

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE 2025-26

Definition of Risk Management

Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies. Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated and controlled. It is a key element of the framework of governance together with community focus, structures and processes, standards of conduct and service delivery arrangements.

This document has been produced to enable the Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. The Council is aware that although some risks can never be eliminated fully, it has in place a strategy that provides a structured, systematic and focuses approach to managing risk, which:

- Identifies the key risks facing the council
- Identifies what the risk may be
- Identifies the level of risk
- Evaluates the management and control of the risk and records findings
- Reviews, assesses and revises procedures if required.

 Reviewed & Adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council May 2024
Review due May 2026

MANAGEMENT				
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 current files and recent records are kept at the clerk's home. The clerk makes a monthly back up of files. In the event of the clerk being indisposed the Chair to contact SLCC Secretary for advice.	Review when necessary Ensure procedures below are undertaken
Meeting location	Adequacy Health and Safety	L	Meetings are held in the Parish/Village Hall. The premises and facilities are maintained by the respective organisations who own the facilities	
Council Records	Loss through theft, fire, damage	L	Older records are retained at the home of the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman Current papers are stored in the Clerks home. Where possible relevant documents are archived.	Damage or theft is unlikely and so provision adequate.
Council Records electronic	Loss through damage, fire, corruption of computer	M	The Parish Council's electronic records are stored on the clerk's computer. Back-ups of the files are taken at monthly intervals and are checked to ensure readability of data. All documents are also cloud based. Adequate anti-virus protection is renewed annually.	Back-up of electronic files produced and a copy given to the Chairman monthly
FINANCE				
Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Precept	Adequacy of precept	M	Sound budgeting to underlie annual precept. The Parish Council regularly receives budget update information and detailed budgets in the late autumn. The precept is an agenda item at the January meeting.	Existing procedure adequate
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L L L M	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	Inadequate checks	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the requirements for banking, cheques and reconciliation of accounts	Existing procedures adequate Review Financial Regulations as necessary

Cash	Loss through theft or dishonesty	L	The Council has no petty cash or float. Transactions are made or paid by cheque or bank transfer	Existing procedures adequate
Financial controls and records	Inadequate checks	L	Monthly reconciliation checked by Parish Council. Three signatories on cheques. Internal and external audit. Any payments must be resolved and clearly minuted. Any s137 payments must be recorded at time of approval	Existing procedures adequate
Freedom of Information Act	Policy Provision	L M	The Council has a model publication scheme for Local Councils in place. 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 qualified clerk Fraud Actions undertaken Salary paid incorrectly	M L L L	A contingency fund has been established to enable training for the Cilca qualification in the event of the clerk resigning The requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance must be adhered to Clerk should be provided with relevant training, reference books, access to assistance and legal advice Internal Auditor check	Include in financial statement when setting precept Purchase revised reference books Membership of SLCC Monitor working conditions and hours of work
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. A contingency fund is available to meet the costs.	Include in financial statement when setting precept
VAT	Re-claiming/charging	L	The Council has financial regulations which set out the requirements	Existing procedures Adequate
Annual return	Not submitted within time limits	L	Annual return is completed and signed by the Council, submitted to the Internal Auditor for completion and signing, then checked and sent on to the External Auditor within time limit	Existing procedures adequate

ASSETS				
Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Street Furniture/	Loss or Damage	L	Detailed on the Asset Register	Existing procedure adequate
P3 Assets	Risk/damage to third party(ies)/property		A review of assets undertaken periodically, but at least annually for Insurance provision and maintenance All repairs and relevant expenditure for these are actioned in accordance with correct procedures	Ensure inspections are carried out
Notice	Loss or Damage	L	Parish Council has 2 Notice Boards in the Parish	Existing procedure adequate
Board/Descriptive Panels	Risk/damage to third party/parties/property		Monthly regular inspection when displaying Notices for meetings	Ensure inspections are carried out
Office Equipment	Loss or Damage	L	Items belonging to WAPC are included on the insurance policy	
LIABILITY				
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments Working Parties taking decisions	L 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 Monitor on a monthly basis
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 chair	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	Non compliance with employment law	L	Undertake adequate training	Existing procedures adequate
Legal Liability	Legality of activities Proper and timely reporting via Minutes Proper document control	M	Clerk to clarify legal position on proposals and to seek advice if necessary Council always receives and approves minutes at monthly meetings Retention of document policy in place	Existing procedures adequate Existing procedures adequate Existing procedures Adequate

COUNCILLORS PROPRIETY				
Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Members Interests	Conflict of interest Register of Members Interests	M L	Councillors have a duty to declare any interest at the start of the meeting Register of Members Interests form to be reviewed at least on an annual basis	Existing procedures adequate Members to take responsibility to update their register

RISK SCHEDULE

ITEM	FREQUENCY	LAST REVIEWED	COMMENTS / ACTIONS
Assets inspection	Annually		To be undertaken before end financial year
Financial Matters			
Banking Arrangements	Annually		
Insurance Providers	Annually		
VAT return completed	Annually		To be undertaken April Annually
Budget agreed,	Monthly		
Precept requested:	Annually		
To include contingency for election and clerk Cilca qualification	Annually		
Bank reconciliation overseen by Councillors	Quarterly		
Clerk's salary reviewed and documented	Monthly		
Internal audit	Annually		
External audit	Annually		
Internal check of financial procedures	Annually		
Administration			
Minutes properly numbered	Ongoing		
Asset register available/updated	Ongoing		
Financial Regulations reviewed	Ongoing		
Standing orders reviewed	Ongoing		
Backups taken of computer records	Monthly		
Employers Responsibilities			
Contract of employment in place	Annually		
Members' responsibilities			
Code of Conduct adopted	Ongoing		
Register of Interests completed and updated	Ongoing		
Register of Gifts/Hospitality	Ongoing		
Declarations of Interests minuted	Ongoing		