

PILTON, STOKE DOYLE AND WADENHOE PARISH COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

BPC Risk Management Assessment 2013-14

No.	Description of risk	Numerical assessment pre-mitigation				Numerical assessment post-mitigation				Trend of risk from previous report	
Likelihood Impact Score Colour						Likelihood Impact Score Colour					
Business Continuity											
1	Incapacity/absence of the Clerk	2	5	10	G	Designate a person to temporarily act as Clerk in an emergency. A Locum Service is available through the Society of Local Council Clerks. http://consultancy.slcc.co.uk/register?type=locum)	1	5	5	G	➔
2	Resignation of the Clerk	2	5	10	G	Undertake succession planning.	1	5	5	G	➔
3	Loss or theft of/inability to access records	2	5	10	G	All old copies prior to electronic use are deposited with the Northamptonshire County Records Office. All Minutes since 2010 are held on the Council's website. Data Back-up is on an external hard drive which is kept by the Parish Clerk.	1	5	5	G	➔
4	Failure to retain or secure the necessary number of members for a Council	5	4	20	R	Clerk to maintain an up to date Councillor Attendance Register. Advertise for an election immediately a vacancy exists. Co-opt Members where no election is held.	1	4	4	G	➔
Ensure compliance with an Act of Parliament, Council's, financial regulations and code of conduct											
5	Lack of knowledge of regulations and codes	2	5	10	G	Ensure that all Councillors have available relevant Acts. That a Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are in place. Highlight essential parts and provide training where relevant.	1	5	5	G	➔
6	Absence of Standing Orders	1	5	5	G	Ensure that Standing Orders are produced and adopted by the Council, understood by Councillors and reviewed annually.	1	5	5	G	➔
7	Action by the Parish Council outside its powers laid down by Parliament	2	3	6	G	Clerk to monitor relevant legislation and report to Council	1	3	3	G	➔
8	Lack of commitment to regulations and procedures	3	4	12	A	Chairman and Clerk to review Council's meeting and operational procedures annually.	1	4	4	G	⬇
9	Items purchased without proper tendering procedures, not providing value for money or resulting in accusations of commercial favouritism.	2	3	6	G	Parish Council to obtain at least two quotations for key purchases. See Financial regulations.	1	2	2	G	➔
10	Lack of control of authorisation of payments	2	5	10	G	Three Councillors as authorised signatories approved by the Council. See Financial regulations.	1	5	5	G	⬇
11	VAT not properly accounted for, resulting in overclaims and large demands from HMRC.	2	4	8	G	Ensure appropriate VAT publications are held and that Clerk has good knowledge of the regulations. See Financial regulations.	1	4	4	G	➔
12	Notice of meeting	2	4	8	G	The meeting Agenda is placed on village noticeboards and on the Council's website giving the required notice of each meeting.	1	4	4	G	➔
13	Approval of minutes	2	4	8	G	Minutes are approved at the next Meeting of the Council. Draft Minutes are forwarded to Councillors and displayed on the Council's website no later than two weeks after a meeting.	1	4	4	G	➔
14	Register of interests	3	5	15	A	Councillors are required to declare an interest in any item of business and this is recorded in the Minutes. Completed Register of Interests forms are submitted to the Monitoring Officer and regularly reviewed.	2	5	10	G	⬇

15	Security of data (IT systems and support)	2	5	10	G
16	Freedom of information	2	5	10	G
17	Payments made without prior approval and adequate control	2	4	8	G

Confidential documents are stored securely (see data policy).	1	5	5	G	→ BPC
Council to review policy.	1	5	5	G	→
Ensure that all payments are approved in Council meetings and recorded in Minutes. Where prior payment is required this is approved by the Chairman and at least one other Councillor.	1	4	4	G	→

Risk Management Assessment 2013-14

Governance and Management

18	Engagement by Members in the operation and activities of the Parish Council	2	5	10	G
19	Impact of Public spending cuts	3	5	15	A
20	Lack of engagement by Councillors and Residents on major items of public interest	2	5	10	G
21	Lack of knowledge by Councillors on their role, responsibility and accountability	3	5	15	A
22	Indadequate insurance cover for members and Clerk	2	4	8	G
23	Lack of appropriate financial controls and reporting	2	5	10	G
24	Lack of engagement/knowledge of residents concerns and views	3	5	15	A
25	Use of funds not in accordance with residents' wishes	2	5	10	G
26	Lack of commitment by Members to the budgetary process	2	4	8	G
27	Failure to ensure that the annual precept results from an adequate budgetary process.	3	4	12	A
28	Inadequate internal controls with regard to monitoring expenditure	2	4	8	G
29	Election costs	2	3	6	G

Take every opportunity to publicise the role of the Parish Council through the village newsletter and website. Effective use of village noticeboards. Use key issues to raise profile of Parish Council and to test parishioners views. Publish Councillors contact details on the Website and Village noticeboards.	1	5	5	G	→
All Councillors to be made aware that priorities must be set on the basis of the financial capacity of the Parish Council to deliver. Attend training where appropriate.	2	5	10	G	→
Ensure publicity through local village newsletter, village noticeboards and website.	1	5	5	G	→
Attend any training courses appropriate.	2	5	10	G	↓
Review Risk Assessment by including on Agenda of Parish Council meetings at least annually. Ensure a Risk Assessment is carried out for all new assets and appropriate insurance cover implemented.	1	4	4	G	→
The Parish Council have adopted Financial regulations. Clerk to ensure that Receipts and Payments are promptly and accurately recorded. All invoices to be checked and reported to next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to balance accounts against bank statements monthly. Clerk to produce up to date reports at all meetings. Internal Audit checks by designated Councillor. Internal and External Audit reports to be made available to all Councillors and any recommendations acted upon promptly.	1	5	5	G	→
Public Open Forum Sessions are held before each Council meeting. Use is made of monthly village newsletter, website and village noticeboards.	1	5	5	G	↓
Effective Budget Planning Process.	1	5	5	G	→
Include regulations in Standing Orders issued to all Councillors. Place item on Agenda early in the year to remind Councillors of budget process and actions required. Involve all Councillors in budgetary process not solely the Clerk.	1	4	4	G	↓
Start consideration of budgetary process at least two months prior to submission date of Precept. Checks by Clerk/RFO and Internal Auditor.	2	4	8	G	↓
Internal Audit checks are carried out every three months by a designated Councillor to ensure effective financial management by Clerk/RFO.	1	4	4	G	→
In an election year, estimated costs obtained from the Electoral Officer and included in the budget. In other years the Council provides a sum within its working balance to meet possible by-election costs.	1	3	3	G	→

30	Reserves too high/low	2	2	4	G	Auditor advises reserve balance must not exceed twice the Precept.	1	2	2	G	→ BPC
31	Failure to ensure that all employees are paid in accordance with Council regulations and are adequately monitored	2	4	8	G	Parish Council employ external payroll service. A Contract of Employment and Job Description is agreed for the Clerk. Terms and conditions are agreed in the Minutes. Ensure employee regulations are available and understood by the Clerk. No additional payment to the Clerk without Council approval.	1	4	4	G	→
32	Failure to ensure that year end accounts are correctly prepared	2	4	8	G	Include a timetable in Standing Orders/Financial Regulations. Internal Audit checks. Financial reports to all Parish Council meetings.	1	4	4	G	→
33	Failure to identify, value and maintain all assets of the Parish Council, and ensure that asset and investment registers are complete.	2	5	10	G	Record and maintain a record of all assets for which the Parish Council is responsible and include in year end accounts. Arrange for annual review of valuations and arrange for professional valuation where appropriate.	1	5	5	G	→
34	Adoption and implementation of appropriate Government legislation	2	5	10	G	Clerk to have appropriate legislation available. Review liabilities and responsibilities periodically at Parish Council meetings.	1	5	5	G	→
35											

Size of risk

Descriptor	Likelihood	Impact
1	2% likely to happen	Very low
2	5% likely to happen	Low
3	10% likely to happen	Moderate
4	20% likely to happen	High
5	50% likely to happen	Very high

Risk score

0 - 10	Low
11 - 15	Medium
>15	High

G = Green

A = Amber

R = Red



Rating has improved

Rating has stayed the same

Rate has deteriorated

May-26