

RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE- TOLLESHUNT MAJOR PARISH COUNCIL

Type of assessment: Remote facilitated, reviewed as valid by members of Parish Council

Definition of Risk Management

Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies. Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated and controlled. It is a key element of the framework of governance together with community focus, structures and processes, standards of conduct and service delivery arrangements.

Audit Commission – Worth the Risk: Improving Risk Management in Local Government (2001:5)

This document has been produced to enable the Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to mitigate or eliminate them. The Council is aware that although some risks can never be eliminated fully, it has in place a strategy that provides a structured, systematic, and focused approach to managing risk, which:

- Identifies the subject (hazard)
- Identifies what the risk may be
- Identifies the level of risk
- Evaluates the management and control of the risk and records findings
- Reviews, assesses and revises procedures if required.

Facilitated by N. Wood Council member

Agreed by Tolleshunt Major Parish Council at the meeting dated 6.7.2021 and recorded as Minute Reference 4407.21

Review date: July 2022

RISK MANAGEMENT

Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of risk	Review, assess, revise
Business Continuity	Council not being able to continue its business due to an unforeseen circumstances or issues affecting personnel.	M	All files and recent records are kept at the clerk's home. The clerk makes a monthly back up of files. In the event of the clerk being indisposed arrangements will be made for suitable temporary cover, taking advice from EALC if required. External hard drive kept up to date.	Clerk must ensure that fireproof storage is used, and that monthly back-up is carried out. Council chairman must clarify any arrangements for stand-in clerk to access records. Clerk to investigate alternatives to back-up external hard drive: Consider the cloud system.
Meeting location	Meeting location adequacy Health and Safety	L	Meetings are held in the Church Rooms. A key is held by the Chairman and other keys are available from key holder members of the Parochial Church Council who are the owners of the property. The premises and facilities are considered to be adequate for the Clerk, Councilors and any public who attend from a health and safety and comfort aspect.	Two members of the Parish council also attend the Parochial Church council meetings and will monitor arrangements for the health, safety and welfare of the hall and it's uses.
Council records	Council Records loss through theft, fire, damage.	L	Current papers held in a locked metal cabinet at the clerk's home. Archived papers will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the clerk's home or sent to EEC	The cabinet is fireproof. Access to keys/papers in the event of clerk being indisposed have been arranged.
Electronic records	Loss through damage, fire, corruption of computer	L	The Parish Council's electronic records are stored on the clerk's computer. Back-ups of the files are taken at monthly intervals on an external hard drive, which is kept in a secure cabinet separate to paper copies.	Clerk to check files are backed up monthly and are password protected on an external drive. Password also known to Chair or must be given to Chair in the event of a new chair taking over duties. Clerk to investigate alternatives to back-up external hard drive: Consider the cloud system.

Precept	Adequacy of precept	L	<p>Sound budgeting to underlie annual precept. The Parish Council receives monthly financial update information and detailed budgets are produced in the late autumn. The precept is an agenda item at the January meeting. To determine the precept amount required, the Council receives budget update information at each meeting. At the precept meeting Council receives a budget report, including actual position and projected position to the end of 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 MDC. The figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing. Need to add bit we did not do this year.</p> <p>The Clerk informs the Council when the monies are received.</p>	<p>Clerk to ensure this is on monthly calendar of "Things to do".</p> <p>Monthly calendar to be updated and issued to all councilors.</p> <p>Monthly calendar should trigger appropriate agenda items</p>
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements in place. Employers Liability, Public Liability and Fidelity Guarantee are a statutory requirement.	Ensure this is on monthly calendar of "Things to do" and that we do it and a minute reference is given.
Banking	Inadequate checks Bank mistakes	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements for banking, cheques and reconciliation of accounts. The Financial Regulations are updated as advised by the EALC.	Bank reconciliations need to be done monthly and included on the monthly financial update for parish councilors.
Cash	Loss through theft or dishonesty	L	The Council has no petty cash or float. Cash transactions are agenda items and agreed by PC; these are fully receipted and then reimbursed monthly by cheque on receipt of an invoice. Two signatories necessary.	No action
Financial controls and records	Inadequate records and checks	L	<p>Monthly statement prepared by RFO. Check by designated P. Councilor with RFO.</p> <p>Two signatories on cheques. Payments agreed at full PC meeting.</p> <p>Internal and external audit.</p> <p>Financial obligations resolved and clearly minuted before any commitment. All payments resolved by the full Council and clearly minuted.</p>	Ensure checks are undertaken and minuted at PC meetings.
Freedom of Information Act	Policy Provision- cost of responding to requests	L	Standing Orders give details of how requests will be dealt with according to the policy. Contingency fund must take account of possible costs- difficult to mitigate due to unpredictable nature of risk.	Clerk and a member of the parish council should check website information is clear still valid legally on a yearly basis.
Clerk	Loss of clerk Fraud Actions undertaken	L	<p>A training budget is allocated each year in the precept to enable training for the Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk is provided with relevant training and access to assistance and legal advice.</p> <p>Membership of EALC maintained.</p> <p>Staffing Committee monitors working conditions and performance management.</p> <p>See also financial checks.</p>	<p>No action</p> <p>Ensure pay rises are actioned in line with local government changes and minuted.</p>

Website administration	Website not kept up to date	L	Website Administrator unavailable or indisposed.	PC must ensure a competent person is appointed as administrator along with a suitable trained person to act as a deputy in the event of illness or indisposition.
Election Costs	Risk of election cost	L	Risk is higher in an election year. There are no measures, which can be adopted to minimize risk of having a contested election. Any funds required would have to come from the contingency fund. In an election year include in financial budget when setting precept.	PC to respond to parish needs.
Additional costs-extra meetings	Risk of need for additional meetings for planning to comply with LPA consultation requirements	L	Contingency fund needs to take this into account.	Clerk to monitor frequency; at present low but if increases this needs to be included in precept planning.
Income Tax	Errors on annual return a risk to PC	L	Internal auditor checks.	No action.
VAT	Re-claiming/charging	L	The Council has financial regulations which set out the requirements. VAT reclaims are undertaken annually.	Ensure reclaim undertaken.
Annual return	Not submitted within time limits	L	Annual return is completed and signed by the Council, submitted to the Internal Auditor for completion and signing, then checked and sent on to the External Auditor within time limit.	Ensure on monthly calendar of "Things to do"
Assets	Playing fields Street furniture and playground equipment. Bus Shelter and notice board Damage to play equipment and benches etc.	L	An asset register is kept up to date and insurance is held at the appropriate level for all items. Regular checks are made on all equipment by members of the Parish Council. Annual ROSPA survey and Tree Survey by Essex CC. Building Survey by MDC. Work undertaken in response to this. Requests for use of the playing field for local events are discussed and agreed at PC meetings and minuted.	Ensure on monthly calendar of "Things to do"
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments. Working Parties taking decisions	L	All activities and payments made within the powers of the Parish Council and to be resolved and clearly minuted. Sub committees and Working parties exist within the Parish Council and are given clear terms of reference. Any decisions are made by the full Council.	No action necessary.
Minutes/ Agendas/ Statutory Documents	Accuracy and legality Noncompliance with statutory requirements	L	Minutes and agendas are produced in the prescribed method and adhere to legal requirements as advised by EALC. Minutes are approved and signed at next meeting. Minutes and agendas are displayed according to legal requirements. Business conducted at Council Meetings is managed by the Chairman. Members adhere to Code of Conduct	Clerk to ensure statutory documents packs are immediately available to new councilors. New Statutory Documents or changes to be notified by clerk so Council documents can be updated.

Public Liability	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Insurance is in place. Risk assessment of any individual event undertaken	PC should consider drafting a list of possible and known events and generating a list of generic assessments so that events can be authorised without undue delay and ensure risks are adequately controlled in all circumstances.
Employer Liability	Noncompliance with employment law	L	Use EALC / District Council where necessary. Clerks Pay and conditions determined by National Guidance.	Monitored by staffing committee, updated if national changes to pay and conditions arise.
Legal Liability	Legality of activities Proper and timely reporting via Minutes	L	Clerk clarifies legal position on proposals and seeks advice if necessary. Council always receives and approves minutes at monthly meetings.	No action
Members Interests	Conflict of interest Register of Members Interests	L	Councillors have a duty to declare any interest at the start of each meeting. Included as agenda item Register of Members Interests form to be reviewed at least on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting held in May. Members to take responsibility to update their register when relevant.	Annual monitoring and new councillors register updated as necessary.
Best Value	Charges to the Parish Council are too high.	L	The Responsible Financial Officer will obtain three estimates for any work undertaken by Contractors on behalf of the Parish Council, where the cost of work equals or exceeds £60,000.	No action
Salaries.	Salary paid incorrectly	L	The only paid employee is the Clerk. The Clerk presents a monthly account and itemises the wages and expenses together with receipts where appropriate. The Parish Council must approve this before payment is made. Internal auditor ensures that deductions are properly administered.	No action
Data Protection	Non-compliance with data protection legislation. GDPR implementation	L	The Parish Council is making progress towards meeting the requirements for GDPR. If required Maldon District Council will be commissioned to act as the Data Protection Officer for the Parish Council-but may not be required in amended legislation. Maldon District Council's policy templates will be used.	Agenda item for each meeting to be updated
Meeting or part of meeting becoming inquorate	The Council cannot transact business in a valid and legal manner	L	A quorum is one third of the whole Council, with a minimum of three. If an item on the agenda becomes inquorate, either through absence or the declaration of interests, the Chair shall adjourn that item to a future meeting. If the meeting itself becomes inquorate, the Chair will close the meeting and adjourn all business to a future meeting.	No action