

Item 11.3 - Pond Safety

Meeting: 9 April 2026

Motion(s): To consider the purchase of lifebuoy, safety station, and/or signage for the pond.

Author: Clerk to the Council

Background

Grant funding from Community Climate Change and Nature Recovery Fund for the project 'Bringing our pond back to life, Ilmington' allocated £750 towards safety signage and £350 towards a lifebuoy station, including purchase and installation.

Research

[ROSPA recommends](#) that organisations responsible for lakes and ponds:




Conduct a thorough risk assessment: A detailed risk assessment should be undertaken with a plan to manage any risks and hazards that are identified. For example, some lakes are previous quarry workings or clay pits and the side slopes can change suddenly.

Provide appropriate signage: If a lake isn't safe or suitable for recreational purposes, you must provide a sign that raises awareness and instructs people not to use the water. You should provide signage displaying information about currents, deep water, and hazards.

Maintain the lake: Regularly remove any objects and items that may cause harm or that will increase risks within the water, such as plastic pollution.

Options:

Signage: No swimming, danger deep water, no unaccompanied children.

	£18.35 from ASPLI 400 x 300mm, in aluminium composite
	£24.51 ex VAT from SafetySigns4Less 400 x 300mm, in aluminium composite
	£18.95 ex VAT from SafetySignWarehouse 420 x 297mm, aluminium composite


Alternatively, custom signs could be made to include all three messages.

Note: Fixing post and installation costs not included, estimated at £120 per sign.

More than one sign may be required at appropriate points when approaching the pond.

Exact locations to be determined by risk assessment.

Lifebuoy: A lifebuoy with an attached throw line is a common approach e.g.

<p>Guardian Life Ring Station from Glasdon</p>		<p>£382.95 ex VAT for 600mm (24") ring with 30m throwing line (not encapsulated) on below ground fixed post.</p>
<p>24" Life Buoy & Open Housing Cabinet Set From Lifebuoys Direct</p>		<p>£199.50 ex VAT for 2m below surface fixing post.</p> <p>Options:</p> <p>£205 ex VAT for 30" lifebuoy with open housing</p> <p>£249 ex VAT for 24" lifebuoy with covered housing</p> <p>£255 ex VAT for 30" lifebuoy with covered housing</p>
<p>24 Inch Lifebuoy Station Complete - Stand Sub Surface mounted From ASPLI</p>		<p>£242.87 ex VAT plus delivery surcharge of £8.75.</p>

Installation not included above.

Recommendation:

That the council approves the installation of general warning signage at the pond highlighting deep water and that the pond is unsuitable for swimming, and

That a site-specific, written risk assessment for the lake, carried out by a competent person, is arranged, to guide council on any further safety measures required.