

Lanchester Parish Council

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Our policy is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees, and to provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

The policy will be kept up to date, particularly as the Council's activities may change in nature and size as time goes by. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed periodically.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall and final responsibility for health and safety in the Council and for compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act and Regulations made under the Act and the Occupiers Liability Act is that of the Parish Council of Lanchester. The Clerk is responsible for this policy being carried out.

All employees have the responsibility to co-operate with supervisors and managers to achieve a healthy and safe workplace and to take reasonable care of themselves and others.

Whenever an employee, supervisor or manager notices a health or safety problem which they are not able to put right, they must tell the appropriate person.

The Accident Record Book is kept in the office at Lynwood House.

3. FIRST AID

First Aid boxes are located as follows:

Box 1: Parish Council Office – Lynwood House

4. FIRE SAFETY

The Fire Procedure and maintenance of fire equipment is the responsibility of Derwentside Homes in whose building the Parish Council is located.

Staff should ensure that they are familiar with the evacuation procedure, including fire exit locations and fire assembly points.

5. TRAINING

The Parish Clerk has overall responsibility for training.

6. GENERAL ADVICE

General advice to all employees is attached as Appendix 6.

7. SPECIFIC ADVICE

Advice for particular premises and activities are attached as Appendices as follows:-

Appendix 1 Offices

Appendix 2 Grounds Maintenance

Appendix 3 Caretaking and Cleaning

Appendix 4 Lifting and Handling

Appendix 5 Work Equipment

8. HIRING OF CONTRACTORS

The notes to be given to contractors are attached at Appendix 7.

9. REPORTING AND RECORDING ACCIDENTS

Accidents shall be reported to the Parish Clerk who will record them in the Accidents Record Book.

Accidents occurring within Lynwood House will be reported to Derwentside Homes.

10. SMOKING

Smoking is not allowed in offices.

1. HEATING, LIGHTING AND VENTILATION

- a) The temperature of the office is controlled by Derwentside Homes in whose building the Parish Council is located.
- b) Free standing heaters must not be used unless specifically authorised. When these are so authorised, they must comply fully with Fire Regulations and the area around them must be kept clear of any paper or other flammable materials, and be sited away from desks and chairs.
- c) Office lighting. Desks should be placed to gain the maximum amount of light. Free-standing desk lights should be avoided or placed so as to minimise the danger of trailing electrical leads.

2. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

- a) All electrical equipment shall be inspected in accordance with Regulations.
- b) Mains must not be overloaded. It is important that the correct socket outlet and plug top face (where these are available) is used for each item of electrical equipment.
- c) Electric points must not be overloaded by means of multi-adaptors. All mains should be switched off when not in use, and plug tops removed from sockets overnight and at weekends.
- d) Leads from points for various desk uses should not present a hazard by trailing across areas of access. Extension leads are for temporary use only and should not exceed 10 feet in length.
- e) Defective equipment must never be used. Staff should not attempt to effect repairs to electrical equipment, unless competent to do so.

3. FURNITURE, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT

- a) All heavy equipment and storage units should preferably be placed against the wall across several floor joists.
- b) Heavy equipment and furniture must not be moved by individuals.
- c) Office equipment whether manually or electrically operated, must not be used by unauthorised, untrained personnel.

- d) Filing cabinets should always have sufficient weight in the bottom drawer to prevent the cabinet from tipping when a full top drawer is opened. Filing cabinet and desk drawers must always be closed immediately after use. Drawer filing cabinets should be inspected at least every six months to ensure correct loading and smoothness of operation, with particular regard to the effectiveness of the drawer stops. Damaged or defective cabinets must not be used.
- e) High shelves should only be reached through the use of steps provided for that purpose. It is dangerous to stand on desks and chairs, particularly those fitted with castors and this should be avoided at all times.

4. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

- a) All staff must be fully conversant with the "Fire Alert" system displayed in the offices.
- b) Exit corridors, landings and stair cases must be kept clear at all times.
- c) Flammable materials must not be stored, even for a temporary period, in the offices or corridors, unless the storage is in a fire resistant structure such as a metal cupboard or bin, clearly marked "Flammable Materials".
- d) Waste paper bins must be of suitable construction and be emptied each day.

1. Only authorised members of staff, who have received training and instruction in the operation of machinery and equipment may do so.
2. All dangerous moving parts of machinery must be guarded. Guards must not be removed except for the purpose of repair and maintenance. All machinery must comply with statutory regulations for guarding and use.
3. The engines of any motorised equipment must be stopped before any inspection or adjustment is carried out. In the case of electrically operated machines the plug lead must be disconnected.
4. Children must not be allowed to play in an area where machinery is in use. Machinery must not be left unattended where children (or others) may interfere with them.
5. Stones and similar objects must be cleared from the path of equipment to prevent such objects being projected from machinery.
6. Fuel tanks must only be filled in the open, with the engine stopped. No risk of naked flames, or smoking is allowed in the vicinity of a fuel tank or storage can.
7. Fuel may only be stored in a safety can of a type approved.
8. The manufacturers instructions regarding the safe use of chemicals must be adhered to.
9. Appropriate protective clothing such as gloves and overalls, face masks and boots must be used when operating with machinery and chemicals including herbicides and pesticides.
10. Ladders and stepladders must be in good condition and free from defects and securely positioned at all times when in use.
11. Pathways on Council owned premises shall be inspected annually.

1. It is essential that care is exercised to follow all labelled instructions on containers and packages. Products should be stored away from extreme low temperatures, heat sources and naked lights, particularly those products containing hydrocarbon and other flammable solvents.
2. Appropriate protective clothing, such as gloves and overalls must be worn when handling corrosive substances.
3. Care must be taken to avoid ingestion, inhalation and skin contact of all chemical substances. Spillage must be cleaned up immediately while observing all precautions.
4. Consideration must be given to the possibility of hazardous by-products that may arise from reaction between various products, or from products exposed to heat or fire. Particularly in the case of bleach which will produce chlorine gas if mixed with acidic cleansers (e.g. Harpic) or other acidic substances.
5. Step-ladders which are used to gain access to heights must be in good condition and free from defects.
6. All electrical cleaning equipment must have been wired up by a competent person. Any deterioration in electrical connections or wiring should be reported immediately.
7. Floors must be treated only with approved non-slip products. The method of application and quantities to be applied should be that recommended by the manufacturer.
8. YOU SHOULD REPORT:
 - a) Structural faults which appear dangerous.
 - b) Floor coverings, etc. which cause a tripping hazard.
 - c) Faulty gas, electric, paraffin fixtures, fittings and equipment.
 - d) All accidents, however small, should be reported.

YOU SHOULD NOT:

- e) Attempt to repair gas, electric, paraffin fixtures, fittings or equipment, unless competent to do so.
- f) Attempt to move obviously heavy furniture alone.

YOU SHOULD:

- g) In the event of your having to stand on something to reach windows, etc. do ensure the object on which you will stand is solid and reliable.
- h) Dispose of aerosol cans in the recommended way.
- i) Dispose of soiled materials in sealed bags.

1. The 1992 Regulations apply to lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying and moving by hand or by bodily force. More work injuries are caused through "handling goods" than any other single action.

Manual lifting is included in this and an incorrect technique can cause:

Hernia (or rupture), torn back muscles, "slipped disc", cuts, bruises, crush injuries to fingers, hands and forearms, crush injuries to toes, cuts and bruises to the legs and feet.

2. The following basic rules are produced to help reduce these accidents:

Never attempt to lift anything beyond your capacity. If in doubt get a second person or others to help.

If mechanical aids are provided, use them.

If an object is to be lifted manually:-

- a) Bend the knees and crouch to the object.
- b) Get a firm grip using the whole hand and not the finger tips.
- c) Keep the back straight.
- d) Tuck the chin in.
- e) Position the feet so that one is behind the other alongside the object, pointing in the direction of movement after lifting.
- f) Push off with the rear foot. Straighten the legs and raising the object, move off in required direction in one smooth movement.
- g) Avoid pinching fingers when releasing object.
- h) When lifting is done by two or more persons one should be appointed leader to ensure movements are co-ordinated.
- i) Protect your toes with safety footwear.
- j) Wear protective gloves when handling objects with sharp or jagged edges.

WORK EQUIPMENT

Appendix 5

All work equipment must be suitable for the task and maintained in a manner that is not injurious to the health, safety or welfare of employees or those affected by their work.

Generally any equipment that is used by an employee at work is defined as work equipment. Examples include; Plant, machinery, photocopiers, hand tools, vehicles, scaffolds and ladders etc. If employees bring their own equipment to work then this too will be defined as work equipment and will have to be managed in the same way as equipment supplied by the employer.

Work equipment should be:

- Suitable for its intended use
- Maintained in a safe condition and where appropriate inspected to ensure this remains the case
- Used only by persons who have received adequate information, instruction and training
- Accompanied by suitable safety measures eg protective devices such as guards, emergency stop controls and personal protective equipment etc

1. TIDINESS

- Keep floors, passages etc. clear of stores, packages and litter.
- Put waste paper in the bin.
- Do not throw broken glass, razor blades or other dangerous items loose in the waste bin. Dispose of these with care and ask for advice if in doubt.

2. FALLS AND COLLISIONS

- Walk, do not run. Look where you are going.
- Use care in opening doors outward.
- Take care on stairs and use the handrail.
- Mop up spills of liquid, do not leave it to someone else.
- Do not climb on chairs, desks, window sills to reach shelves or to open windows.
- Use a step-ladder and window poles etc.

3. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

READ AND UNDERSTAND FIRE PRECAUTION NOTICES

- Ensure that you know the lay-out of the fire exits and emergency routes.
- Report or remove where possible any obstruction of fire exits and passages.
- Keep cloths and towels away from heaters and convectors etc.
- Do not stand close to an electric fire, if use permitted, nor stand them near to anything that will bum.

4. HORSEPLAY

Avoid horseplay, sky larking and practical jokes, it can be dangerous.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Appendix 7

For Lanchester Parish Council to comply with Health and Safety Legislation, all outside contractors employed to do work on Council Premises are to be made aware of the expected requirements related to health and safety. A contractor accepting a contract from the Council shall be deemed to have agreed to comply with the following requirements :-

1. As a contractor, you will supply and ensure that your employees wear and use protective equipment or anything provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare of any of the relevant statutory provisions.
2. You and your employees will ensure that all equipment, plant machinery and apparatus brought onto or used on the Council premises are safe and without risk to health, and are maintained to a standard that will not constitute an offence under the Act or any of the relevant statutory provisions.
3. You and your employees will conform, in all respects, to your legal duties and responsibilities as laid down by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and relevant statutory provisions.
4. The Council will retain the right to stop any operation, plant or equipment, or the action of any of your employees if it is considered that there is a hazard to the safety and health of employees or others. The Council will not accept any responsibility for any increased costs arising out of such action.
5. In the event of the Council taking this action, your site representative will be notified verbally and will have confirmation in writing by the Council's representative to order such a stoppage.
6. The Council will be indemnified by you or your insurers in respect of any claims, costs or expenses arising out of any incidents on Council premises involving you or your employees.
7. The Council may notify an inspector, appointed under the Authority of the Act, of any breach of the Regulations.