

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT



ITEM	Risk Identified	High/ Medium/ Low	Management of Risk	Action	Internal Audit Frequency	Policy document	Notes
<p>The Parish Council is required to review its risk assessment/management arrangements annually. It is important that the Parish Council is able to demonstrate that it has effective risk management processes in place.</p> <p>Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated and controlled and enables the Parish Council to avoid, or minimise, damaging actions or events. Risk management is a key element of the framework of governance</p>							
Finance General							
1	Financial Control	Failure to maintain proper financial control resulting in inability of Parish Council to set a legal budget	L	Internal financial management supported by Financial regulations Quarterly review of bank situation and bank reconciliation. Monthly budget monitoring statements Annual spending plan formulated	Parish Council	Half yearly	Financial regulations Existing arrangements adequate
2	Precept	Over/under calculation of precept Not paid by Cheshire East Council	L L	Annual budget setting process Timely presentation of request. Precept paid directly into PC bank a/c	Parish Council Clerk	Annually	Governance & Accountability Existing arrangements adequate
3	VAT	Reclaiming/recharging	L	Routinely claimed annually as part of the year end accounts process. No recharging carried out	Clerk	Annually	Financial regulations Existing arrangements adequate
4	Year end accounts	Submit within time limits	L	Ensure timely presentation of Annual return to the Parish Council for approval And subsequent presentation to internal & external auditors	Clerk/ FSC	Annually	Statutory requirements and Financial regulations Existing arrangements adequate
5	Bank/banking	Inadequate checks Bank errors FSA £85,000 cover	L	Quarterly bank reconciliations carried out and presented to Council. No bank account should hold more than £85,000 to ensure	Clerk/ FSC	Quarterly	Financial regulations Existing arrangements adequate

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			cover from FSA.				
Expenditure							
6	Salaries	Salaries paid incorrectly Unpaid tax to HMRC	L	Calculations done by a payroll service. Staff salaries are to be paid by BACS payment. Any overtime must be approved by the Chair and Vice Chair and reported to full Council. It will be paid by a separate BACS payment, a month in arrears.	n/a Clerk	Half yearly	Existing arrangements adequate
7	Payments	Unlawful expenditure/improper payment by cheque	L	All requests for payment submitted to PC and Clerk advises on power to spend and funds available. Any payment must be approved at full Council or by two Councillors on FSC or working groups with terms of reference. All expenditure will be reported retrospectively at the next Parish Council meeting. The committee shall not incur expenditure above £500 without prior authority from the Parish Council. All payments must have an invoice/other paperwork in support of expenditure. Each cheque to be signed by two signatories, together with cheque counterfoil.	Clerk	Half yearly	Financial regulations Current arrangements adequate

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				Salaries will be paid by BACS payment. Any overtime must be approved by the Chair and Vice Chair and reported to full Council. It will be paid by a separate BACS payment, a month in arrears. Parish Council authorises bank signatories as and when required and will review these every quarter.				
8	Expenses: Clerk & Councillors	Overpayment	L	Chair checks claims Clerk checks claims	Chair Clerk	Half yearly		
9	Fraud	Misappropriation of funds by Clerk or Councillors	L	Any payment must be approved at full Council or by two Councillors on FSC or working groups with terms of reference. All expenditure will be reported retrospectively at the next Parish Council meeting. The committee shall not incur expenditure above £500 without prior authority from the Parish Council. BACS payments must be authorised first. Any cheque must be signed by two Parish Councillors. Blank cheques are not permitted to be signed. All payments must be supported by invoices/claim forms.	Parish Council	Half yearly	Financial regulations and Insurance policy	

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				All Direct Debits are to be approved by the Council. A quarterly review will take place to ensure no unauthorised Direct Debits have been raised. Fidelity guarantee in place.				
10	Reserves - general	Adequacy	L	Considered at budget setting. Ensure minimum of 6 months reserves in hand	Clerk FSC	Half yearly		
11	Reserves – ring fenced and accrued	Adequacy	L	Funds are shown separately at budget and on year end accounts. Funds drawn on as necessary	Clerk/ FSC	Half yearly		
12	Invoices	Overpayment	L	Invoices submitted to PC for authorisation and signature by two Councillors	Clerk	Half yearly	Financial regulations	Ensure regular meter readings taken
13	Grants	Spending and receipt	L	All requests submitted to PC. Clerk checks and FSC advises on ability to spend & suitability of request. Recommendation made to Full Council.	Clerk/ FSC	Half yearly	Grant policy	
14	Best value accountability	Contracts awarded incorrectly. Overspend on services	L	Practice is to seek 3 quotations for work in excess of £20,000. For those below £1,000 and above £250 the Clerk shall <u>strive</u> to obtain 2 estimates. For those above £1,000 but less than £20,000 the Clerk shall <u>strive</u> to provide 3 quotations but will obtain a	Clerk/ FSC	Half yearly	Financial regulations	

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				minimum of 2. For those above £20,000 the contract should go to tender.				
Assets								
15	Items listed on asset register	Potential damage to equipment and/or injury to members of the public	L	Insurance cover for buildings, equipment, public and employer's liability is in place. Asset register maintained and reviewed. Routine inspections undertaken. Public conveniences lock automatically at night. Fences checked at Turnpike Field, Longhill Moss & Churchfields to prevent unauthorised entry	Clerk/ FSC	Annually	Record of Inspections	Set up routine for inspections
16	Health & Safety of Assets	Injury to public from assets owned by the Parish Council	L	Adequate public liability insurance. Clerk authorised to arrange removal/repair where danger to public identified. Formal inspection/maintenance scheme being implemented in 2018.	Clerk	Annually	Insurance review by FSC	As above
Non Financial								
17	Meeting of Parish Council	Unlawful meeting	L	Summons, Notice, Agenda properly issued giving public notice three clear working days before meeting. Ensure quorum is present prior to start of meeting	Clerk	Annually	Standing Orders	

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		Business conduct		Minutes are produced and signed at the next month's meeting. Business conducted at a meeting should be managed by the Chair	Chair		Standing orders	
18	Legal powers	Acting illegally	L	The Clerk advises on the legality of all matters including the power to spend. All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved at full Council Meetings.	Clerk	Annually		
19	Members interest	Conflict of Interest Members register	L L	Declaration of interest at each Council meeting Register of members interest forms maintained	Clerk	Annually	Code of Conduct	Clerk can advise but each Parish Councillor is responsible for their actions in this respect and for updating the register
20	Insurance cover	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee Libel & Slander	L L L L	Insurance cover reviewed annually to ensure all risks are managed adequately. Discount obtained through DD payment	Clerk	Annually	Policy	
21	Business continuity	Parish Council not able to continue its business owing to unexpected or tragic circumstances	L	All files are kept in the Clerk's home or at an approved storage facility. In the event of the Clerk being indisposed for a meeting a Parish Councillor will take notes until the Clerk	Clerk	n/a		

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				is available. In the event of prolonged absence, CHALC can be asked to provide the services of an interim Clerk.				
22	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	Clerk	Annually	Document retention	Damage (apart from fire) is unlikely. Historic documents to be archived via CEC.
23	Council records - electronic	Loss through theft, fire, damage or corruption of computer	L/M	The Parish Council records are held on the laptop stored at the home of the Clerk. Back up of electronic data is made at regular intervals	Clerk	Annually	Document retention	Ensure regular back up of files to an external drive.
24	Meeting location	Adequacy, Health & Safety, Disability access	L	Meetings are held in the Methodist Rooms or Public Hall. Both have disabled access, adequate heating and seating for members of the public	Clerk	n/a		
25	Data Protection	Compliance	L	The Parish Council is registered with the Information Commissioner (including notification of CCTV)	Clerk	Annual renewal of registration		
26	Freedom of Information Act	Compliance	L	Freedom of Information Policy in place.	Clerk	Annually	policy	Record to be kept of requests for information (none to date)
27	Health & Safety of employees	Employers liability insurance	L	EL insurance in place	Clerk	Annually	H&S Policy statement	

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		Monitoring	L	Training & protective/safety items provided as necessary	Clerk & Parish Council			

This finance risk assessment was reviewed and adopted at the Audlem Parish Council Meeting held on:

Date: 13th July 2020

Signed: Steve Boyes (Chairman/Vice-Chairman)

Signed: Belen Lopez Bloor (Proper Officer)

Original signed copy held on file by the Parish Clerk.