

Health and Safety Policy

Builth Wells Town Council

General statement of policy

Builth Wells Town Council is working towards a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy and is bound to abide by the Health and Safety at Work Act. This lays down certain duties on all staff and office volunteers. The duties are to take care of their own safety and that of other staff, volunteers and visitors and to co-operate with the Council and its officers to enable it to carry out its responsibilities.

Staff and volunteers have a duty to:

- work safely, efficiently and without endangering the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues or any other person who has a right of access to the organisation's premises at any time
- adhere to safety procedures laid down by Builth Wells Town Council from time to time, and conform to all instructions given by those with a responsibility for health and safety
- record all accidents, near miss occurrences and hazardous situations in the Health and Safety/Accident book and report to the next staff meeting
- meet their other statutory safety obligations including that laid down in Section 8 of the Act, which states that "no person shall intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety or welfare in pursuance of any of the relevant statutory provisions".

1. Organisation and responsibilities

1.1 Town Council

Overall and final health and safety responsibility within the organisation lies with the Council. The Town Council shall appoint one person who will take the responsibility for drawing to the attention of the Town Council, staff and office volunteers any health and safety matters that need to be discussed and/or acted upon.

1.2 Delegated responsibilities

Cllr Gwyn Davies shall be given delegated responsibility for ensuring that the Health and Safety policy is carried out within the organisation. S/he will be given delegated responsibility for:

- carrying out regular safety inspections in the offices utilised by Town Council
 - ensuring that staff are provided with suitable seating and appropriate computer workstations

- ensuring that floors and aisles are kept clear, as far as reasonably practical, of trailing wires, equipment, stationery, etc.
- ensuring that the general fabric of the offices (including office items & equipment used by staff) is maintained
- investigating and reporting accidents
- ensuring that a Health and Safety Workplace poster on “Health and Safety Law” is displayed
- making staff and office volunteers aware of the specific fire escapes and fire extinguishers within the building
- ensuring staff and volunteers are given a copy of this Policy and understand its contents; ensuring that staff and volunteers are made familiar with the alarm systems within the building and action to be taken in the event of a fire
- drawing to the attention of the Town Council, Chief Officer and staff any new legislation on health and safety relevant to the work of Town Council
- drawing to the Town Council attention any matters with which s/he is unable to deal.

1.3 Staff and office volunteers

All staff and office volunteers have a responsibility to:

- read and fully understand the Town Council’s Policy statement and the procedures to be carried out in the event of an emergency. If there is any doubt about the meaning, staff must seek clarification from the Cllr Gwyn Davies
- co-operate with the Clerk and the Cllr Gwyn Davies, as appropriate, to achieve a healthy and safe workplace and to take reasonable care of themselves and others
- report to the within 24 hours any accident occurring:
 - on the premises
 - off the premises whilst acting on behalf of
- bring to the notice of the Clerk any potentially dangerous circumstances that the employee is unable to put right.

1.4 Review

The Cllr Gwyn Davies, in conjunction with the Clerk, will keep this Policy under constant review to reflect any changes in legislation. The Policy will be fully reviewed every 3 years and will be subject to approval by the Town Council.

2. General arrangements

2.1 Accidents, near-miss occurrences and hazardous situations

Town Council has a Health and Safety Accident Book located Clerks office and all incidents, no matter how small, must be recorded as soon as possible after the incident. The incident should also be reported to the Clerk In addition to reporting accidents it is equally important to report near misses and potential hazards to enable preventative action to be taken before it is too late. Once an incident has been recorded in the Accident Book the Sheet must be removed and stored separately, e.g. in the personnel file.

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to ensure that any necessary follow up action is taken to reduce the risk of the accident or near accident reoccurring.

The Clerk is responsible for reporting incidents which come within the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR), to the Health and Safety Executive. RIDDOR covers the following incidents:

- (a) fatal accidents
- (b) major injury accidents/conditions
- (c) dangerous occurrences
- (d) accidents causing more than 7 days incapacity for work
- (e) certain work-related diseases.

A First Aid kit is available in Chambers and Kitchen

2.2 General fire safety

Cllr Gwyn Davies is responsible for the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the arrangement of regular fire safety checks and fire drills. Cllr Gwyn Davies also undertakes a Fire Risk Assessment for the building.

All staff must also read and understand the Fire Procedure. A fire notice is in Foyer Strand Hall

3. Personal safety

- 3.1 Staff or volunteers who are working on their own should not allow access to casual visitors who have no appointment.
- 3.2 All windows and entry doors will be lockable.
- 3.3 Staff who are going to be away on Builth Wells Town Council (Strand) business should make it clear to other staff (and put in diary) where they will be, how long for and how they can be contacted.
- 3.4 Staff should inform the office who they wish to be contacted in the event of an emergency giving contact details.
- 3.5 Staff who carry money for Town Council have the right to be accompanied by another person.
- 3.6 Visits to the bank should not be at a regular time.
- 3.7 Staff should not put themselves at risk on account of Builth Wells Town Council's property.
- 3.8 All incidents of aggression or violence and any threat to personal safety should be reported to the Chief Officer and recorded in the accident book.
- 3.9 Staff should be vigilant with regards to terrorist incident warnings – e.g. unattended bags.

4. Stress management

- 4.1 Stress at work is a serious issue: workers can suffer severe medical problems, which can result in under-performance at work, and cause major disruptions to the organisation.

The responsibility for reducing stress at work lies both with employer and employee. Employees should become aware of the causes of stress and

ensure that they do not work in a way which could cause them to suffer an increase in stress, nor cause an increase in stress on others.

If an employee is suffering from stress at work, they should discuss this with their line manager or Cllr Gwyn Davies at the first opportunity. Where practicable and reasonable, Town Council will seek to aid the employee.

Builth Wells Town Council will do all it can to eradicate problems relating to stress at work.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Computer
- Risk Assessments
- Lone worker Policies
- Terms and Conditions for the hiring of Strand Hall

Review date: 10/01/2023

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY CHECKLIST

Training

All staff will complete an induction programme with information about Health and Safety arrangements within the organisation. Any updates or changes to these arrangements will be discussed at staff meetings and supervision sessions.

The Cllr Gwyn Davies will ensure that all staff and volunteers fully understand the Policy and are made aware of all fire alarm points, fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire exits in the building.

The following is a list of things to be checked in Builth Wells Town Council's office every six months.

Check:	Date:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workstations (incl. Display Screens) are safe. (Follow separate checklist <i>VDU Workstation Inspection Checklist</i>) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User takes regular breaks from long tasks/positions and ensure VDU users are aware of availability of FREE eye tests. (Follow separate checklist <i>VDU Workstation Inspection Checklist</i>) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting is adequate (e.g. no glare should be transmitted) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment (noise levels, temperature, humidity, any anti-static device). 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff have been appropriately trained to carry out their tasks. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Box is in place and adequately stocked. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accident Book and procedure is in place and staff are informed of these. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exits and walk-ways are kept clear and accessible to wheelchair users. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical and other equipment are safe to use and are not being misused. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power sources are safe to use and are not misused. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No trailing wires and damaged floor coverings. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning notices, where necessary, are clearly displayed. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy or dangerous items are not stored above shoulder height. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavier items are stored in lower drawers of filing cabinets. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step ladders are provided and used where necessary. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous materials (e.g. cleaning fluids) are stored properly and are clearly marked. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/volunteers are not expected to lift heavy items above their individual capability. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security/confidentiality arrangements are adequate (e.g. place for valuables) 		

• Office procedures relating to hygiene and cleanliness are complied with.	
• Radiators are kept clear.	