

Stoke St Michael Parish Council

Policy on the Use of Parish Council Land for Events

Adopted: - 17th October 2024

1. Introduction

The Parish Council is committed to supporting community engagement by permitting the use of Parish Council land for events that benefit local residents. This policy outlines the guidelines, requirements, and processes for individuals and organisations seeking to use Parish Council land for events. The aim is to ensure that events are safe, well-organised, and do not negatively impact the local community or environment.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all events held on Parish Council-owned land. It covers events organised by individuals, community groups, charities, and commercial organisations.

3. Permissible Uses of Parish Council Land

The Parish Council land may be used for the following types of events, subject to approval:

- Community gatherings
- Charity events and fundraisers
- Sports and recreational activities
- Cultural events, fairs, and festivals
- Markets, craft fairs, and stalls

The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any event that is deemed inappropriate, unsafe, or likely to cause disruption or damage.

4. Application Process

Any individual or organisation wishing to hold an event on Parish Council land must submit a formal application at least 8 weeks prior to the proposed event date. The application should include:

- Details of the event (type, date, duration)
- Estimated number of attendees
- Contact details of the event organiser
- A site plan showing the layout of the event, including facilities, marquees, stalls, etc.
- Details of any equipment (e.g., sound systems, lighting, stages)

Applications will be reviewed by the Parish Council during its regular meetings, and applicants will be informed of the decision within two weeks of submission.

5. Requirements for Event Approval

Event organisers are required to meet the following conditions for approval:

5.1. Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Plan

- Submit a risk assessment for the event, detailing potential hazards and mitigating measures.
- Comply with relevant health and safety legislation, including fire safety and crowd control measures.
- Ensure there is adequate first-aid provision for the event.

5.2. Insurance

- Provide evidence of Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of £5 million. This is essential to cover any damages or accidents that may occur during the event.

5.3. Licenses and Permits

- Obtain any necessary licenses or permits required for the event, such as a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) for the sale of alcohol, music, or performances.
- A copy of the license or permit must be submitted to the Parish Council before the event takes place.

5.4. Noise and Nuisance Control

- Event organisers must ensure that noise levels do not cause unreasonable disturbance to nearby residents.
- Any amplified sound must be kept within agreed limits and must cease by 10:00 PM unless otherwise approved.

5.5. Waste Management and Environmental Responsibility

- Organisers must provide adequate waste disposal arrangements, including recycling facilities, and are responsible for clearing the site after the event.
- Single-use plastics should be minimised, and sustainable practices are encouraged.

5.6. Public Access and Parking

- The event must not obstruct public access to footpaths, cycle routes, or any other public rights of way on Parish Council land.
- Adequate parking arrangements must be in place to avoid congestion and ensure safe access for emergency services.

5.7. Protection of Land and Facilities

- Event organisers are responsible for ensuring that the land and facilities are not damaged during the event.

5.8. Traffic Management and Security

- For larger events, a traffic management plan may be required, including details of road closures or diversions.
- Security personnel may be required to manage crowd control, and sufficient stewards must be available to supervise the event.

6. Post-Event Requirements

- Event organisers must restore the land to its original condition, including removing all temporary structures and waste.
- A post-event inspection may be conducted by the Parish Council. If any damage is identified the organiser may be liable for additional expenses.

7. Fees

The Parish Council may charge a fee for the use of its land depending on the nature of the event.

8. Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy or any conditions set by the Parish Council may result in:

- Cancellation of the event.
- Refusal of future event applications.
- Liability for any damages or cleanup costs incurred.

9. Conclusion

This policy is designed to ensure the responsible and safe use of Parish Council land for community events, while protecting the rights and wellbeing of local residents and preserving the land for future use. The Parish Council encourages community engagement through events but emphasises the importance of compliance with this policy to maintain a harmonious relationship with all stakeholders.

Contact Information:

For questions or to submit an application, please contact the Parish Council Clerk at:
clerk@stokestmichaelpc.org.uk