

Corringham Parish Council - Risk Management - January 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT

Aim	Risk	Actions to Minimise Risk	Person(s) Responsible	Risk Level pre Action	Risk Level post Action
1. COUNCIL PROCEDURES To ensure compliance with the law and the Parish Council Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders	1.2. Out of date Standing Orders and	Ensure that all Councillors are kept aware of legislative requirements, and are provided with copies of the Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders	Clerk to the Council	4 - Medium	2- Low
	1.3. Ultra vires action	Ensure that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are reviewed	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	4- Medium	2- Low
	1.4. Lack of commitment to procedures and legal requirements	Ensure that the Clerk has access to relevant publications All actions minuted & approved monthly.	Clerk to the Council and Councillors (As above)	3- Low	2- Low
	1.5. Payments made without proper authority	Ensure Councillors each have a copy of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	3- Low	2- Low
	1.6. VAT procedures not complied with	Ensure all payments comply with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Ensure all payments receive proper approval and appear on schedules. All payments recorded in the minute book. All invoices certified by 2 councillors	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor (As above)	5- Medium	2- Low
	1.7. Fraud	Ensure that the Clerk and at least one Councillor are fully-aware of VAT requirements. VAT returns submitted annually.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	3- Low	1- Low
		Ensure an adequate system of internal audit, both within the Council and by employment an independent internal auditor	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	4 - Medium	1- Low
2. ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES To identify and regularly review the Council's priorities and associated risks	2.1. Lack of knowledge of how to set objectives and identify risks to their achievement	All Councillors to be made aware of the need for objectives and identification of risk. Councillors & Clerk attend relevant training courses	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	4- Medium	2- Low
	2.2. Unsatisfactory reporting mechanism to Council	Ensure that progress against objectives and issues are regularly reviewed through inclusion on agendas	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	4- Medium	2- Low
	2.3. Inadequate review of risk	Ensure that the risk assessment policy document (this document) is reviewed annually	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	5- Medium	1- Low

	2.4. Steps not taken to combat identified risks	As 2.3	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
	2.5. Evaluation of specific risks not properly recorded for future reference	Ensure that evaluation documentation is attached to the risk assessment policy document	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
3. COMMUNICATIONS To carry influence with other organisations in achieving the requirements of the Parish & Communicating with Parishioners	3.1. Lack of effective lines of communication with other organisations	Establish a relationship and dialogue with relevant organisations. Invite relevant organisations to present reports to Annual Parish Meeting	Clerk to the Council and Councillors (As above)	5- Medium	2- Low
	3.2. Lack of effective lines of communication with Parishioners	Publicise initiatives and matters of importance in Newsletters, on Facebook, on the Parish Website and on Parish Noticeboards. Publicise Annual Parish Meeting	Clerk to the Council and Councillors (As above)	5- Medium	2- Low
	3.3. Lack of preparation on subject matters.	Ensure Councillors are aware of the importance of research and where to look for information	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
	3.4. Lack of confidence in Councillors	Establish a relationship and dialogue with relevant organisations. Experienced Councillors to assist newcomers to establish contacts	Clerk to the Council and Councillors Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
	3.5 Inappropriate communication	Ongoing training for new and existing Councillors Ensure Clerk/RFO and all Councillors are aware of communication policy and are in receipt of copies.	Councillors Clerk to the Council and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
	3.6 Website management	Ensure Clerk plus at least one Councillor is trained in the basics of the Corringham Website administration	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	6- High 6- High	2- Low 2- Low
4. INSURANCE To ensure that all Councillors are aware of their responsibilities and possible liabilities, and to provide adequate insurance cover for all possible risks	4.1. Lack of knowledge of possible culpability of Councillors	All Councillors to be made aware of the need to read and understand Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Attend relevant training courses	Clerk to the Council and Councillors (as above)	5- Medium 5- Medium	2- Low 2- Low
	4.2. Inadequate insurance cover	Review risk on a annual basis. liability to £12m Public Employers £10m Ensure all assets are listed	Clerk to the Council/RFO/ Councillors Internal Auditor annually	6- Medium	1- Low
5. ACCOUNTS To keep appropriate books of account accurately and up-to-date throughout the financial year	5.1. Lack of knowledge of accounting requirements	Ensure that the Clerk is properly trained and all Councillors are made aware of the need to read and understand Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	8- High	2- Low
	5.2. Lack of commitment to accounting requirements	As at 5.1 Schedules of payments and bank reconciliation statements to be submitted to every ordinary meeting. Internal Audit reports to be reported to Council and acted on.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors Councillors and Internal Auditor (as above)	4- Medium	1- Low

	5.3. Bank charges unnecessarily incurred	Bank reconciliation to be carried out monthly. Periodic internal audit by Councillors	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	3- Low	1- Low
	5.4. Failure to attract Bank Interest	As at 5.3	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	3- Low	1- Low
	5.5. Failure to attract best interest rates	Review banking arrangements periodically 1 interest account. Long Term balance in MM Account	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	3- Low	1- Low
	5.6. Inadequate control of cash receipts and payments	Avoid cash as far as possible, but, where cash is received, ensure that a receipt is issued, that it is counted and signed for as per Financial Regulations, and the cash is banked at the earliest opportunity	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	8- High	2- Low
	5.7. Out of date books of account	As at 5.3 Computerised up to date cash book to be maintained	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	7- High	1- Low
	5.8. Delay to banking of receipts and payments	As at 5.3 Income summary provided monthly to Council members Payments to be made within one week of agreement by Council or by Finance Committee.	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor Clerk/RFO	7- High	1- Low
	5.9. Clerk taken ill or departs suddenly	Contact the SLCC or relevant bodies to request a locum Clerk Contact LALC for any advise Ensure at least one Councillor can cover key functions of Clerk in short term Advertise position through LALC, on Parish Website and Parish Noticeboards	Chairman (as above) Chairman/Councillors Chairman/Councillors	9- High	2-Medium
6. EXPENDITURE To ensure that payments made from Council funds and the use of assets represent value for money, are adequately managed, and comply generally with the wishes of Parishioners	6.1. Lack of knowledge of, and failure to meet, the wishes of residents	As at 3.1 and 3.2. Ensure public consultation on major expenditure	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors (as above)	4- Medium	2- Low
	6.2. Value for money not being obtained	Ensure effective budget planning process.. Annual budget meeting and monthly monitoring Ensure Standing Orders and Financial Regulations regarding contracts to be complied with. Obtain at least three quotes where possible	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors Clerk/RFO	4- Medium	2- Low
	6.3. Inadequate charges	Effective budget planning process.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low
7. BUDGETING To ensure that the annual precept requirements results from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget is regularly monitored, and reserves are appropriate.	7.1. Lack of knowledge of budgetary process	Ensure Councillors have access to relevant training Ensure members of the Finance Committee are fully briefed and have knowledge of budgetary process	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	7 - High	2- Low
	7.2. Lack of commitment to budgetary process	All Councillors to receive a set of budget working figures and be involved in final sign off of budget.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low

	7.3. Inadequate internal controls with regard to monitoring expenditure	As at 5.2	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7 - High	1- Low
	7.4. Inadequate reserves	As at 5.3	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7 - High	3- Low
8. INCOME To explore all possible sources of income and to ensure that expected income is fully received	8.1. Lack of knowledge of possible sources of income, e.g. grants	Ensure that the Clerk and Councillors attend training courses on grant-availability when required Follow up on any communications with potential grant awards Investigate sources of Grant funding	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors (as above)	4- Medium	3- Low
	8.2. Lack of commitment to pursuing grant availability	As at 8.1	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	6- Medium	3- Low
	8.3. Debts not promptly pursued	Periodic checks by Councillors & Internal Auditor	Councillors & Internal Auditor	3- Low	2- Low
	8.4. VAT claims not made correctly or promptly	Ensure Clerk is up-to-date with requirements & at least one Councillor is knowledgeable about VAT claims	Clerk, Councillors & Internal Auditor	6 - Medium	1 Low
	8.5. Bank account not checked regulaly	Ensure bank balance is reported monthly and any outstanding income is identified	Clerk to the Council/RFO	7-High	1- Low
9. PAYROLL To ensure that salaries paid to staff and monies paid to contractors are paid in accordance with Financial Regulations and are adequately monitored	9.1. Lack of knowledge of payroll	Ensure Clerk and at least one Councillor is fully trained on Payroll	Clerk & Councillors	7 - High	1- Low
	9.2. Incorrect rate of pay to staff	Ensure correct rates applied when setting budget	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor (as above)	4 Medium	1- Low
	9.3. Pensions, Tax and NI deductions incorrect	Ensure Clerk to the Council/RFO and at least one Councillor is familiar with requirements.		4 Medium	1- Low
	9.4. Non compliance with tax regulations	Ensure year End annual return filed - HMRC		8 - High	1 - Low
	9.4. Incorrect payments to contractors	Periodic review of contractual obligations	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	4 - Medium	1- Low
10. ANNUAL RETURN	10.1. Lack of knowledge of Accounts and Audit Regulations	Clerk and Councillors to attend training courses where appropriate.	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7 - High	1- Low
	10.2. Inadequate audit trail from records to final accounts	Ensure that the Clerk and at least one Councillor is properly trained and understands the Accounts and Audit Regulations Ensure public notices are displayed & accounts available for inspection and on the website	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	7 - High	1- Low
	10.3 Loss of paper records through fire	Ensure all relevant records are kept in firebag	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7 - High	1- Low
	10.4 Loss of digital records	Ensure files are regulaly backed up onto external storage which is then kept in firebag	Clerk to Council	9 - High	2 - Low
11. ASSETS			Clerk to Council	9 - High	2 - Low

To identify, value and maintain all the assets of the Council, and ensure that asset and investment registers are complete, accurate and properly maintained	11.1. Lack of knowledge of assets and investments of Council	Ensure that records in existence are maintained and kept up-to-date	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	4- Medium	2- Low	
	11.2. Assets and investments lost or misappropriated	Clerk to monitor any assets, their whereabouts, and report any issues to Council	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Nominated Councillor	4- Medium	2- Low	
	11.3 Inaccurate valuation of assets and investments	Whereabouts/location of assets to be recorded on Asset Register	Clerk to the Council/RFO	4- Medium	2- Low	
	11.4 Inadequate reserves	Ensure that annual insurance valuations are reviewed	Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors & Internal Auditor	4- Medium	2- Low	
	11.5 Information on land holdings lost or inaccurate	Bank reconciliation to be carried out monthly	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7- High	2- Low	
	11.6 Inaccurate or lost burial records	Budget to be evaluated quarterly	Clerk to the Council/RFO and Councillors	7- High	2- Low	
12. EQUAL OPPORTUNITES ETC To comply with legislation regarding disability, racial equality, safeguarding children, etc.	12.1. Lack of knowledge of legislation and other requirements	Ensure all records relating to land holdings are safely stored. Where possible in a firebag.	Clerk to the Council	7 - High	2 - Low	
	12.2. Lack of public awareness of requirements	Ensure all burial records are completed immediately and are stored safely. Preferably in a fireproof bag where possible.	Burial Clerk	7 - High	2 - Low	
13. OPEN SPACES To ensure that the open spaces within the Parish are safe and properly maintained.	13.1. Failure to regularly inspect	Use Website/newsletter /publications as and when necessary to inform public	Clerk to the Council and Councillors (as above)	6- Medium	2- Low	
	13.2 Failure to provide adequate safety equipment for pond arreya	Ensure regular inspections of all open spaces are undertaken and findings reported	Clerk to the Council, Burial Clerk and Councillors (as above)	7 - High	3 - Low	
	13.3 Failure to follow Memorial Safety procedure	Urgent work to be reported immediately to Clerk (or Chairman in absence of a Clerk)	Clerk to the Council and Councillors	8 - High	3 - Low	
14. EQUIPMENT To ensure that Council-owned equipment is in good working order & that it's whereabouts is known.	14.1. Unknown whereabouts of Council-owned equipment.	Ensure safety equipment is in place and inspected regularly	Clerk to the Council, Burial Clerk and Councillors	6- Medium	1- Low	
	14.2. Failure to regularly inspect for routine manitanance purposes	Ensure risk assessments are in place where required	Burial Clerk	6- Medium	3- Low	
	14.3. Failure to carry out any major annual	5 year tests undertaken and unstable memorials monitored 12 monthly	Clerk & Councillors	5- Medium	2- Low	

	inspections required 14.4 Failure to maintain Council-owned equipment	inspections required Ensure regular servicing and maintainance is undertaken. If appropriate ensure service contracts are in place.	Clerk to the Council and handyman	6- Medium	3- Low
15. STAFF To ensure that staff are employed according to proper recruitment, conditions of service and health and safety requirements	15.1. Failure to ensure that staff are recruited in accordance with correct, fair and unbiased procedures 15.2. Failure to ensure that staff are correctly paid and enjoy proper conditions of employment	Ensure that vacancies are widely advertised with full job descriptions and person specifications. Ensure that staff are paid in accordance with nationally-agreed pay scales (NALC), & are given appropriate contracts of employment based on national models Review contracts of employment periodically	Clerk to the Council and Councillors Clerk to the Council/RFO, Councillors and Internal Auditor Clerk to the Council and Councillors	4- Medium 4- Medium	2- Low 1- Low
16. HEATH AND SAFETY	16.1. Failure to ensure proper health and safety provision	Carry out risk assessments for duties to be performed by employees, Councillors and contractors or events held by the Council. Ensure that staff receive training and instruction in relation to special risk situations. Ensure that staff who use plant and equipment are provided with adequate training to competently use such plant and equipment. Ensure that staff are instructed to report accidents. Ensure that staff working from home are working in safe and appropriate conditions.	Clerk to the Council and Councillors & Internal auditor Clerk to the Council and Councillors (all as above)	7 - High	2- Low
17. BURIALS	17.1 Failure to comply with legislation with regard to burials & exhumations 17.2 Failure to keep up to date records of burials	Ensure the Burial Clerk is up to date with all relevant legislation and attends regular training. Ensure at least one Councillor has a working knowledge of the role of Burial Clerk. Ensure burial plot layout is regulalry reviewed and Exclusive Rights and burial plots are marked immediately.	Burial Clerk/ Additional Councillor Burial Clerk	7 - High 7 - High	2 - Low 2 - Low
RISK SCALE 1-3 Low Risk 4-6 Medium Risk 7-9 High Risk	Reviewed - January 2025				