

Emberton Parish Council: Risk Assessment for the Allotments at Westpits Emberton

Date of Assessment: June 2024

Assessor: EPC

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Risk level	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom and by when?	Done
<p>Theft and vandalism. –</p> <p>Personal injury - Access to hazardous equipment or chemicals</p>	<p>Parish Council and allotment tenants, harmed by loss or damage to property.</p> <p>Unauthorised visitors in allotments, particularly children, at risk of personal injury.</p>	Medium.	<p>Keep no parish council or valuable machinery or tools on site, so thieves find little to steal.</p> <p>Parish Council warn unauthorised visitors away. All equipment and chemicals locked away. Any vandalism immediately and formally reported to police. Damage dealt with as quickly as practically possible.</p> <p>Petrol and fuel oil is not permitted to be stored on site. The allotments are off the beaten track and overlooked by nearby houses.</p>	<p>Ensure that parish council machinery is insured and advise allotment tenants to take out their own insurance. Keep a copy of the risk assessment on the Emberton Parish Council website and refer to it in Allotment Tenancy Terms and Conditions.</p>	Ongoing.	

Encroachment from adjoining neighbours	Parish Council – risk of adverse possession.	Low	Fence in place on boundary line.	Monitor condition of fence and repair as necessary. Patch repairs will be cheaper than replacement of fence.	Ongoing.	
Mowing and/or strimming - Personal injury	Parish council members and allotment tenants.	Medium	Grass cutting carried out by members of PC or allotment tenants. They provide and service their own equipment.	Grass cutting and strimming equipment, petrol and fuel oil to be stored off-site.	Ongoing.	
Trees - Personal injury	Allotment tenants and visitors to the allotments.	Low	There are a large number of small trees in the adjoining land next to the allotments and these are the responsibility of the respective land owner(s). Overhanging branches can cause personal injury.	On receipt of complaint, parish council requests land owners to remove branches overhanging allotments. If the problem persists, parish council arranges to cut back overhanging branches.	Ongoing.	
Use of LPG - Fire and explosion	Public/Tenants/un authorised visitors		LPG not permitted.	LPG regulations included in Allotment Tenancy Terms and Conditions.	Ongoing.	

Overgrown vegetation and rodent control -	Tenants and visitors including children and pets. Risk of human contact with rodent bait and dead rodents – Weil’s Disease	Medium	Prevent overgrown vegetation. Allotment holders notified that poison to be laid, prior to work being done. Notices displayed at entry points advising when bait is in use. Plot holders are provided with information regarding Weils disease where rodents present.	On receipt of complaint, site is inspected and level of risk assessed to prioritise steps to clear rodents.	Ongoing.	
Fires – Breathing difficulties, particularly for those suffering from asthma. – Fire spread	Tenants/public	High	Fires permitted only in safe weather conditions (to avoid fire spread and smoke nuisance to dwellings) and in the allocated location, burning rubbish created from the allotment only (no other materials brought on to the allotment to burn). Bonfires only permitted by an allotment holder, staying with it until it is extinguished & fully aware at all times of the impact to	Tenants advised of bonfire policy in Allotment Tenancy Terms & Conditions. Tenants advised to have extinguishers available during fires. Fires not to be left unattended.	Ongoing.	

			neighbouring properties. Bonfires kept to an absolute minimum.			
Personal injury from gardening tools and equipment	Allotment tenants and visitors including children and pets Personal injury from tripping and slipping.	Low.	Avoiding trip and slip hazards by considerate allotment gardening.	Allotment tenants to keep paths free of tools, equipment, plant waste and other rubbish, to avoid trip and slip hazards.	Ongoing.	
Other?						

This assessment is subject to a review every 12 months by the Emberton Parish Council and / or if in any situation a change occurs or extra items identified.

Approved by Emberton Parish Council on: 1st July 2024

Chair's signature: Melanie Duncan

Clerk's signature: Karen Goss