

CHARLEY PARISH COUNCIL – RISK ASSESSMENT 2024
Adopted by resolution on the 4th September 2024 min ref: 82/2024

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 Charley 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) identified	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. At the precept meeting Council receives a budget report, including actual position and projected position to the end of year. 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 NWLDC Council. The figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing.	Existing procedures ensure that an accurate precept is requested. Reviewed and budget prepared and agreed.
Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial irregularities	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements. New Financial Regulations adopted June	Annual Review of Financial Regulations undertaken. Existing procedures meet

			2024	requirements.
Bank and banking	Lack of control over banking/ procedures/checks	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out banking requirements, including regular reconciliation/reports presented at Parish Council meetings. Updated June 2024.	Existing procedures ensure that banking controls are followed. In place since June 2020.and being followed.
Reporting and auditing	Reporting Information communication	L	Financial reporting is an agenda item at all parish council meetings (excluding extraordinary meetings). Members have the opportunity to discuss, question, review financial matters during the Parish Council meeting.	Relevant procedures in place.
Grants	Receipt of grants	L	Grant applications/procedures are followed, and decisions shared with members as and when relevant.	Relevant procedures in place
Grants and support payable	Authorisation of Council to pay	L	All such expenditure must adhere to the Council process of approval, and be minuted and listed accordingly if a payment is made using S137 powers of expenditure. Grant Awarding Policy Introduced May 2024.	Council has General Power of Competence as of September 2024.
Best value accountability	Work awarded Incorrectly. Overspend on services.	L M	Financial Regulations followed. Quotations/estimates obtained where required. Financial controls to be undertaken and monitored. Procurement procedures to be followed. Following Parish Council approval, where	Existing procedure adequate. Ensure procedures are included in Financial Regulations.

			possible, local trades people will be awarded contracts/work.	
Salaries and assoc. costs	Salary paid. Tax/NI to Inland Revenue.	L L	Contract of Employment in place for all employees. Annual review of salaries to be undertaken before Annual Precept is agreed. Financial Report to Members HM Revenue and Customs REAL TIME procedures followed for NI and PAYE Annual returns completed online within the required timescale	Contact of employment in place. Payroll is outsourced to TP Jones.
Employees	Fraud by staff Health and safety	L L	Requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance adhered to with regards to fraud. Finance reports presented. End of Year information reported/internal and external audit controls All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles	Existing procedures meet requirements. Regular monitoring of health and safety requirements. Home working being the only existing role.
VAT	Reclaiming/charging	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the procedures to be followed. Reporting to Council of VAT recovered.	Existing procedures meet requirements
External Audit Annual Return (where	Submit financial documentation as required within time	L	External Audit Annual Return completed and signed by the Council, submitted to internal auditor for completion and relevant checks.	Existing procedures meet requirements

applicable)	limits		The Clerk to ensure that further requests from the External Auditor are responded to promptly and reported to the Full Council.	
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments	L	All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved/approved at full Council Meetings. Control presented through regular finance reports	Existing procedures meet requirements
Minutes/agendas/ Notices Statutory Documents`	Accuracy and legality relating to official business documentation Business conduct	L L L	Minutes and agendas are produced in the prescribed manner by the Clerk and adhere to the legal requirements. Minutes are consecutively numbered, and signed and dated by the Chair. Agenda displayed according to legal requirements. Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chair.	Existing procedures meet legal requirements. 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 and passed on to the local authority.	Existing procedures adequate. Members take responsibility to update register when required.
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L L L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers and Employee liabilities • Fidelity 	Existing procedure adequate. Insurance reviewed annually.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Liability • Assets and Equipment 	
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. Fees for information should be based on time management in obtaining such information.	Monitor any requests made under FOI
PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS				
Assets	Loss or damage Risk/damage to third party (ies) property	L	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision and as part of the audit. Regular inspection of assets.	Assets register up to date – April 2024
Maintenance	Poor performance of assets or amenities. Risk to health and safety to the public.	L	All assets owned by the Parish Council are regularly inspected, reviewed, and maintained. All repairs and relevant expenditure relating to repairs are actioned/authorised in accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish Council. Assets are insured.	Existing procedures meet requirements
Notice Board	Risk of damage	L	The Parish Council currently has 1 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 with Council procedures.	Existing procedures meet requirements New noticeboard July 2024
Meeting locations	Adequacy Health & Safety	L	The Parish Council meeting is held in a venue considered to have appropriate facilities for	Venue meets requirements. RA's done.

			the Clerk, members, and the general public. The venue is compliant with Disability Laws.	
Council records – paper	Loss through: Theft Fire damage	L M L	The Parish Council records are stored on the Parish council computer and at the Clerk’s home. Records include historical correspondences, minutes, insurance policy and information, bank records, policies, data protection records, Members declaration of interests. All documents are kept secure.	Damage (apart from fire) and theft is unlikely and so provision meets the expected requirements.
Council records – electronic	Loss through: Theft, fire damage or corruption of computer	L	The Parish Council electronic records are stored on the Council laptop held with the Clerk/RFO at her/his home. Back ups of electronic data are made at daily through a secure back up service.	Existing procedures meet requirements. Secure back up service agreed and in place since July 2020.
Business Continuity	1.Incapacity of Clerk including impact of pandemic 2. Resignation of the Clerk 3. Loss or theft of records 4. Failure to retain or secure the necessary number of Members for a Council 5. Pandemic	H	Make arrangements to delegate authority to the Clerk to make decisions on behalf of Council, in the event that Council cannot meet in person, to ensure that the business of the Council may continue uninterrupted. This would be in the event that no legislation has been passed by Government to hold meetings remotely using video conferencing.	Designate a person to temporarily act as Clerk in an emergency, normally the Chairman of the council. A list of duties and responsibilities is in place (insurance in place for key worker) Process to be in place, job description, person specification in place (advice from NCALC) All old copies of Minutes prior to electronic to be deposited with the County Records. All minutes from 2016 onwards are held on the

				<p>Council's website All records are backed up daily to a suitable electronic device</p> <p>Maintain an up-to-date attendance register.</p> <p>Advertise for an election immediately a vacancy exists.Co-opt Members where no election held.</p> <p>Make arrangements to delegate authority to the Clerk to make decisions on behalf of Council, in the event that Council cannot meet in person, to ensure that the business of the Council may continue uninterrupted. This would be in the event that no legislation has been passed by Government to hold meetings remotely using video conferencing.</p>
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Reviewed August 2024
Next review due May 2025