

APPROVED 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

REVIEWED 14TH MAY 2025 – NO AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

TALATON PARISH COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT RE ALLOTMENTS

lying to the northwest of Riverwood Farm, Talaton. Exeter EX5 2RU and forming part of title number DN728041

Risk	Persons at risk	Level	Description	Control Measures
Machinery	Tenant	Medium	Operating machinery carries a medium level of risk unless the appropriate safety equipment is worn and the machinery is operated correctly. Injuries to hands, feet and face need to be guarded against.	Instructions for the use of machinery lie with the owner/operator. It is a requirement that tenants wear the recommended safety equipment (inc gloves/footwear and PPE) when operating machinery
	Other tenants & visitors	Low	When strimmers and mowing machines are being used on an adjacent plot, stones and other flying objects can cause injuries.	The instructions for these items of equipment make particular reference to the dangers. It is the responsibility of the operator to take due care.
	Children	High	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from machinery.	It is the responsibility of the tenant to ensure that children are supervised. When young children are present on a plot, cultivators or strimmers should only be used where there are two adults – one operating, one supervising. No children to operate machinery under any circumstances.
Trip hazards	All	Low	Poorly maintained paths, can present a trip hazard to tenants, visitors and children.	It is the responsibility of all tenants to maintain their plots/paths and to assist in the maintenance of common paths. Appropriate footwear must be worn for the conditions

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Weed-killers & pesticides	Tenant	Low	<p>There is a risk if chemicals are not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>Ingestion, inhalation, absorption through skin Poison and contamination of water supplies / environment</p> <p>Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from chemicals</p>	<p>The Council to encourage use of organic methods</p> <p>The Tenant to use only as per manufacturer's instructions Appropriate PPE worn when using chemicals . Approved person only for professional products</p> <p>Sprayers etc. should be rinsed after use, by the Tenant in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. If chemicals are held on a tenant's plot they should be stored securely and clearly identifiable.</p> <p>Tenant to follow Guidelines contained in Rules and Regulations and the Health and Safety document which he/she has been issued with pertaining to pesticides etc</p>
	Children	High	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from chemicals.	It is the responsibility of the tenant to ensure that children cannot access weed killers etc
Overhanging branches	All	Low	Overhanging branches can cause injuries.	Low hanging branches and dangerous branches should be reported to the Parish Council so that appropriate action may be taken.

Risk	Persons at risk	Level	Description	Control Measures
Water	All	Low	Contamination, disease, drowning	<p>The Council to ensure the Intermediate Bulk Container (`IBC`) situated adjoining the Allotment site is accessible for Tenants and that the water supply is free flowing and free of foreign objects</p> <p>The Tenants to ensure that any water butts on their plots are free of foreign objects and are free flowing</p> <p>All water containers to have secure covers</p> <p>No drinking or washing of hands/garden produce with water from the IBC or water butts</p>
	Children	Medium	Children can act unpredictability exposing themselves to risk from water	Tenants are responsible for children onsite as water containers can be a hazard to them
Bonfires	Tenant	Low	There is an inherent danger in a bonfire spreading if unattended.	It is the responsibility of the tenant to conform to the rules covering bonfires and to follow the guidelines contained in the Rules and Regulations and the Health and Safety document which each Tenant has been issued with pertaining to bonfires. Means of extinguishing fire should be at hand. A bonfire must not be left unattended
	Children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from bonfires.	It is the responsibility of the tenant to ensure that children are supervised.
Waste	All	Medium	Injury resulting from plastic, metal and wooden debris	<p>Advise tenants not to bring onto site non-allotment related items</p> <p>Inspections to be carried out by the Council to identify plots / areas to be cleared of waste</p>

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Rats	All	Negligible	Rats can carry Weil's disease. Although this is rare it is a serious disease.	The presence of rats should be reported to the Parish Council. Where rat poison has been laid down, notices are to be displayed to inform tenants. Poison for rats should only be used in closed off areas such as sheds in the appropriate holders to prevent accidental poisoning of the myriad of animals that use the allotments. Alternatively contact the Parish Council member who may be able to advise and initiate trapping.
Vehicles	All	Medium	The access track to and from the allotments is used by allotment holders on foot or by vehicle	Drivers and pedestrians using this track should be vigilant at all times and drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions
Gates	All	Medium	Injury from contact with sharp edges / risk of swinging / trapping fingers etc.	Council to check that gate works and is easily opened / closed / pinned back
Communal pathways/roadways	All	Medium	Danger of slips and trips	Tenants to maintain access paths within the allotment site. Any ruts on the access track (adjoining the allotment site and which tenants have a right of way over) to be reported to the Council Council to contact the landowner as to repairs required

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Hedging / fencing	All	Low	Scratches, bruises and other injuries Trespassing by members of the public	Tenants to cut back nuisance hedging which encroaches onto their plots. Council to inspect perimeter fences Tenants to report any overhanging branches / damage Council to carry out fence repairs/renewal
Structures / sheds / greenhouses / seats etc	All	Low	Injuries from collapse, splinters, flying debris	Tenants to keep in a good state of repair all structures on their plots Council to inspect derelict or dangerous structures on Plots and advise tenants of required actions
Lone working on plots	All	Low	The allotment site is remote, there is little/no through-traffic so if a tenant or visitor were to be incapacitated they may not be discovered for some time.	Members to inform family members or friends of whereabouts, carry a mobile phone. Dial 112 for emergency services from a mobile (better than 999). Consider risk from malicious intruders.

Please ensure that if any hazards or potential problems can or could be identified, that a member of Talaton Parish Council is informed so that appropriate action can be implemented.

