

LESSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review / Assess / Revise
Business Continuity	Council not being able to continue its business due to an unexpected or tragic circumstance	L	All files and recent records are kept at the Parish Clerk's home and on their computer. The Council's files are held on a laptop with a back up on a memory stick. In the event of the Clerk being indisposed the Chairman to contact Norfolk ALC for advice. Standing Orders include procedures for delegation to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman in the event of a complete shutdown of the Council's ability to operate.	Review when necessary
Meeting location	Adequacy Health and Safety	L	Meetings are held in the Village Hall in Lessingham. The premises and facilities are considered to be adequate for the Clerk, Councillors and any public who attend from a health and safety and comfort aspect.	Existing procedure adequate
Council Records	Loss through theft, fire, damage	L	Papers, both current and archived held at the Parish Clerk's home in safe keeping, or archived at Norfolk Archives.	Damage or theft is unlikely
Council Records electronic	Loss through damage, fire, corruption of computer	M	The Parish Council's electronic records are stored on a laptop with a back up on a memory stick.	Existing procedure adequate.

<b>FINANCE</b>				
Precept	Adequacy of precept	M	Sound budgeting to underlie annual precept. The Parish Council receives financial statements at each meeting, and precept for next year drafted in November and budget figures agreed at Parish Council January meeting.	Existing procedure adequate
Insurance	Adequacy, Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements in place. Employers Liability, Public Liability and Fidelity Guarantee are a statutory requirement.	Existing procedure adequate Review provision and compliance annually
Banking	Adequate checks	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements for banking, cheques/online payments and reconciliation of accounts.	Existing procedures adequate Review Financial Regulations annually
Cash	Loss through theft or dishonesty	L	The Council has no petty cash or cash float. Any cash transactions are made by the Clerk, are fully receipted and then reimbursed monthly or paid by cheque/online banking on receipt of an invoice	Existing procedures adequate
Financial controls and records	Adequate checks	L	Reconciliation of bank accounts carried out as received/required, prepared by RFO and internal checks carried out by a Parish Councillor. Two signatories on cheques and cheque stubs, or releasing electronic payments. Annual Internal and external audit/compliance with Transparency Code. Any financial obligation must be resolved and clearly minuted before any commitment. All payments must be resolved and clearly minuted. Any S137 payments must be recorded at time of approval.	Existing procedures adequate  Appoint a Parish Councillor to review bank statements and bank reconciliation quarterly

Freedom of Information Act	Policy Provision	L	The Council has a model publication scheme for Local Councils in place. If a substantial request arrives then this may require many hours of additional work. The Council is able to request a fee if the work will take over 15 hours. However the request can be resubmitted, broken down into sections, thus negating the payment of a fee.	Monitor and report any impacts made under Freedom of Information Act
Clerk	Loss of Clerk Fraud Actions Undertaken	M L	In the event of the Clerk resigning a suitable replacement will be appointed. The requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance must be adhered to, the Clerk should be provided with relevant training, reference books, access to assistance and legal advice obtained from Norfolk ALC.	Adequate
Clerk	Salary paid incorrectly	L	Parish Council Internal audit will check this	Adequate
Election Costs	Risk of election cost	M	Risk is higher in an election year. There are no measures, which can be adopted to minimise risk of having a contested election. To meet the costs through appropriate budgeting for the precept/from Parish Council reserves.	Adequate
VAT	Re-claiming/charging	L	The Council has financial regulations which set out the requirements	Existing procedures adequate
Annual return	Submitted and not submitted within time limits	L	Annual Governance & Accountability return to be prepared and presented to and signed by the Council, prepared in accordance with the audit requirements (including the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities where relevant). To be submitted to external auditor in the required timeframe, usually by the end of June.	Existing procedures are compliant.

<b>ASSETS</b>				
Street Furniture	Checked regularly	L L L	An asset register is kept up to date and insurance is held at the appropriate level for all items. Checks are made on assets of the Parish Council. EMERGENCY WORKS carried out up to £500 with approval by Chair & Vice chair	Existing procedures adequate

<b>LIABILITY</b>				
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments Working Parties taking decisions	L	All activity and payments made within the powers of the Parish Council (not ultra vires) and to be resolved and clearly minuted. Ensure established with clear terms of reference.	Existing procedures adequate
Minutes/ Agendas/ Statutory documents	Accuracy and legality Non compliance with statutory requirements	L	Minutes and agendas are produced in the prescribed method and adhere to legal requirements. Minutes are approved and signed at next meeting. Minutes and agendas are displayed according to legal requirements. Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chairman	Existing procedures adequate Undertake adequate training Members to adhere to Code of Conduct
Public Liability	Risk to third party, property or individuals	M	Insurance is in place. Risk assessment of any individual event undertaken	Existing procedures adequate
Employer Liability	Insurance policy adequate	L	Parish Council reviews the policy annually.	Existing procedures adequate
Legal Liability		L	Clerk to clarify legal position on proposals and to seek advice if necessary.	Existing procedures adequate

<b>COUNCILLORS PROPRIETY</b>				
Members Interests	Conflict of interest Register of Members Interests	M	Councillors have a duty to declare any interest at the start of the meeting. Register of Members Interests form to be reviewed regularly.	Existing procedures adequate Members to take responsibility to update their register

## **RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>LAST REVIEWED</b>	<b>COMMENTS/ACTIONS</b>
Parish Council Insurance Including Public and Employers Liability Money and Fidelity Guarantee Personal Accident	Annually		
Assets inspection	Quarterly		
Financial Matters Banking Arrangements Insurance Providers VAT return completed Budget agreed, monitored and reported Precept requested: Payments approval procedure Bank reconciliation Clerk's salary reviewed and documented Internal finance check carried out by Cllr Internal audit by appointed person External audit Internal check of financial procedures/compliance with Transparency Code	Annually Annually Annually Annually Annually Bi-Monthly Monthly Annually At least Annually Annually Annually Annually		

Administration Minutes properly numbered Asset register available/updated Financial Regulations reviewed Standing orders reviewed	Annually Annually Bi-Annually Bi-Annually		
Employers Responsibilities Employees Indemnity Insurance policy Written arrangements with employees	Received Received		
Members' responsibilities Code of Conduct adopted Register of Interests completed and updated Register of Gifts/Hospitality Declarations of Interests minuted	Received  Received In place		

**Review**

Adopted: January 2023

Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2027