

Monksilver Parish Council (MPC) Draft Safeguarding Policy – August 2025

SECTION 1

Policy Statement

Everyone has a duty to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This policy promotes good practice in safeguarding. MPC will review it annually.

Definitions

Children and young people: Anyone under the age of 18 years.

Vulnerable Adult: Anyone over 18 who is:

- Unable to care for themselves
- Unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation
- Or may be in need of community care services

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of MPC, whether in a paid, voluntary or commissioned capacity.

SECTION 2

Promoting a safe environment

In order to promote a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults, MPC will:

- Ensure that employees, Councillors, volunteers and leaders of activities in the parish are aware of the safeguarding expectations.
- Members of staff, Councillors and volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults during the course of their duties MUST undergo appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (“DBS”) checks BEFORE commencement of such duties.
- Display on the MPC notice board the relevant safeguarding contacts for advice and help. A copy will also be made available on the MPC website.

Expectations of behaviour

All staff, Parish Councillors, volunteers and organisers of parish events should:

- Ensure that communications, behaviour and interaction is appropriate and professional.

- Refrain from any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, homophobia and bullying and in addition, report any instances of such behaviour to the Chairman or Clerk to MPC, as appropriate.
- Ensure that the Somerset Code of Conduct and the MPC Communication policies are followed at all times.

SECTION 3

Allegations against staff, Councillors and volunteers

MPC should follow the procedures for managing allegations against staff, Councillors and volunteers as detailed in the Somerset Code of Conduct. No attempt should be made to investigate or take action before consultation with Somerset Council Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Whistleblowing

All MPC Councillors, staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and appropriate advice will be sought from Somerset LADO as to how to handle such allegations.

MPC must not make a judgement on whether the allegations have merit for further investigation, this decision must be for the LADO team.

What should be a cause for concern

Staff and volunteers should be concerned by any action or inaction, which significantly harms the physical and/or emotional development of a child or vulnerable person. Abuse falls into four main categories and can include sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation, referred to as FGM. The categories are as follows:

- 1. Physical abuse**
- 2. Emotional abuse**
- 3. Sexual abuse**
- 4. Neglect**
- 5. Financial Abuse/Manipulation**

MPC is committed to ensuring the safety of all users of our services and take our responsibilities seriously. We regularly work with other agencies and Somerset Council to ensure compliance with changing laws and guidelines in relation to safeguarding.

MPC confirms this safeguarding policy will be updated as and when such legislative/best practice changes take place or at least annually.

Approved 11th August 2025

Author Clerk

