**Swillington Village Council**

**Allotments: Ponds**

**Purpose**

Insurers will not pay any claims from injuries suffered in any pond at the allotment site unless the conditions outlined in this policy have been adhered to.

**Definition**

A pond is a small area of still, fresh water. It is different from a river or a stream because it does not have moving water, and it differs from a lake because it has a small area. It is no more than around 1.8m deep but can be as shallow as 10-20cm. Some ponds are formed naturally, filled either by an underwater spring, or by rainwater. Other ponds are artificially made, such as brick built, tubs, dugout and other manmade structures.

Water butts, wells, and other holding vessels are not ponds, on the basis that they are completely enclosed to prevent a person or animal falling in.

**Safety Requirements for Having a Pond on Your Allotment Plot**

The following safety steps must be taken to ensure young children are kept away:

* Fence around the pond, or plot where the pond is located, that is no less than 1m high
* All sections of the fence should be clear of objects that will allow a child to use them to climb over the fence
* If a gate is fitted, the gate should be self-closing and open outwards from the pond with the latch/lock being fitted to the inside

OR any other safety arrangement that the insurers have given prior written agreement. Please contact the Council Clerk for details of the current insurer if required. A copy of this written agreement must be provided to the Council.

**Cleaning & Maintenance**

Ponds should be kept in good order. Anything removed when the pond is cleaned should be disposed of in a responsible manner.

*Date of policy: May 2024
Approving committee: Full Council
Date of meeting: 07/05/2024
Policy version reference: Version 1
Policy effective from: 07/05/2024
Date for next review: As necessary*