

### **Financial Management - Risk Assessment- 2020-2021**

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, workplace activities and environmental factors that will enable the Parish Council to identify any and all potential inherent risks. The Parish Council, based on a recorded assessment, will take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is practically possible.

This document enables Ringshall Parish Council to assess the risks it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them.

#### FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Risk(s) identified</b>	<b>H/M/L</b>	<b><u>Management/control of Risk</u></b>	<b><u>Review/Assess/Revise</u></b>
Precept	Adequacy of precept in order for the council to carry out its Statutory duties	L	To determine the precept amount required, the Council regularly receives budget updates, financial statements and bank reconciliations from the Clerk. 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 Mid Suffolk District Council. The figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing. The Clerk informs the Council when the monies are received.	Existing procedure adequate when budget and precept submitted together at January meeting.

Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial Irregularities	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations that sets out the requirements.	Financial Regulations to be reviewed May 2020
Bank and banking	Inadequate checks Banks mistakes	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out banking requirements Periodic reconciliation	Financial Regulations to be Reviewed May 2020 meeting
Reporting and Auditing	Inadequate information and communication	L	Financial information is a regular agenda item (Finance Report) and discussed/reviewed and approved at each meeting.	Existing procedures adequate.
Grants	Failure to understand, seek, secure and spend grants	L	Regular financial reporting to the Parish Council by the Clerk	Existing procedures adequate <input type="text"/>

Charges rents receivable	Payment of rents	L	The Parish Council does not presently collect rents.	Procedure would be formed if required
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 S137 powers of expenditure.	Existing procedure adequate.
Best value accountability	Work awarded incorrectly. Overspend on services.	L L	Normal Parish Council practice would be to seek, if possible, more than one quotation for any substantial work to be undertaken. For major work competitive tenders would be sought. If problems encountered with a contract the Clerk would investigate the situation and report to the Council.	Existing procedure adequate.  Include when reviewing Financial regulations.
Salaries and associated costs	Salary paid incorrectly. Unpaid Tax to Inland Revenue.	L L	Outsource payroll administration and reporting to HMRC.	Existing procedures adequate
Employees	Fraud by staff Health and safety	L L	Requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance adhered to with regards to fraud. All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles	Existing procedures adequate.  Monitor health and safety requirements and insurance annually.
VAT	Reclaiming/charging	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements.	Financial Regulations to be reviewed May 2016 meeting

Annual Return	Submit within time limits	L	Annual Return is completed and submitted within the prescribed time frame by the RFO. Annual Return completed and signed by the Council, submitted to internal auditor for completion and signing then checked and sent to External Auditor within time frame.	Existing procedures adequate.
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or activity	L	All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved at full Council Meetings, including reference to the power used under the Finance section of agenda and Finance report monthly.	Existing procedures adequate
Minutes, agendas, Notices, Statutory Documents	Accuracy and legality	L	Minutes and agenda are produced in the prescribed manner by the Clerk and adhere to the legal requirements. Minutes are approved and signed at the next Council meeting. Agenda displayed according to legal requirements.	Existing procedures adequate.
	Business conduct	L	Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chairman	Members adhere to Suffolk Code of Conduct

Members interests	Conflict of interests	L	Declarations of interest by members at Council meetings. Register of members interests forms reviewed regularly.	Existing procedures adequate.
	Register of members interests	M		Members take responsibility to update register.
Insurance	Adequacy	L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements. Employers and Employee liabilities a necessity and within policies. Ensure compliance measures are in place. Fidelity checks in place.	Existing procedure adequate.
	Cost	L		Insurance reviewed annually
	Compliance	L		
	Fidelity Guarantee	M		
Data protection	Policy provision	L	The Parish Council is registered with the Data Protection Agency	Check registration and Annual renewal
Freedom of Information	Policy	L	The Council has a Model Publication scheme in place. To date there has been no requests under FOI. The Parish Council is aware that if a substantial request came in it could create a number of additional hours work. The Parish Council can request a fee to supplement the extra hours.	Check Model Publication scheme.
	Provision	M		Monitor any requests made under FOI
Transparency and accountability	Policy provision	L	The Council has adopted the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014	Review regularly
Assets	Loss or damage Risk/damage to third Party/ies property	L	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision	Existing procedures adequate
Maintenance	Poor performance of assets or amenities	L	All assets owned by the Parish Council are regularly reviewed and maintained. All repairs and relevant expenditure for any repair is actioned/authorised in accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish	Existing procedures adequate

			Council. Assets are insured	
Notice Board	Risk of damage	L	The Parish Council currently has one notice board. No formal inspection procedures are in place but any reports of damage or faults are reported to the Parish Council and dealt with in accordance of the correct procedure of the Council	Existing procedures adequate
Meeting locations	Adequacy Health & Safety	L M	The Parish Council meeting is held in a venue considered to have appropriate facilities for the Clerk, members and the general public.	Existing procedures adequate
Council records – paper	Loss through: Theft Fire damage	L M L	The Parish Council records are stored at the home of the Clerk and the Suffolk Records Office. Records include historical correspondences, minutes, insurance, bank records. The documents are stored in lockable cabinets.	Existing provision is adequate
Council records – electronic	Loss through: Theft, fire damage or corruption of computer	L M	The Parish Council electronic records are stored on the Parish Council laptop held with the Clerk at his home. Back ups of electronic data are made at regular intervals	Existing provision is adequate

This version was approved on the 26 January 2021 - RPC/2021/01/08d