

Carsington and Hopton Parish Council Risk Assessment

“The greatest risk facing a local authority is not being able to deliver the activity or services expected of the Council.”

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, workplace activities and environmental factors that will enable the employer to identify any and all potential risks inherent in the place or practices. Based on a recorded assessment the employer should then take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is practically possible. All employees and volunteers should be made aware of the results of the risk assessment.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT				
Topic	Risk	H/M/L	Management/control of risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Precept	Adequacy of precept	L	To determine the precept amount required, the Parish Council (PC) receives budget update information at each meeting and the precept is an agenda item at full Council. At the meeting dealing with the Precept the PC receives a budget update report, including actual position and projected position to end the year and indicative figures or costings obtained by the Clerk. With this information the Council maps out the required monies for standing costs and projects for the following year and applies specific figures to budget headings, the total of which is resolved to be the precept amount to be requested from the District Council. Due account is taken of the anticipated wind farm monies. This figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing to the District Council. The Clerk informs Council when the monies are received.	Existing procedure adequate
	Requirements not submitted to District Council	L		
	Amount not received by District Council	L		
Wind Farm Monies	Not received	L	Clerk to inform Council on receipt of monies.	Clerk to ensure requirements of legal agreement are met. Council to implement a grant awarding policy.
Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial irregularities	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements. Council takes advice from Internal Auditor.	Review the Financial Regulations when necessary.
Bank and Banking	Inadequate checks Bank mistakes Loss Charges	L L L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements for banking, cheques and reconciliation of accounts. The bank does make occasional errors in processing cheques which are discovered when the Clerk reconciles	Existing procedure adequate. Review the Financial Regulations annually and bank signatory list when necessary, especially after

			the bank accounts bi- monthly when the statement arrives. These are dealt with immediately by informing the bank and awaiting their correction.	an AGM and an election. Monitor the bank statements bi-monthly.
Reporting and Auditing	Information communication	L	A financial statement is a standing agenda item for each Council meeting, discussed and approved at the meeting. This statement includes, bank reconciliation, budget update, and a breakdown of receipts and payments balanced against the bank.	Existing communication procedures adequate.
	Compliance	L	Council should regularly audit internally to comply with the Fidelity Guarantee.	Council annually to appoint a Vice Chair whose role includes compliance. Implement internal auditor's advice.
Direct costs Overhead expenses Debts	Goods not supplied but billed Incorrect invoicing	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements. At each Council meeting the list of invoices awaiting approval is distributed to Councillors, and considered. Council approves the list of requests for payment. One Councillor is nominated to check each invoice against the cheque book and associated paperwork and initials the invoices. There is a procedure for between meeting payments.	Existing procedure adequate. Review the Financial Regulations when necessary.
	Cheque payable incorrect	L		
	Unpaid invoices	L		
Grants and support - payable	Power to pay Authorisation of Council to pay	L	All such expenditure goes through the required Council process of approval, minuted and listed accordingly if a payment is made using the S137 power of expenditure.	Existing procedure adequate.
Grants - receivable	Receipts of Grant	L	One off grants would come with terms and conditions to be satisfied.	Existing procedures adequate.
Best value Accountability	Work awarded incorrectly	L	Normal Parish Council practice would be to seek, if possible, more than one quotation for any substantial work required to be undertaken or goods. For major contract services, formal competitive tenders would be sought. If a problem is encountered with a contract the	Existing procedure adequate. Include when reviewing Financial Regulations.
	Overspend on services	L		

			Clerk would investigate the situation, check the quotation/tender, research the problem and report to Council.	
Salaries and associated costs	Salary paid incorrectly Wrong hours paid Wrong rate paid Wrong deductions of NI or Tax Unpaid Tax & NI contributions to the Inland Revenue	L L L L L	The Parish Council authorises the appointment of all employees. Salary analysis and slips are produced by a consultant quarterly together with a schedule of payments to the Inland Revenue (for Tax and NI). These are inspected at the Council meetings and signed off. All Tax and NI payments are submitted in the Inland Revenue Annual Return. The Clerk does not keep a time sheet and has a contract of employment and job description. All contracts of employment contain a section on overpayment and recoup.	Existing appointment and payment system is adequate. Update Clerk's contract of employment
Employees	Loss of key personnel Fraud by staff Actions undertaken by staff Health & Safety	L L L L	The requirements of the Fidelity Guarantee insurance to be adhered to with regards to Fraud. The Clerk should be provided with relevant training, reference books, access to assistance and legal advice required to undertake the role. Any maintenance staff should be provided with adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake the roles, ie. protective clothing and training.	Existing procedure adequate. Purchase revised books. Membership of DALC. Monitor working conditions, safety requirements and insurance regularly.
Councillor allowances	Councillors over-paid Income tax deduction	L	No allowances are allocated to Parish Councillors	No procedure required
Election costs	Risk of an election cost	L	Risk is higher in an election year. When an election is due the Clerk will obtain an estimate of costs from the District Council for a full election and an uncontested election.	Existing procedure adequate. Part of the democratic process
VAT	Re-claiming/charging	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements	Existing procedure adequate
Annual Return	Submit within time limits	L	Annual Return is completed and submitted to the internal auditor for completion and signing then checked and sent	Existing procedures adequate

		L	on to the External Auditor within time limit. Chair signs governance statement in full meeting. All relevant financial information is on Web site and so available for public inspection.	Procedures now working well
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments	L	All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved and minuted at Full Parish Council Meetings, including a reference to the power used.	Powers have been minuted
Minutes/Agendas/Notices Statutory Documents	Accuracy and legality	L	Minutes and agenda are produced in the prescribed method by the Clerk and adhere to the legal requirements. Minutes are approved and signed at the next Council meeting. Minutes and agenda are displayed on notice boards, by email and on web.	Existing procedure adequate. Members to adhere to Code of Conduct.
	Business conduct	L	Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chair.	
Members interests	Conflict of interest	L	Declaration of interests by members at all meetings. Register of Members Interest forms should be reviewed regularly by Councillors.	Standing item on agenda and on all agenda papers.
	Register of Members interests	L	Every meeting considers members interests and forms are review in public meeting annually.	Members take responsibility to update their Register.
Insurance	Adequacy	L	The next review is due April 2018 of all insurance arrangements. Employers and Employee liability insurance is a necessity. Ensure compliance measures are in place. Ensure Fidelity checks are in place.	Existing procedure adequate.
	Cost	L		Review insurance provision April 2018.
	Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L		.
Data protection	Policy Provision	L	The Council is registered with the Data Protection Agency	Ensure annual review of registration
Freedom of Information Act	Policy	L	The Council has a model publication scheme in place. There have been no requests for information to date but the Clerk is aware that if a substantial request arrives then this may require many hours of additional work. The Council is able to request a fee if the work will take more	Monitor and report any impacts of requests made under the F of I Act.
	Provision	L		

			than 15 hours but the applicant also has the right to re-submit the request broken down into sections, thus negating the payment of a fee.	
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PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS				
Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/control of risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Assets	Loss or Damage Risk/damage to third party(ies)/property	L L	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision, storage and maintenance provisions. Annual inspection of play equipment by experts. Vice chair reports to each meeting on play equipment in accordance with insurers recommended list of actions.	Existing procedure adequate.
Maintenance	Poor performance of assets or amenities Loss of income or performance Risk to third parties	L L L	All assets owned by the Parish Council are regularly reviewed and maintained. All repairs and relevant expenditure for these repairs are actioned/authorised in accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish Council. All assets are insured and reviewed annually. All public amenity land is inspected regularly by parish employees.	Existing procedure adequate. Ensure inspections carried out.
Notice boards	Risk/damage/injury to third parties Road side safety	L L	Parish Council has 2 notice boards sited around the village. All locations have approval by relevant parties, insurance cover, inspected regularly by the Clerk - any repairs/maintenance requirements brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Keys held by the Clerk.	Existing procedure adequate.
Street furniture	Risk/damage/injury to third parties	L	The Parish Council is responsible for 2 boundary signs, seats, artwork around the village and covered by insurance. No formalised programme of inspections is carried out, all reports of damage or faults are reported to Council and/or dealt with.	Existing procedure adequate.

Meeting location	Adequacy Health & Safety	L L	The Parish Council Meetings are held at the spAce, St Margaret's church, Carsington. The premises and the facilities are considered to be adequate for the Clerk, Councillors and Public who attend from Health and Safety and comfort aspects.	Existing locations adequate.
Council records – paper	Loss through: theft fire damage	L M L	The Parish Council records are stored at Wash Farm. Records include historical correspondence, minute books and copies, leases for land or property, records such as personnel, insurance, salaries etc. Recent materials are in a (metal filing cabinet (not fire proof)) and older more historical records are unavailable.	Damage (apart from fire) and theft is unlikely and so provision adequate. Consider storage of legal agreements.
Council records - electronic	Loss through: Theft, fire, damage corruption of computer	L	The Parish Council's electronic records are stored on a designated PC computer.	Measures are in place to comply with the Transparency Act 2015.

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