

COLSTERWORTH AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

RISK REGISTER - EXCEPTION REPORT

Date: 31.10.2025

S = Statutory F = Financial R = Reputational O = Operational PO = Proper Officer/Clerk RFO = Responsible Financial Officer PC = Parish Council Initial RAG: Start of new financial year due to new administration being in place and lack of previous documented controls

Target RAG: Ongoing process of review offering assurances from PO/RFO/Committees to full Council that risk controls put in place are effective

		report								
RIS K	DESCRIPTION	RISKS	TARGET RAG	RISK CONTROLS	BY	Progress Notes	Current Status			
(4)	Loss of Clerk due to sudden / long-term illness, incapacity or dismissal.	No access to the Clerk's computer records		 Chair to have a note of the Clerk's computer password in a sealed envelope. Chair to have a copy of software log ins and passwords. Chair to have a copy of important contacts. Chair to have a hard copy of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP). All Clirs to have a copy of the Clerk's monthly checklist for all tasks. Annual stress test for BCP/Clerk's monthly checklist. Computer back up to the Cloud. Any USB back up to be encrypted. 	PO & Chair	In Progress	Recruitment for Clerk/RFO Additional ad placed in the November In Touch, deadline 10/11/2025. F&A Committee meeting 30/10/2025. Deadline for Clerk/RFO applications closed on 29/09/2025. Applications to be reviewed by the Finance and			

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							Administration committee.
							PC Meeting 02/09/2025. Recruitment process delegated to the F&A Committee.
							On 11/08/2025 The Clerk/RFO gave notice of their intention to retire. They
							have agreed to continue in post until a suitable
							successor is appointed. Recruitment process added
							as an agenda item for the September meeting.
(5)	To ensure compliance with Legislation, Council's Financial	Lack of knowledge of regulations and codes. Lack of uptake for		 Councillors to refer all matters through the Clerk for advice and guidance. Ensure that all Councillors have handbook including Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Powers and Duties, policies and procedures 	PO All Councillors	In Process	
	Regulations and Standing	training		 Facilitate training for all Councillors. Take advice from LALC and Solicitors as required. 			

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	Orders and Code of Conduct.	Absence of standing orders		5. Review and ratify standing orders and scheme of delegation6. Ensure there is an annual review	РО	In Process	
		Actions by the PC outside its powers as set out by Legislation		 As at 1 above but ensure that powers are highlighted or extracted into effective summary. 	PO	In Process	
		Lack of commitment to regulations and procedures.		8. Regular reference to appropriate regulations in agenda items.9. Delegation of responsibilities to individual councillors.	PO Chair	In Process	
		4. Items purchased without proper tendering procedures, resulting in accusations of commercial favouritism		10. Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation identifying authority to act.11. Introduce practice of estimates for all purchases over an agreed figure as recommended by the internal audit April 2017	PO	In Process	
		5. Payments made without prior approval and adequate control.		12. Ensure all payments are approved in Council meetings and recorded in minutes.13. Keep cash payments to a minimum and avoid if possible.	PO/RFO F&A Committee	In Process	
		Lack of control of signatories to cheques		14. Keep authorised signatories to a minimum but consistent with practicalities.15. Introduce electronic banking and BACS	PO/RFO	In Process	
		7. VAT not properly accounted for, resulting in over-claims and large demands from HMRC.		Ensure appropriate publications held and that Clerk has good knowledge of regulations.	PO/RFO	In Process	
(4)	To identify and regularly review the Council's priorities	Lack of knowledge of setting objectives, setting priorities, and identifying risks to their achievement.		 All councillors to be made aware of need for objectives and identification of risk. Implementation of Committees to consider priorities for recommendations to full Council 	PO Chair Chairs of Committee	In Progress	

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					All Clirs		
		Lack of commitment by council members		3. Attend training sessions if practicable.	All Clirs	In Process	
		No risk analysis carried out.		4. Add risk assessment to agenda at least quarterly, reviewing particular items, and results against those items. Ensure that completion of the risk assessment is given high priority, as a requirement of the Audit Commission	PO	Projects to be added to risk assessment.	
		5. No steps taken to combat identified risks		6. As at 1 above.	PO	In Process	
(4)	To influence other council departments and Government	Lack of effective lines of communication with other organisations		 Note all communication lines which are essential or beneficial and make information available to all councillors. Establish contacts by name and where possible face-to-face 	PO Chair	In Process	
	organisations to fulfil the requirements of the Parish population.	Lack of effective lines of communication with parishioners		 Take every opportunity to publicise role of Parish Council. Create Parish newsletter if none exists. Use Notice Boards and "flyers". Use key issues to raise profile of PC and to test parishioners' views. Add social event to occasional meeting. Create Annual PC plan and put to parishioners for comment 	PO Chair		
		Lack of preparation on subjects requiring influence		Ensure all councillors are aware of need for careful research and are guided as to where to obtain relevant information	PO Chair		
		Lack of confidence by Parish Councillors		10. As at 1 above.11. Experienced councillors to assist newcomers to establish essential contacts.	PO/RFO Chair		

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				 Delegate responsibility for specific contacts to individual councillors 			
(1)	To ensure that all councillors are aware of their	Lack of knowledge of possible culpability of councillors		Creation of standing orders and familiarisation with those where greatest risk occurs	PO	In Process	
	responsibilitie s, and possible liabilities, and to provide adequate insurance cover for all possible risks	Lack of education of Councillors regarding culpability		 As at 1 above. Delegate responsibility to one or two councillors to assist newcomers to understand culpability. Attend any training courses available 	PO Chair Cllrs	In Process	MINOR REPAIRS The PC's insurers have confirmed that Cllrs are covered by the PC's Public Liability Insurance for making repairs to play areas equipment and other general repairs.
		3. Inadequate insurance cover taken out – property, personal liability, employer's liability		Review risk assessment by including on agenda at least quarterly	PO F&A Cllrs	In Process	
(1)	To keep appropriate books of account	Lack of knowledge of accounting requirements		 Ensure all councillors are familiar with current financial regulations and include them in the council's Standing Orders. Regularly review Standing Orders. 	PO/RFO Chair	In Process	

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	accurately and up-to-date throughout the financial year			Appoint separate RFO (perhaps a councillor) to ensure another line of responsibility for financial management.			
	,	Lack of commitment to accounting requirements		 As at 1 above. RFO to produce financial reports at all meetings. Internal audit reports to be made available to all councillors and any recommendations to be acted upon promptly. 	PO/RFO Chair F&A	In Process	
		Bank charges unnecessarily incurred		7. RFO to carry out regular inspection of books of account.8. Internal audit to be undertaken periodically during the current financial year	PO/RFO	In Process	
		4. Inaccuracies in recording amounts and totals in books of account. Bank reconciliations not carried out		9. RFO to ensure that books of account are formatted in such a way that internal controls are included and activated.10. Regular internal audits to advise on internal controls required	RFO F&A	In Process	
		5. Inaccuracies and interest losses caused by account transfers		11. Keep number of accounts to a minimum but ensure that any large credit balances are deposited in an interest-bearing account.12. Ensure accounts are reported accurately to Council	RFO F&A	In Process	
		6. The most beneficial interest terms not being employed		13. Ensure that favourable interest rate is obtained in deposit accounts and review against alternatives but bearing in mind the risks in changing accounts	RFO	In Process	
		Inadequate control of cash receipts and payments		14. Avoid cash payments and receipts if possible.15. Where cash payments and receipts are unavoidable use a properly controlled petty cash account with a set maximum balance.	RFO	In Process	

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		Books of account not kept up to date/ invoices not posted promptly.		16. Regular checks by RFO and internal auditor.17. Financial reports at all PC meetings	RFO F&A	In Process	
		Internal controls not in place or not operated.		Internal audit to be undertaken periodically during the current financial year	RFO F&A	In Process	
		10. Payments missed or delayed due to Clerk taking ill or leaves without replacement		19. Appointing separate RFO allows a further individual to be familiar with all aspects of financial matters	RFO Full Council	In Process	
(4)	To ensure that payments made from council funds	Lack of knowledge of wishes of residents		 As at (3).2 Ensure residents are consulted on all major financial issues 	RFO F&A E&A H&F	In Process	
	and the use of assets, represent value for	Use of funds not giving value for money		 Effective budget planning processes. Creation of annual plan after consultation process. Creation of outline 2/3 year plan 	RFO F&A E&A H&F	In Process	
	money, are adequately managed, and comply generally with	Use of funds not in accordance with the wishes of the residents.		6. As at 2 above.7. RFO to create effective financial management.8. Internal audit checks to cover consultation process	RFO F&A	In process	
	the wishes of the residents	Charges for use of facilities and services inadequate		9. Effective financial management by RFO.10. Internal audit checks	RFO F&A	In Process	
		5. Fund raising/grant applications not properly controlled		 All councillors to be aware of need to check regulations before commencing fund-raising activities. 	RFO F&A	Projects are ongoing and monitored.	

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		or not in accordance with regulations.		12. Effective financial management by RFO			
(1)	To explore all possible sources of income and ensure that	Lack of knowledge of possible sources of income e.g. grants. 2.		PO/RFO to work with committee chairs to gain experience of all grants available and application procedures.	PO/RFO F&A E&A H&F	In Process	
	expected income is fully received	Lack of commitment to pursue possible sources of income		2. As at 1 above	PO/RFO F&A E&A H&F	In Process	
		Receipts not banked or not banked promptly		3. Regular checks by F&A Committee.4. Internal audit checks	RFO F&A	In Process	
		Debts not pursued promptly.		5. As at 3 above.	RFO	In Process	
		VAT claims not made promptly or made incorrectly.		6. Ensure Clerk has appropriate and up-to-date VAT official publications.7. Regular checks by RFO.8. Internal audit checks	RFO	In Process	
(1)	To ensure that the annual precept requirement results from an adequate budgetary	Lack of knowledge of budgetary process, and of Council		 Include regulations in Standing Orders issued to all councillors. Place item on agenda early in year to remind councillors of budget process and actions required. Delegated responsibility for managing initial budgetary process to RFO 	RFO Chair	In Process	
	process; progress against the	Lack of commitment to budgetary process		4. As at 1 above5. Involve all councillors in budgetary process	RFO Chair	In Process	

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	budget is regularly monitored; and reserves are appropriate	Inadequate consideration of requirements for annual precept		 Place item on agenda early in year to remind councillors of budget process and actions required. Delegated responsibility for managing initial budgetary process RFO. Start consideration of need at least 4 months prior to submission date. 	RFO Chair	In Process	
		Calculation not in accordance with Council regulations		9. Create annual and quarterly plans to assist in process.10. Checks by RFO and Internal Auditor.	RFO	In Process	
		5. Inadequate internal controls with regard to monitoring expenditure		11. Checks by RFO and Internal Auditor.12. Financial and budget progress reports to all PC meetings	RFO F&A	In Process	
		6. Reserves too low		13. As at 5 above	RFO F&A	In Process	
(1)	To ensure that salaries and expenses paid to	Inappropriate rate of pay to employees.		 Ensure employee regulations are available and understood by Clerk. Checks by RFO. Internal audit checks. 	PO/RFO	In Process	
	employees and amounts paid to contractors	Tax and NI arrangements not in accordance with regulations.		4. As at 1 above	PO/RFO	In Process	
	are paid in line with council regulations, and are adequately monitored	Amounts paid to contractors not in accordance with contract and inadequately monitored		5. Internal audit checks.6. Checks by RFO.7. F&A to monitor contract work carried out	PO/RFO F&A	In Process	

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(1)	To ensure that year end accounts are prepared on the correct accounting basis, on time,	Lack of knowledge of Council regulations and procedures		 Include financial regulations in Standing Orders. Attend training seminars where available. Include a time table in Standing Orders/Committee terms of reference 	RFO F&A	In Process	
		Late or non- submission of annual accounts		 RFO to monitor progress against timetable and report to PC meetings. 	RFO F&A	In Process	
	and supported by an adequate audit trail	3. Year end accounts not prepared, inaccurate, or not in accordance with Council requirements		5. Checks by RFO.6. Internal audit checks	RFO F&A	In Process	
		Inadequate audit trail from records to final accounts		7. As at 4 above	RFO F&A	In Process	
(1)	To identify, value, and maintain all	Lack of knowledge of assets of Parish Council.		 Ascertain and record all assets for which Parish council is responsible. Create permanent asset register. 	РО	In Process	
	the assets of the Parish Council, and ensure that asset and investment registers are complete, accurate and properly	Assets lost or misappropriated		 Establish who is responsible for security and maintenance of each asset. Identify appropriate Committee responsible for regular monitoring of location and use of assets falling under its remit 	PO F&A E&A H&F	In Process	Colster Way Play Area Metal gate at Rope Walk entrance fallen from hinges. The Clerk arranging repair.
	maintained						Old Post Lane Cemetery Extension Agenda item

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							September 2025.73
							Agenda Item for December 2025. Resolve to set up a Working Party to to agree the draft layout/plan of the Cemetery extension and associated costs.
							Planning Application for change of use submitted and paid for 17/10/2025.
							Community Car Park
							Discussed at F&A Meeting 30.10.2025. Enquiries continuing.
							To be included in Budget setting for

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							2026/2027 and
							consider
							potential
							liabilities.
							11/07/2025
							Gareth
							Dawkins from
							SKDC Legal
							Team advised
							they the latest
							information
							with thier
							Legal
							colleagues in
							the hope that
							we can find
							something,
							albeit with
							Bowcock's
							having gone in
							administration
							so many years
							ago, with no
							registered title they think it is
							still going to
							be difficult to
							find anything
							in Council
							records, but
							all records will
							be searched.
							They have
							nothing on
							their Estates
							files.

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							Gareth is going to send this matter to the Lead County Legal Team Property Lawyer to seek their thoughts.
							12/05/2025 confirmation received that the sub-station on land adjacent to the Car park is owned by the National Grid. SKDC Legal Team informed of this.
		Inadequate or inaccurate valuation of the council's assets.		Arrange for periodic review of valuations and arrange for professional valuation where necessary. Internal audit checks	PO	In Process	
		Asset register not established or inadequately maintained.		Create asset register in accordance with Audit Commission requirements	PO	In Process	
(12)	To comply with appropriate	Lack of knowledge of applicable legislation		 Clerk to have all appropriate legislation available. Review liabilities and responsibilities periodically at PC meetings. 	PO Chair	In Process	

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	Government legislation regarding disability,	Lack of public awareness of applicable legislation.		3.	Include, as appropriate, in any public consultations.	PO	In Process	
	racial equality, safeguarding children etc	Failure to comply with applicable legislation.		4.	As at 1 above	PO Chair	In Process	
(4)	To carry out adequate safety checks on all buildings, properties, and equipment for which the council is responsible	Lack of information on properties, buildings and equipment		1. 2.	Ensure that all current legislation and advice is held by Clerk. Include in asset register all properties for which PC is responsible.	PO	In Process	Brick Bus Shelter Woolsthorpe Road Repairs in process. Quotation for repair to guttering and removal of loose concrete and re-setting Orchard sign on Colster Way approved of £100. Nature Trail Discussed at F&A Meeting 30.10.2025. Monitor Ash Die back and maintenance of railings.

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							Awaiting quotation from KWR.
							Report received 9 th May 2025 of Ash Die Back behind no's 11 & 12 Ingle Court. Inspected by the Clerk and Nature Trail Ranger on 12 th May 2025. Large trees with Ash Die Back overhanging gardens. KWR contacted to assess and quote if necessary.
							PLAY AREA SAFETY CHECKS

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X.			RAG			Notes	Woolsthorpe Road Play Area Awaiting work to be completed. 18.08.2025 Cllr R Brocklebank reported a 12 th railing had been removed. Agreed at the 6 th May 2025 meeting. Quotation received from Chris Kennedy at Roll & Scroll.
		Lack of knowledge of safety requirements		 Ensure that all current legislation and advice is held by Clerk. Place subject as item on PC meeting agenda at regular intervals. 	PO Chair	In Process	
		Lack of commitment to carrying out safety checks.		 As at 2 above. Delegate responsibility for supervision of particular properties to individual Committees reporting back to council for any action 	PO Chair F&A E&A H&F	In Process	

-End-