



# **RUDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CHILD PROTECTION & VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY**

| <b>Date Adopted</b>       | <b>Minute Number</b> | <b>Review Date</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 | FC107-19/20          | Sept 2020          |
| 14 Sept 2020              | FC140-20/21          | Sept 2021          |
| 11 Oct 2021               | FC136-21/22          | Oct 2022           |
| 14 Nov 2022               | FC175-22/23          | Nov 2023           |
| 11 Sept 2023              | FC110-23/24          | Sept 2024          |
| 09 Sept 2024              | FC107-24/25          | Sept 2025          |
| 08 Sept 2025              | FC100-25/26          | Sept 2026          |
| 14 Sept 2026              | FC109-26/27          | Sept 2027          |

# RUDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CHILD PROTECTION & VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rudgwick Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable persons that use its services and promotes a safeguarding culture and environment.

## 2. Safeguarding

- 2.1 The council will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable persons, in that:
- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
  - All children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
  - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
  - All staff, volunteers and elected members of the council are not to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

## 3. Duty of care

- 3.1 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the Rehabilitations of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.
- 3.2 Rudgwick Parish Council has a duty of care to protect others from harm; this includes a range of processes, including risk assessment and health & safety practices.
- 3.3 Allegations or suspicions of inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or Councillor must be referred immediately to the Clerk who will refer the matter to Social Services at West Sussex County Council for investigation.

**You must refer; you must not investigate**