

ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of business activities and operations (including working conditions) that will enable the Council to identify any and all potential risks inherent in those activities and operations. Based on a recorded assessment, the Council should then take all necessary steps to eliminate or, where this is not possible reduce the risks, insofar as is reasonably practicable to do so.

This document has been produced to enable the Parish Council to assess the financial, management and other business risks that it faces and to satisfy itself and others that it has taken adequate steps to control them. In conducting this exercise, the following plan was followed:

- ✍ Identify the activities and operations to be reviewed
- ✍ Identify the hazards and determine the nature (who is at risk, from what and how) of the risks they present
- ✍ Eliminate risks where possible and implement appropriate risk control strategies to manage the residual risks record all findings.
- ✍ Record all findings, regularly monitor and review as necessary

Category	Risk	Likelihood	Control Measure	Comments
Business continuity	1. Risk of Council not being able to continue its business due to an unexpected or tragic circumstance	Low	Clerk works from home. Short term absence of Clerk is covered by Councillors. Loss or long term incapacity of Clerk would be covered by Councillors and / or appointment of a Locum	Existing procedure adequate
	2. Precept and / or other income not received	Low	Council carries cash reserves	Existing procedure adequate. Currently reserves are <i>circa</i> 100% of precept
	3. Loss of documents and / or data	Low	Clerk works from home. No significant important documents (eg titles etc); other documents (eg leases etc) are duplicated elsewhere. Electronic data is held in at least two places (memory sticks, external hard drive, laptop and desktop pcs)	Existing procedure adequate
Financial	1. Theft / loss of money	Low	Financial Regs and Internal Controls procedures in place. Additionally; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all financial receipts, invoices, spreadsheets etc are available at every Council meeting for scrutiny by 2 cheque signatories • Internal Controls checks as part of half-yearly budget review and forward financial planning • Fidelity Guarantee in place 	Annual review confirms existing arrangements adequate. Fidelity Guarantee is £100,000

	2. Theft / loss of and damage to assets	Medium	Covered by comprehensive insurance policy	Approx. £43,500 of asset cover. Level of insurance cover reviewed annually
	3. Insolvency of insurance company	Low	Cover effected with a major insurance company via scheme with specialist broker for Parish Council business	annual agreement with Zurich plc
Legal	1. Legal liability as a consequence of asset ownership. Damage to 3 rd party property or individuals	Low	Covered by Public Liability insurance. No premises owned or rented; playing field is leased. Play equipment and low risk street furniture - bus shelter, benches etc – in public areas that receive weekly inspection by Clerk and Councillors. Play equipment inspected annually by Registered Play Inspector. All street lights were replaced with new equipment in 2012 and are serviced and maintained by competent contractor.	PL cover currently £12 million Level of insurance cover is reviewed annually ELCI currently £10 million
	2. Personal accident to members and staff. Assault to staff	Low / Medium	Where the Council undertakes activities and has assets that pose a risk to staff, Councillors or 3 rd parties; there is a formal health and safety RA in place. Clerk works from home; no cash is handled. Covered by personal accident and Employers Liability insurance.	Separate Health and Safety RA prepared and reviewed annually
	3. Inappropriate use of powers	Low	CiLCA qualified Clerk (with GPoC extension). Membership of Northants CALC and Clerk's membership of SLCC provides access to current and up to date advice if necessary.	Council adopted GPoC May 2015

Approved and adopted by the Council, 13 January 2016