**COVID-19 Risk Assessment for re-opening Burgh by Sands Village Halls –April 2021**

The COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been carried out in consultation with employees and regular users of the Hall and any points they have raised are taken on board. This document is to be observed as part of the Special Conditions of Hire.

A key part of this risk assessment is identifying “pinch points” where people cannot maintain social distancing of 2 metres. Transient passing at a closer distance is less of a risk than remaining in a more confined space so, for example, a narrow corridor is less of a risk than a galley style kitchenette or a toilet area with limited circulation space between cubicles, basins and door, where people remain for longer. Where 2m social distancing is not possible 1m plus mitigation measures is acceptable. For areas which present a problem people may need to be asked to arrange a waiting system or adjust signage e.g. engaged/vacant.

Important Notes:

1. The COVID-19 Risk Assessment may need to be updated in the light of any new government advice that may be forthcoming in the future.
2. This document should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation and guidance issued by government and local authorities.
3. This document is not intended to be comprehensive and the Village Hall cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions, factual or otherwise, arising from reliance on it. It is not a substitute for independent professional and/or legal advice.

The potential mitigations are in three categories colour coded as follows:

# Red – Actions based on Government advice (i.e. should be considered mandatory)

Orange – **Actions that are strongly recommended**

Green – **Actions that you might like to consider**

Committee Actions highlighted

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| **Area or People at Risk** | **Risk identified** | | **Actions to take to mitigate risk** | | **Insert Date completed and any notes. April 2021** |
| **Staff, contractors and volunteers –** Identify what work activity or situations might cause transmission of the virus and likelihood staff could be exposed | Cleaning surfaces infected by people carrying the virus.  Disposing of rubbish containing tissues and cleaning cloths.  Deep cleaning premises if someone falls ill with CV-19 on the premises.  Occasional Maintenance workers. | | **Stay at home guidance if unwell at entrance and in Main Hall. Staff/volunteers provided with protective overalls and gloves. Contractors provide own**  **Staff/volunteers advised to wash outer clothes after cleaning duties.**  **Follow PHE guidance and PPE if deep cleaning is required.** | | Staff/volunteers may need guidance as to cleaning. For example, cloths should be used on light switches and electrical appliances rather than spray disinfectants, rubberised and glued surfaces can become damaged by use of spray disinfectant too frequently.  A discussion with the cleaner has taken place – PPE must be worn and a cleaning schedule will be produced.  The Hall was deep cleaned on 6th April 2021 |
| **Staff, contractors and volunteers**– think about who could be at risk and likelihood staff/volunteers could be exposed. | Staff/volunteers who are either extremely vulnerable or over 70.  Staff or volunteers carrying out cleaning, caretaking or some internal maintenance tasks could be exposed if a person carrying the virus has entered the premises or falls ill.  Mental stress from handling the new situation. | | **Discuss situation with volunteers over 70 to identify whether provision of protective clothing and cleaning surfaces before they work is sufficient to mitigate their risks, or whether they should cease such work for the time being.** | | Staff and volunteers will need to be warned immediately if someone is tested positive for COVID-19 who has been on the premises. Details of a person’s medical condition must be kept confidential, unless he/she agrees it can be shared.It is important people know they can raise concerns.  A discussion has taken place with the cleaner April 2021.No other volunteers allowed in before restrictions are lifted on 21/6 apart from Committee members |
| Social distancing requirements and limit on group sizes of 6 or 2 households.  Risk to hirers/event organisers and to those attending the hall | | Confusion among hirers.  Risk is people attending in groups mingle with others not in their group, which is unlawful and may worry other users.  Risk of virus spread to all attending an activity or event, rather than one group of <6. | | **Ensure hirers understand the limit on group sizes (if people attend in groups) and convey to those attending the need to avoid mingling between groups.**  **Adjust hire conditions to cover this.**  **Discuss hirer concerns with them, as this should not prevent any activities, though adjustments may be needed e.g. to seating arrangements.** | Event organisers are not expected to ask about people’s domestic arrangements. But no group members should mingle, i.e. mix, with another group.  Polite, socially distanced, speaking only between groups, as for an activity at which all individuals are socially distanced. Avoid raised voices or interactions.  Only the Toddler Group is to be allowed in the Hall plus one or 2 specific events (Elections and PC Meetings) until the restrictions are lifted on 21st June. Hirers are responsible for the Covid security in accordance with the amended Hire agreement |
| Car Park/paths/ patio/exterior areas | | Social distancing is not observed as people congregate before entering premises.  Parking area is too congested to allow social distancing.  People drop tissues. | | **Mark out 2metre waiting area outside all potential entrances with tape to encourage care when queueing to enter.**  **Cleaner asked to check area outside doors for rubbish which might be contaminated, e.g. tissues.**  **Wear plastic gloves and remove.** | Transitory lapses in social distancing in outside areas are less risky, the main risk is likely to be where people congregate or for vulnerable people.  Ordinary litter collection arrangements can remain in place. Provide plastic gloves.  A poster will be on all the doors and the outside notice board. |
| Entrance hall/lobby/corridors | | Possible “pinch points” and busy areas where risk is social distancing is not observed in a confined area.  Door handles, light switches in frequent use. | | **Identify “pinch points” and busy areas. Consider marking out 2 metre spacing in entrance area. Create one- way system and provide signage.**  **Door handles and light switches to be cleaned regularly.**  **Hand sanitiser to be provided by hall** | Hand sanitiser needs to be checked regularly.  Provide more bins, in entrance hall, each meeting room. Empty regularly.  The cleaner will be responsible in checking the bins/ sanitisers etc after each use as well as undertaking the cleaning in accordance with the cleaning schedule.  Kitchen and toilet pinch points – notices will be put up |
| Main Hall | | Door handles, light switches, window catches, tables, chair backs and arms.  Soft furnishings which cannot be readily cleaned between use.  Projection equipment. Screen. Window curtains or blinds Commemorative photos, displays.  Social distancing to be observed | | **Door handles, light switches, window catches, tables, chairs and other equipment used to be cleaned by hirers before use or by hall cleaning staff.**  **Social distancing guidance to be observed by hirers in arranging their activities.**  **Hirers to be encouraged to wash hands regularly.** | Consider removing window curtains and any other items which are more difficult to clean and likely to be touched by the public.  Hand sanitiser provided. The curtains have been removed for cleaning.  Hirers are responsible for cleaning anything they have touched. |
| Upholstered seating | | Virus may remain on fabric. Cannot readily be cleaned between use. Frequent cleaning would damage fabric. Metal parts can be cleaned and are more likely to be touched when moving them, ie more frequently. | | **Cushioned chairs with arms are reserved only for those who need them by reason of infirmity and who have been socially isolating themselves.**. **Avoid anyone else touching them unless wearing plastic gloves.**  **Clean metal/plastic parts regularly touched. Rotate use of upholstered chairs. Ask those moving them to wear plastic gloves.** | All of the chairs have been cleaned. Restricted usage of chairs and ensure they are regularly cleaned and sprayed.  Put notices up to restrict people going into cupboards.  Toddler group equipment only to be handled by Toddler group  The Hirers are responsible for cleaning equipment and anything they have touched. |
| Small meeting rooms and offices | | Social distancing more difficult in smaller areas  Door and window handles Light switches  Tables, chair backs and arms. Copier, laminator, shredder.  Floors with carpet tiles less easily cleaned. | | **Recommend hirers hire larger meeting spaces and avoid use of small rooms, other than as offices.**  **Surfaces and equipment to be cleaned by hirers before use or by hall cleaner.**  **Rooms with carpeted floors not hired for keep fit type classes.**  **Wipe shared copier etc.** | Consider closing, only hiring when main hall is not in use or as possible overflow for activities when more attend than expected.  May provide a “kettle point” to avoid two groups using the same kitchen.  The Margaret Brown room will remain closed unless required for a small meeting. |
| Kitchen | | Social distancing more difficult  Door and window handles  Light switches  Working surfaces, sinks  Cupboard/drawer handles.  Fridge/freezer  Crockery/cutlery  Kettle/hot water boiler  Cooker/Microwave | | **Hirers are asked to control numbers using kitchen so as to ensure social distancing, especially for those over 70. Hirers to clean all areas likely to be used before use, wash,dry and stow crockery and cutlery after use.Hirers to bring own tea towels.Hand sanitiser, soap and paper towels to be provided**  **Consider encouraging hirers to bring their own Food and Drink** | Cleaning materials to be made available in clearly identified location, e.g. a box on one of the kitchen surfaces, regularly checked and re-stocked as necessary.  A cleaning station will be provided at the front door. Notices will be on the kitchen door. |
| Store cupboards (cleaner etc) | | Social distancing not possible Door handles, light switch | | **Public access unlikely to be required. Cleaner to decide**  **frequency of cleaning.** | Restricted access to cleaning cupboard |
| Storage Rooms (furniture/equipment) | | Social distancing more difficult Door handles in use.  Equipment needing to be moved not normally in use | | **Decide whether hall cleaner cleans or hirer to clean equipment required before use. Hirer to control accessing and stowing equipment to encourage**  **social distancing.** | Consider whether re- arrangement or additional trolleys will facilitate social distancing.  Hirers are responsible for cleaning and wiping down everything they have touched. |
| Indoor Toilets | | Social distancing difficult.  Surfaces in frequent use = door handles, light switches, basins, toilet handles, seats etc.  Baby changing and vanity surfaces, mirrors. | | **Hirer to control numbers accessing toilets at one time, with attention to more vulnerable users.**  **Hirer to clean all surfaces etc before public arrive unless staff have precleaned out of hours.**  **Consider engaged/vacant signage and posters to encourage 20 second hand washing.** | Ensure soap, paper towels, tissues and toilet paper are regularly replenished, and hirer knows where to access for re- stocking if needed.  Hirer to be responsible for social distancing and cleaning in toilets. |
| Boiler Room | | Door handle, light switch Social distancing not possible | | **Public access unlikely.**  **Cleaner to decide frequency of cleaning.** | Public access not required to Boiler |
| Stage | | Curtains  Social distancing  Lighting and sound controls | | **Consider tying back stage curtains (or removal) out of reach if hirers are likely to touch them.**  **Hirer to control access and clean as required.** | Not applicable at this stage |
| Changing Rooms | | Outdoor toilets can be opened but it is not compulsory. | | **If opening changing rooms or outdoor toilets, establish frequency of cleaning and provide signage.** | See Government Guidance for councils on opening public toilets  Not applicable at this stage |
| Events | | Handling cash and tickets Too many people arrive | | **Organisers arrange online systems and cashless payments as far as possible. For performances seats to be limited, booked in advance, 2**  **seats between household groups.**  **Cash payments/donations to be handled by one individual wearing gloves.** | Currently not applicable |
| Playground, Play equipment and Outdoor gym equipment | | **Covid-19 Risk Assessment required if re-opened.**  **People at risk: clinically vulnerable children or adults, older relatives.**  If remain closed children have been/are likely to ignore notices/climb fences creating danger to themselves. Unstaffed, therefore not possible to clean, enforce social distancing or cleaning by users or parents.If unfenced, not possible to prevent access: Tape will be removed/ignored | | **Sun and rain reduce the risk by reducing the period over which the virus remains active.**  **If re-opened mitigate through erecting advisory notices in accordance with Government guidance on re-opening Playgrounds.**  **See Government Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms for other suggested measures.** | All Hirers to be responsible for their own equipment |