



## Health and Safety (Duty of Care) Policy

According to common law, voluntary organisations such as Friends of Par Beach (FoPB) and individual volunteers have a duty of care to each other and others who may be affected by their activities (HSE website 2024). To ensure activities can take place safely, those leading any event will conduct a risk assessment, identifying and mitigating any issues with all participants. Risk assessment is not about eliminating all risk or generating a lot of paperwork, it is about taking practical steps to protect people from real harm.

### **Practicalities of ensuring safe practice for FoPB activities and events:**

- The FoPB committee will discuss all Duty of Care issues before an event.
- FoPB organisers/stewards will wear FoPB 'Uniform' and/or Hi-Vis waistcoats wherever possible at an outdoor event, so that they are immediately recognisable.
- All volunteer adults and members will be briefed on safety arrangements and procedures (including fire and First Aid) before any event.
- FoPB organisers/stewards will have access to a mobile phone and First Aid kit.
- New volunteers will be supported to ensure safe use of any hand tools or other equipment.
- Members and volunteers will be advised of appropriate clothing and footwear for the proposed event or task.
- Where the task requires it, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment will be made available.
- Volunteers are responsible for recognising their own limitations, ensuring that they rest as needed and have a seat available if required.
- If any of the FoPB organisers/stewards leading an event witness dangerous or irresponsible behaviour, they have a responsibility to act to ensure the safety of participants. In extreme circumstances, this may include stopping the event or contacting the relevant authorities.
- As per our Safeguarding Children and Young People policy, all those attending aged under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**This policy and related guidelines will be reviewed and updated in light of any new legislation or guidance at least every two years.**