



**Hermitage Parish Council
Open Spaces Policy
Reviewed and adopted on 23rd November 2023**

Hermitage Parish Council (HPC) owns or is otherwise responsible for several areas of land within the village, which it maintains for the enjoyment of all parish residents and with due consideration to the natural environment.

HPC welcomes members of the public to these areas, except for the controlled zone at Furze Hill, which is fenced off because of the hazards present and to protect vulnerable species.

Individuals are expected to respect other users and to abide by the following rules:

- Users should report any damage to the facilities or inappropriate use to the Parish Clerk at hermitagepc@outlook.com.
- Fireworks, open fires, and disposable barbecues are forbidden. Other barbecues may be permitted as part of community events where specifically authorised by HPC.
- Dog owners must clear up any mess and dispose to bins provided or take home. Dogs are banned from children's playgrounds and the multiuse games area (MUGA) and owners must ensure that they do not cause distress to persons or to any other animals.
- Littering or other forms of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Hidden cameras may be used to identify repeat offenders in accordance with other HPC policies.

HPC recognises that some activities may require sole use of parts of a facility, e.g. MUGA or recreation ground. These can be booked by emailing the Parish Clerk; note that members of the public cannot be excluded.

Groups or organisations may use the facilities according to the following rules:

1. All organisations must be registered with HPC, and each event booked through the Parish Clerk. Organisers will be required to provide evidence of third-party liability insurance, where appropriate, and will be liable for any damage caused beyond normal wear and tear. HPC reserves the right to decline permission.
2. Commercial users of the recreation ground, MUGA or fitness equipment are requested to make a voluntary donation of 10 per cent of the gross income for any classes or events where this income is £50 or more per session. Monies are payable to the clerk by cheque or direct transfer and will be used for upkeep of the facilities. No charge is made for individuals or community groups, but donations towards the maintenance of the facilities are appreciated.
3. It is essential that all organisers of events at Furze Hill check on each occasion whether their use clashes with a village hall booking. Where this is the case, they MUST make arrangements to use the school car park and ensure, as far as practicable, that attendees do not park at the Hall or on nearby roads: Contact details: School 01635 200355 office@hermitage.w-berks.sch.uk
Village Hall 0777 6187996 bookhermitagehall@btconnect.com.
4. Vehicles may not park in front of the recreation ground gates or on the ground itself except with the specific permission of HPC; loading and unloading are permitted.

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5. Activities just for adults may only be held during school hours or after 20:00 or with the express agreement of HPC.
6. Facilities may not be booked for more than one hour per week except during school hours or with the express agreement of HPC.
7. Failure to comply with any requirements may result in permission to use the site being withdrawn.

Hermitage Parish Council does not provide any facilities for equipment storage. It cannot accept liability for loss of or damage to equipment or any injury caused to third parties.

HPC reserves the right to cancel or amend any arrangements or bookings. As much notice would be given as possible in such circumstances.

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Signed by Chairman.....