



YARPOLE PARISH HALL

FIRE SAFETY POLICY

April 2023

Yarpole Parish Hall Fire Safety Policy

Yarpole Parish Hall is a registered charity with trustees responsible for its management. The Yarpole Parish Hall Management Committee is responsible for the day to day management of the hall. (YPHMC)

The management committee is responsible for the implementation of this Fire Safety Policy.

1. Fire Safety Coordinator

YPHMC will appoint one / two of its members to act as the Parish Hall's Fire Safety Coordinator, working alongside the Chair person.

2. Fire Safety Log books

All relevant Fire Safety log books detailing the Fire Risk Assessments, alarm tests, fire fighting equipment checks etc will be maintained by the Fire Safety Coordinator.

3. Fire Alarm System

An upgraded fire alarm system was installed in January 2023, and is an automatic system, including multi sensory warnings in all of the toilets and conforming to the appropriate standards for such premises (BS 5839:2017 category M/L2). A certificate of compliance has been given.

Fire alarm tests are carried out weekly, following guidance notes provided by the Fire Alarm contractor and results recorded on the log sheets. The Fire Alarm system is maintained annually by a recognised contractor .

4. Fire Fighting Equipment

Firefighting equipment is provided in appropriate places within the Parish Hall, according to the particular fire risk posed (e.g. Fire Blanket within the kitchen). All firefighting equipment is visually checked weekly by the person carrying out the regular checks, and is serviced and maintained on an annual basis by a recognised contractor, and the results recorded. Any extinguisher that has been discharged / damaged is replaced immediately by the recognised contractor.

6 Emergency Lighting

All emergency lighting is visually checked by the person carrying out the weekly tests, and is serviced and maintained on a six monthly basis by a recognised contractor, and the results recorded.

7. Escape Routes & Exits

All Parish Hall escape routes and exits are clearly signed, and are kept free from obstruction at all times, to ensure safe evacuation from the building. A plan showing escape routes and exits is on display in the hall.

8. Fire Separation

Fire doors have been installed to the boiler room and kitchen as recommended in the Fire Risk Assessment (January 2023), providing a minimum of 30 minutes fire resistance.

9. Electrical System & Appliances

The Parish Hall's electrical wiring installation is inspected every five years by a recognised contractor, and the results recorded.

All portable electrical appliances provided by the YPHMC are PAT tested annually by a recognised contractor, and the results recorded.

The Parish Hall's boiler is serviced annually by a recognised contractor, and the results recorded.

10. Signage & Assembly Point

Details of escape routes, evacuation procedures and assembly points are recorded on the "Fire Action Notice" displayed adjacent to call point positions in the entrance lobby and in the main hall. All fire exit signage includes a pictogram, i.e. the "running man".

A safe assembly point is designated at the far end of the car park and is to be used in the event of an evacuation. All Hall users' & visitors are made aware of its location which is clearly indicated on the Fire Action Notice

11. Fire Safety Inspections

The YPHMC is responsible for conducting regular visual inspections of the Parish Hall and all its fire safety equipment. These inspections should ensure as a minimum:

- All firefighting equipment is present and serviceable and is either in a floor stand or wall mounted and not used as a "door stop".
- all fire routes and exits are free from obstruction.
- all fire doors are kept shut when not in use and not propped open
- all emergency lighting and smoke detectors are working;

- any flammable liquids are correctly stored; and
- there is no accumulation of rubbish within or near the building to create a fire hazard. The results of these fire safety inspections are recorded.

12. Fire Risk Assessments

A Yarpole Parish Hall Fire Risk Assessment is undertaken and updated on at least an annual basis by the Fire Risk Co-ordinator, and the Chair, and the results recorded.

The Fire Risk Assessment will be a Standing Agenda Item at all YPHMC Meetings, to ensure that additional Fire Risk Assessment reviews may be undertaken as soon as possible if any changes are made that may potentially impact upon fire safety, such as alterations to the premises or new activities of hirers.

A detailed independent fire risk assessment was carried out by Keith Newman (Fire Risk Assessments & Staff Fire Training) on 19th January 2023. All recommendations have been carried out within the three month recommended period and this assessment will form the basis of an annual review.

13. Conditions of Hire

The conditions of hire of the Parish Hall state that fire and other exits must not be obstructed. The conditions of hire are available in the Parish Hall and are given out with the booking form.

For general hire, theatrical and entertainment events health and safety procedures apply and an appointed person is responsible for fire safety and emergency evacuation.

14. Fire and Emergency Evacuation

All users of the Parish Hall are required to familiarise themselves with the 'FIRE Safety Guidance and Emergency Plan' for Hirers, (attached as Appendix 1 at the end of this Policy statement) which is ALSO displayed on the Hall's Notice Board within the Hall entrance lobby.

Copies of this policy, fire safety guidance and emergency plan is sent out with the terms and conditions to any hirers, who are required to accept and adhere to it all.

YPHMC recommend that all regular Hirer's of the Hall should conduct formal fire evacuation drills for their event attendees.

This policy will be reviewed by the YPHMC annually.
Next review date – April 2024

Appendix 1

YARPOLE PARISH HALL

FIRE Safety Guidance and Emergency Plan for Hirers

Safety Guidance

YOU, THE HIRER are the 'RESPONSIBLE PERSON' in the event of a Fire or an Emergency within Yarpole Parish Hall during your hire of the Parish Hall.

At all times when the Yarpole Parish Hall is in use, the 'RESPONSIBLE PERSON' must be in charge, and ready to take control of any incident.

Please read and become familiar with these instructions.

Your priority should always be to Save Lives and not the building!

BEFORE YOUR EVENT STARTS:

- Check that the Parish Hall 'Fire Exit' lights are working;
- Check that all Parish Hall 'Fire Exit' routes are not blocked, e.g. by tables, chairs or boxes;
- Check that you know where the Parish Hall's Fire Extinguishers are stored, and the different uses of the water and powder fire extinguishers;
- Check that all electrical equipment and extension leads that have been brought into and/or are being used within the Parish Hall, look safe to use;
- Inform all of your Attendees of the Parish Hall's 'Fire Exit' routes, and the 'Assembly Point' outside at the far end of the car park near the road.

DURING YOUR EVENT:

- Count number of attendees at your event
- Ensure that the Parish Hall's 'Fire Exit' routes do not become obstructed;
- Brief any people who may require assistance and/or their assistants regarding their best evacuation route from the Parish Hall, in the event of a fire or an emergency;
- Ensure that no vehicle obstructs the Parish Halls' main entrance ramp, so that wheelchair users and those with prams/buggies will be able to leave the Parish Hall safely;
- Ensure that emergency services vehicles have a clear access route to the Parish Hall from the road;
- Ensure that your event attendees do not engage in any activity that is likely to cause a fire (e.g. smoking, use of candles or other naked flames);
- Be vigilant regarding any smells of burning, or a gradual build-up of smoke.

Emergency Plan

In the Event of a Fire or some other emergency: **Take Command!**

- Give loud and clear instructions;
- Tell everybody to:
 1. In an orderly manner, to immediately evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and give assistance to Hall users with visual or hearing difficulties & wheelchair users as necessary ; and
 2. gather at the ‘Assembly Point’, at the far end of the car park, and to wait for you;
- Start the Parish Hall Fire Alarm if not already activated, by using one of the ‘ call points’ located at any of the exit routes;
- Do not attempt to tackle a fire unless trained and confident to do so.

Call **THE FIRE BRIGADE - DIAL 999** and give this address:

Yarpole Parish Hall,

Cock Gate

Green Lane, Yarpole

Leominster

,HR6 0BL

- Check every Parish Hall room that it is safe to enter, to ensure that everyone has left the Hall;
- Once outside, at the ‘Assembly Point’, check that everyone is accounted for;
- Check that the road and the area around the Parish Hall is clear for the emergency services vehicles;
- Do not allow anyone to enter / return into the building until a fire officer tells you it is safe to enter;
- Ensure a key holder remains available to give the Fire Brigade access if necessary
- Contact a member of the Yarpole Parish Hall Management Committee on one of the telephone numbers shown below:

Chair	Jill Grant	01568 780250
Treasurer	Nigel Archer	07736519905
Secretary	Janet Owen	01568 780942
Booking Secretary	Sue Carpenter	01568 780371