

Stow Bardolph Parish Council Risk Assessment

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 has been produced to enable Stow Bardolph Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them.

Subject	Risk(s) indentified	H/M/L	Management/control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT				
Precept	Adequacy of precept in order for the Council to carry out its Statutory duties	L	To determine the precept amount required, the Council receives budget update information on a regular basis. 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 the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. The figure is submitted by the Clerk using the appropriate forms. The Clerk informs the Council when the monies are received.	Existing procedure adequate.
Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial irregularities	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which sets out the requirements.	Existing procedure adequate Review the Financial regulations when necessary
Bank and banking	Inadequate checks Banks mistakes	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out banking requirements Monthly reconciliation	Existing procedure adequate Existing procedure adequate

Reporting and auditing	Information communication	L	Financial information is a regular agenda item and discussed/reviewed and approved at each meeting.	Existing procedures adequate.
Grants	Receipt of grant	L	Parish Council does not presently receive any regular grants.	Procedure would be formed, if required
Charges-rents receivable	Payment of rents	L	The Parish Council collects Allotment rents in September each year. Allotment rents are reviewed every two years.	Existing procedure adequate
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 M	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 assoc. costs	Salary paid incorrectly. Unpaid Tax to Inland Revenue.	L L	Salary rates are assessed annually by the Council and applied on 1st April each year. Salary is paid by cheque quarterly reported to the Council. Income tax is calculated using HMRC PAYE basic tools software updated annually, and paid quarterly.	Existing procedures adequate
Employees	Fraud by staff Loss of staff Health and safety	L M L	Requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance adhered to with regards to fraud. Adequate reserves are held should new staff need to be recruited and trained All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles	Existing procedures adequate. Existing procedure adequate Monitor health and safety requirements and insurance annually.
VAT	Reclaiming/charging	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements.	Existing procedures adequate
Annual Return	Submit within time limits	L	Annual Return is completed and submitted online with the prescribed time frame by the Clerk. Annual Return is submitted to internal auditor for completion	Existing procedures adequate.

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			then checked and signed by the Council and sent to External Auditor within time frame.	
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments	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 manor 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 Chair	Members adhere to Code of Conduct
Members interests	Conflict of interests Register of members interests	L M	Declarations of interest by members at Council meetings. Register of members interests forms reviewed regularly.	Existing procedures adequate. Members take responsibility to update register.
Insurance	Adequacy	L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements.	Existing procedure adequate.
	Cost	L	Employers and Employee liabilities a necessity and within policies.	Insurance reviewed annually.
	Compliance	L	Ensure compliance measures are in place.	
	Fidelity Guarantee	M	Fidelity checks in place.	
Data protection	Policy provision	L	The Parish Council is registered with the Data Protection Agency	Ensure annual renewal of registration
Freedom of Information	Policy Provision	L	The Council has a Privacy Statement. To date there has been no requests under FOI.	Monitor any requests made under FOI
		M	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	
PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS				
Assets	Loss or damage Risk/damage to third	L	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision	Existing procedures adequate

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	party (ies) property	L		
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 Council. Assets are insured.	Existing procedures adequate
Notice Boards	Risk of damage	L	The Parish Council currently has three 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 procedures 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. Records include historical correspondences, minutes, insurance, bank records. The documents are stored in a lockable container.	Damage (apart from fire) and theft is unlikely and so 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 Council laptop held with the Clerk at her home. Back ups of electronic data is made at regular intervals	Existing procedures considered adequate