is possible whereby users are limited to 6 or 2 family groups.	**RE-OPEN**
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that: • consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned	Responsible behaviour to be monitored and the site re-closed if not adhered to – the PVC sign to advise no food and rubbish to be placed in the bin.	**RE-OPEN**

	• parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.		
Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include: • cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas • managing queues of those waiting to use equipment • stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator	No staff on site, no requirement for these at this time. To be monitored.	**RE-OPEN**

Conclusions

THE PARISH COUNCIL FEELS CONFIDENT SUFFICIENT MEASURES CAN BE PUT IN PLACE TO MANAGE THE RISK OF COVID-19. FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF THE SKATE PARK, RECENT CLOSURE, LOW INTERACTION WITH CONTACT POINTS, SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES AND OUTDOOR SITING OF THE FACILITY, THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO RE-OPEN THE SKATE PARK. SHOULD IT BECOME APPARENT THAT THE MEASURES DETAILED ABOVE ARE NOT BEING ADHERED TO, THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD CLOSE THE PARK AGAIN.

Risk Assessments undertaken by the Clerk and conclusions agreed by all councillors.

29 March 2021