

## Walberswick Parish Council Financial Risk Assessment for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Ways to mitigate risk	Control Mechanism
Precept	Not submitted	L	Confirmation by RFO of submission at council meeting	Meeting minutes
	Not paid by DC	L	Confirmation by RFO of receipt at council meeting	Meeting minutes
	Adequacy of precept	M	Regular reviewed at each meeting on Performance Against Budget sheet	Meeting agenda
Other Income	Cash handling	L	Cash handling is avoided, but where necessary – appropriate Controls are in place.	Annual review of controls via this document
	Cash banking	L	Council's policy is not to accept cash payments	Clerk to enforce policy
	Allotment money not collected	M	Improved process for collection put in place with new allotment policy. RFO to follow up invoices and collect	PAB report income column
Grants	Claims procedure	L	RFO to apply following authorisation by Council	Agenda item and Meeting minutes
	Receipt of grant when due		RFO to report receipt as part of finance reports to meeting	Agenda item and Meeting minutes
Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	L	RFO receives calculation via SALC and places on Authorisation to Pay Sheet (ATP).	Councillors approve via ATP at each meeting
	Wrong deductions – NI and Income tax	L	RFO Checks PAYE Calculations	ATP
Direct Costs and overhead expenses	Goods not supplied to Council	L	RFO to arrange delivery and monitor by asking a Councillor nearby to check delivery complies with order and goods actually arrive in good condition.	RFO reports delivery via finance reports
	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	RFO to check arithmetic on invoices and perform bank reconciliations on monthly basis. Check VAT is correctly calculated	Councillors to verify when they authorise invoices
	Cheque payable is excessive or to wrong party	M	Signatory initials Cheque Stub & Voucher	Cheques only issued once chairman has seen invoices, ATP is approved by Council, and are signed by 2 signatories

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk Level	Topic	Control Mechanism
<b>Grants &amp; support</b>	No power to pay or no evidence of agreement of Council to pay	M	Agenda describes project, Councillors resolve to authorise grant application for agreed expenditure, included in Minute. Statutory power referenced in cash book column	Meeting minutes, Agenda and Cash Book
	Inappropriate grant conditions agreed	M	Clerk/RFO to confirm that project matches grant conditions and confirm with grant making authority.”	RFO and Clerk checks conditions prior to application.

<b>VAT</b>	VAT not calculated correctly	L	RFO Check on invoice	PAB report
	Claimed within time limits	M	RFO to diary	PAB report
<b>Reserves – General</b>	Adequacy	M	Budget for appropriate reserves	Budget discussion and monitoring throughout year via PAB
<b>Reserves – Earmarked</b>	Adequacy	L	Budget for appropriate reserves	Budget discussion and monitoring throughout year via PAB
	Unidentified Earmarked or Contingent liability	L	Budget for appropriate reserves. RFO to show earmarked reserves as part of finance reporting.	Budget discussion and monitoring throughout year via PAB
<b>Assets</b>	Loss, Damage etc	M	Regular inspections and review of insurance cover. Clerk or Councillor with responsibility for property to regularly check condition of assets.	Discussed at each Annual PC Meeting and recorded in Minutes
	Consequential loss due to critical damage or third-party performance	M	Regular inspections as above	as above
	Risk or damage to third party property or individuals	M	Regular inspections as above	as above

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<b>Staff</b>	Loss of key personnel (Clerk/RFO)	H	Effective support of staff by Council. Regular reviews in line with Contract. Early response to fill vacancies with advertisement especially through SALC website. Commitment to training/development to new Clerk.	Employment Working Party
<b>Maintenance</b>	Need to budget for damage, wear and tear	L	Regular inspections and appropriate budget including by Safety Committee	Meeting minutes and effective budget process
<b>Legal Powers</b>	Inadequate records	M	Minute council agreement with the power used to authorize payment	Meeting minutes
<b>Financial Records</b>	Accurate & approved	L	RFO/clerk produces monthly reports which form the basis of the financial records. Councillor Internal audit review provides check before all submitted annually to SALC internal auditor	Councillor reports to Council and included in Meeting minutes Annual review of internal auditor report and approval of accounts as part of AGAR process.

<b>Minutes</b>	Conflict of interest	L	Declarations of interest to be documented/in Minute and any conflict addressed as appropriate. Training given to Councillors to ensure they know their responsibilities and the content of the Suffolk Code of Conduct which they have all signed up to.	Meeting minutes record withdrawal from discussion/meeting room. DOI included new Councillor training
<b>Councillor interests</b>	Councillor interests not accurately recorded	M	Councillors are responsible for recording and updating their interests on the District website. Essential that website functions well, however, to make compliance easier. Clerk to advise Councillors before or at meetings as appropriate to protect the Council	Annual reminder to Councillors at AGM.

<b>Data Breach</b>	Personal data comprised	M	GDPR compliance procedures	Councillor with responsibility works closely with Clerk to oversee compliance.
<b>Website unavailable</b>	Loss of data, loss of ability to publish council documents	M	Third party compliance checks	Webmaster

**Date of Review** 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

**Carried out by** Clerk/Chairman

**Clerk** Mary Mitson-Woods

Signature

**Presented to Council** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Minute Ref:**