

Middleton 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 Middleton Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT

Subject	Risk(s) indentified	H/M/L	Management/control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
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 update information monthly. 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 North Northants Council. The figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing. The Clerk informs the Council when the monies are received.	Existing procedure adequate.
Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial irregularities	L 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 (Finance Report) and discussed/reviewed and approved at each meeting. The Council conducts a quarterly review of its finances, which is reported back to the Full Council.	Existing procedures adequate.
Grants	Non-receipt of grant	M	Parish Council receives 106 Monies from Corby Borough Council to cover expenditure on the Orchard and Open Space.	Annual review. Existing procedures adequate.
Charges-rents receivable	Payment of rents	L	Parish council currently receives no rents.	Suitable procedure will be put in place 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 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 HMRC	L L	Salary cheque payments are approved by council. Annual HMRC return is inspected and agreed by council.	Existing procedure adequate.
Employees	Fraud by staff	L	Requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance adhered	Existing procedures adequate.

	Health and safety	L	to with regards to fraud. All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles	Monitor health and safety requirements and insurance annually.
VAT	Reclaiming	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out The requirements.	Existing procedures adequate
Annual Return	Submit within time limits	L	Employers Annual Return is completed and submitted online with the prescribed time frame by the Clerk. 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 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, Recording 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. Minutes may be recorded by the Clerk to aid minute taking and will be deleted once minutes are approved.	Existing procedures adequate. Members adhere to Code of Conduct
	Business conduct	L	Agenda displayed according to legal requirements. Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chair	
Members interests	Conflict of interests Register of members interests	L M	Declarations of interest by members at Council meetings. Register of member's interests forms reviewed regularly.	Existing procedures adequate. Members take responsibility to update register.

Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L L L M	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements. Employers and Employee liabilities as necessity and within policies. Ensure compliance measures are in place. Fidelity checks in place.	Existing procedure adequate. Insurance reviewed annually.
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 M	The Council has a Model Publication scheme in place. To date there has been two 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	Monitor any requests made under FOI
IT / Cyber security	Email hacking, phishing, Malware, data breach or fraudulent payment requests	M	Basic anti-virus; Secure passwords used and payment instructions verified. Clerk awareness.	Basic anti-virus; Secure passwords used and payment instructions verified. Clerk awareness.
PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS				
Assets and Land	Loss or damage Risk/damage to third party (ie property)	L M	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision. The defibrillator is checked weekly by responsible officer and checks recorded on CHT website. A specific risk assessment is required for use of the Orchard by the public for private events.	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	Existing procedures adequate

			accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish Council. Assets are insured.	
Notice Board	Risk of damage	L	The Parish Council currently has one notice board. This is inspected monthly as part of the routine safety review of parish assets.	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, the general public and people with disabilities.	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 fireproof cabinet.	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 computer held with the Clerk at her home. Back ups of electronic data are made automatically.	Existing procedures considered adequate

Policy reviewed

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