



## PARKS & OPEN SPACES POLICY

Stoke Gifford Parish Council is responsible for the management of the following parks and open spaces:

- ⇒ Little Stoke Park
- ⇒ Meade Park
- ⇒ Mike Gallivan Memorial Field
- ⇒ Forty Acres
- ⇒ Royal Park
- ⇒ Stoke Gifford Trust Ground Children's Play Area

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### INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Open Spaces Policy is in existence for the protection of our visitors and natural resources, and to make everyone's visit a safe and enjoyable experience. The information contained within the policy is a synopsis of rules, regulations, and park and open space policies. Please observe them for your safety and enjoyment as well as other users. It will preserve our parks and open spaces and make them a valuable resource now and in the future. In some cases there may be park specific rules or policies that apply to activities within a park or open space. Please check with the Parish Council about the park of interest for additional information about its specific rules. The Parish Council maintain a wide range of park and open spaces and play areas within the Parish, of which some land is owned or leased from South Gloucestershire Council.

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### POLICY INFORMATION

#### **The following is prohibited in the parks and open spaces:**

The use of drugs, firearms, fireworks, explosives, littering, undue noise, public nuisances, use of drones without consent from the Parish Council, disturbance of the peace, practicing golf, soliciting, loitering, destruction or damage of property, lighting fires except for small barbeques and provided they are kept directly off the grass, and the releasing of sky or Chinese lanterns.

A person shall not remove or damage any fixed seat or any fence, gate, noticeboard, structure or anything installed or maintained by the Parish Council in the parks and open spaces.

A person shall not damage or deface any tree, shrub, plant, any turf or flower bed in the park or open space.

A person shall not, except with the consent of the Parish Council, post, fix, exhibit or distribute in the park or open space any notice, advertisement or printed matter.

A person shall not throw or deposit any general items, bottles, tins or refuse upon any part of the park or open space, throw down or scatter any paper in any of the parks or open spaces where receptacles for rubbish are provided.

A person shall not erect any post, rail, fence, tent, booth, stand building or other structure in any part of the park or open space without the consent of the Parish Council and any required permissions.

A person shall not in any part of the park or open space, sell, offer or expose for sale, hire, offer or expose for hire, any commodity or article, unless, in pursuance of an agreement with the Parish Council/or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege, such person may be duly authorized to sell or let to hire in the park such commodity or article.

A person shall not, in the park or open space, use any indecent or obscene language to the



annoyance of any person.

**Permission from the Parish Council will be required for the following:**

For camping, letting animals graze, putting up structures, such as buildings, barriers, posts, rides, swings, gazebos and tents, entertaining events, shows or performances, the use of metal detectors or any device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral in the ground, parking overnight, between 9.30pm and 7am weekdays and between 9.30pm and 9am at weekends (unless by prior arrangement), taking off or landing aircraft including model aircraft which must not exceed a weight maximum of 7kg or less without its fuel. The person flying the aircraft must be a member of the British Model Flying Association and must have public liability insurance.

Hot air balloons, helicopters, hang gliders, drones, providing a service that can be charged for, such as providing fitness instruction, or an organised sporting event. Such events will require permission and a notice period of not less than 8 weeks before the event or the start of a regular organised activity. The event must not be advertised before such permission has been gained through written permission by the Parish Council. A license may also be required from South Gloucestershire Council dependent on the activity. Public liability insurance will also be required as evidence if sought from the Parish Council.

Private functions, such as weddings and corporate events, are sometimes allowed in the parks and open spaces. No person shall fly a kite in such a manner as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person.

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## **PARKS MAINTENANCE INCLUDING GRASS CUTTING**

General parks maintenance including grass cutting is undertaken across all the parks and open spaces that are managed by the Parish Council. The frequency of grass cutting will vary across the parks and open spaces, and the schedule is site specific. Some areas of grass will be deliberately left longer during certain periods throughout the year to benefit wildlife and to create wildflower meadows.

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## **OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES INTO NEIGHBOURING PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

If the tree is not subject to any restrictions imposed by the Council i.e., Tree Preservation Order (TPO) the property owner has the right to prune overhanging parts of a tree back to the boundary of the property but not beyond. It is always advisable to be polite and to inform the Parish Council of your intentions to prune any trees and to agree the method of the pruning. You cannot enter a neighbour's property without permission to prune trees. The tree owner is not obliged to pay for or undertake the pruning of limbs overhanging the property of a third party.

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## **PLAY AREAS IN PARKS**

The management of sound play areas are achieved by capital investment, installing good equipment and surfaces. Adequate funds are placed in the revenue budget each year to maintain the play areas. Funding for capital refurbishment and revenue costs comes from the Parish Council's Precept (Council Tax), although every effort is made where possible to obtain external funding from a variety of sources.

The Parish Council welcomes any input from the local community in relation to future projects with various forms of consultation. The Parish Council is committed to installing facilities that it can afford to maintain.

The Parish Council complies with the requirements for play areas as identified by the Health and Safety Executive and conducts external annual play inspections across all sites with play areas. These



areas do offer a broad range of essential opportunities for child development, enjoying freedom, exercise, choice and control over activities. The equipment provides testing boundaries and exploring risks, as well as physical, social and intellectual experience. They also support general wellbeing, healthy growth and development. The Parish Council is aware that play provision is not only required for young children, but also for teenagers. In providing facilities for teenagers, the Parish Council consults with young people for suitable locations, personal safety and post inspection requirements. The Parish Council makes every effort to consider Special Needs as part of any upgrading play areas, including compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, and takes reasonable steps to remove unreasonable barriers.

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## **HORSE RIDING**

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You can ride a horse in any green space that is bigger than four hectares (approximately ten acres), or where any lawful rights or privileges exist.

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## **MOTOR VEHICLES**

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No person shall without justified reason and permission bring into or drive on the park or open space a motorised vehicle, motorised scooters, motor bike, moped or trailer. Mobility vehicles are excluded from this clause.

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## **LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS**

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Park users and dog owners are requested to ensure that the litter and dog waste bins provided in the parks and open spaces are utilised to avoid unnecessary littering and/or dog fouling on site.

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## **DOGS IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES/COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

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Dogs are welcome in all Stoke Gifford's parks and open spaces. There are some simple requirements and restrictions to follow as outlined below.

- Please clear up immediately if your dog fouls. This is a legal requirement under the Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2014.
- You can use any litter bin or special dog bin to deposit dog waste.
- Ensure your dog wears a collar with the owners name and telephone number. This is a requirement under the Control of Dogs Order, and in turn can help return lost pets.
- Keep your dog under control. If a dog is causing a nuisance or a threat to other park users, including other dogs or any wildlife on site, you will be asked to put your dog on a lead. Failure to comply with this request is classified as an offence.
- Keep your dog in sight at all times.
- Dogs by law are not permitted in clearly demarcated children's play areas. Restrictions might also apply to other designated areas such as tennis courts, ball courts, bowling greens etc. Please observe any signage in these locations.
- No more than four dogs at a time may be walked by one person unless prior consent has been agreed.

If your dog causes damage to park equipment, you will be reported to the police.



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## **CAR BOOT SALES**

Car boot sales may be held within a park or open space to raise money for local organisations/charity. Commercial car boot sales cannot be held in Council parks and open spaces.

The Parish Council will consider a charity car boot sale on completion of the necessary license forms held by South Gloucestershire Council.

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## **FILMING, TV AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

Any filming or television production must gain consent from the Parish Council. Before filming in the parks and open spaces it will be necessary to obtain the relevant necessary supporting documentation. Parental consent must also be obtained for the filming of children and young people.

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## **CIRCUS AND FUN FAIRS**

Certain sites across the Parish of Stoke Gifford are suitable for such events and those operators must hold an events licence for such activity.

They must also obtain the necessary consent from the Parish Council.

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## **ORGANISED SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

All organised sporting activities must have consent of the Parish Council to use any of the parks and open spaces within the Parish of Stoke Gifford. A hire agreement form must be completed prior to an event which will be maintained on file for audit purposes, and subject to applicable charging rates.

If you want to host a sports tournament that does not involve music or any other activity, you can hire a sports pitch at the appropriate fee. You do not need to apply to hold an event licence for this purpose. A person shall not play or take part in any game of sport, or any other organised sporting activity which by reason of the rules or manner of participation, or for the prevention of damage, danger, or discomfort of any person in the park, could necessitate at any time during the continuance of such sporting activity gain exclusive use by those participating any space in the park or open space, except in such parts of the park and open space and at such times as may from time to time be prescribed by a notice or notices fixed or set up by the Parish Council in a conspicuous position on site. Every person using the park for the purpose of playing or taking part in any organised sporting activity anywhere in the park or open space prescribed for the playing of any game as aforesaid, shall comply with the following requirements: -

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## **INVOICING**

The Parish Council will generate an invoice for all organised activities taking place in the parks and open spaces which also includes community buildings. Payment will need to be made in full prior to such an event. If the Parish Council incur additional costs after an event, such as having to clear litter or repair damage, a separate invoice will be generated to recover such costs.

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## **SITE SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE/SIGNAGE**

Some of the parks and open spaces are monitored by CCTV for the purposes of site security, with vehicular restrictions in place that are either time specific or for professional site owned vehicle access only. Anyone witnessing anti-social behaviour should contact the Parish Council Office or the Police.



Users of the park or open space are requested to observe general park and open space signage, along with any signs specifically in place within the children's play areas.

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## **LITTLE STOKE PARK CAR PARK OPENING TIMES**

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Monday to Sunday                      07:30 – 21:30 (unless by prior arrangement).

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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For further information regarding the Parks and Open Spaces Policy, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council, The Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke, BS34 6HR.

Telephone: 01454 865202

Email: [clerk@stokegifford.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stokegifford.org.uk)

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