

## Risk Assessment 2023/24



To be reviewed throughout the year as required, but at least annually in March in preparation for the year end.

Risk	Level of Risk	Action	Comments/Notes
Banking	M	<p>The members of the finance committee are cheque signatories and online banking authorisers.</p> <p>2 required to sign cheques.</p> <p>Clerk is not a cheque signatory.</p> <p>For online banking each payment must usually be authorised at a Parish Council meeting. Payments are set up by the Clerk and authorised by a Parish Councillor.</p> <p>Exceptional or emergency payments made outside of a meeting are authorised by 2 councillors in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and noted at the next meeting.</p> <p>Telephone banking can only be used to transfer money between Parish Council bank accounts.</p> <p>A Scheme of Delegation adopted May 2022. Clerk must consult with a minimum of 2 councillors and the Chair before taking action.</p>	<p>Cheques/BACS payments usually signed at Parish Council meetings for approved expenditure.</p> <p>All payment vouchers must be authorised by 2 councillors</p> <p>For online payments there will be an audit trail held at the bank of payments and authorisations.</p> <p>The scheme was adopted to ensure that in the event of meeting cancellation the business of the council could continue.</p>
Payment Card	H	<p>A Parish Council credit card has been authorised for use by the Clerk.</p> <p>To enable the Clerk to comply with financial regulation 4.5 - a transaction limit of £2000 is in place, there is a monthly transaction limit on the card of £2000.</p> <p>Each month the outstanding balance will be paid by direct debit and all expenditure reported in the usual manner each month to the Parish Council meeting.</p>	<p>The card will ensure that the Council no longer breaches financial regulation 6.20 as the Clerk had to use a personal credit/debit card to make purchases on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The limit was increased to £2000 due to the cost of the 14 licences required for council email accounts, plus the cost of the Parish Council website fees being taken in March.</p>
Loss of Cash through theft or dishonesty	L	No petty cash is held	
Financial controls and records	M	<p>Monthly bank reconciliations reported to Council.</p> <p>All receipt and payment vouchers are reconciled to accounts sheet.</p> <p>All payment vouchers and cheques stubs are reconciled, usually at Council meeting by 2 Councillors following full council approval of payments.</p> <p>Exceptional/emergency payments are authorised by 2 councillors and noted at the next meeting in accordance with financial regulation 6.6</p>	Chair initials bank statements at each meeting.
Consequential Loss	M	<p>Documents backed up to One Drive on weekly basis.</p> <p>Important Documents stored in County Archive.</p>	
HMRC	L	Compliance with HMRC regulations concerning VAT and PAYE	

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GDPR	L	All Councillors are provided with a Parish Council email account. All personal information is removed from correspondence from members of the public before circulation or publishing.	GDPR policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain up to date and in line with legislation.
Budgeting/precept	M	Budget for the following financial year compiled during autumn and reviewed at end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter. Precept is set from Budget and agreed at full Council meeting. Expenditure against budget is reported quarterly and reviewed by Finance Committee and noted at full council meetings. A revised budget is prepared after financial year end at 31 <sup>st</sup> March.	Clerk produces a budget plan and reviews this closely with Finance Committee before submission to Council for approval. The budget is then reviewed by Fin. Cttee at the year end and updated if necessary for approval by full Council.
Compliance with borrowing restrictions	L	No further borrowing likely in foreseeable future.	£50,000 borrowed in 2014 – final payments for the loan were made in 2023/24.
Notice boards	L – risk of damage	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 Parish Council procedures.	
Play areas x 2/fitness track/permissive path/cemetery	M – risk of injury/damage	Nominated Councillors carry out an inspection and report to Parish Council at monthly meeting. All repairs and relevant expenditure for any repair is actioned/authorised in accordance with Parish Council procedures. Annual ROSPA inspections of both play parks and the fitness equipment adjoining the fitness track are carried out and reports circulated to Parish Councillors with recommendations noted and actioned in accordance with Parish Council procedures.	Councillors report any issues at each full Council Meeting and these are noted in the minutes with any actions required.
Parish Council Assets	M- loss of/ damage to asset	Asset register is reviewed on an annual basis for insurance purposes.	
Insurance	H – insufficient cover	Annual review of insurance quotation to ensure that there is sufficient cover for: public liability, employer’s liability and fidelity cover. Cover for Parish Council assets should agree with insurance value on asset register.	Internal auditor reviews insurance cover as part of the internal audit.
Meeting locations	M – H&S L – Adequacy	The Parish Council meetings are held in a venue considered to have appropriate facilities for members, the Clerk and the general public..	Plans to allow online or hybrid meetings have not been taken forward by Govt.
Use of playing fields	M	Permission must be sought in writing from the Parish Council for use of the playing field for any activity where members of the public may be present, ie music festivals, fetes, sporting activities. All requirements for use the playing fields is detailed in the Playing Field Policy.  Regular users of the playing field should ensure they have the requisite Public	Clerk will keep a record that event organisers have relevant documentation and insurance in place as per the Playing Field Policy.

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		Liability Insurance. Regular users include: Stradbroke Cricket Club, Senior / Junior Football Clubs and the Leisure Centre.	Clerk to request evidence of Public Liability Insurance on an annual basis.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Stradbroke Parish Council

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Financial Officer