

#### **COLSTERWORTH AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **RISK REGISTER - EXCEPTION REPORT**

Date: 19.04.2023

1-3 Low risk 4-5 Moderate risk

8-12 High risk

15-25 Extreme risk

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

RISK	DESCRIPTION	RISKS	TARGE T 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	TRAG	<ol> <li>Chair to have a note of the Clerk's computer password in a sealed envelope.</li> <li>Chair to have a copy of software log ins and passwords.</li> <li>Chair to have a copy of important contacts.</li> <li>Chair to have a hard copy of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP).</li> <li>All Clirs to have a copy of the Clerk's monthly checklist for all tasks.</li> <li>Annual stress test for BCP/Clerk's monthly checklist.</li> <li>Computer back up to the Cloud.</li> <li>Any USB back up to be encrypted.</li> </ol>	PO & Chair	In Progress	Status
(5)	To ensure compliance with Legislation, Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.	<ol> <li>Lack of knowledge of regulations and codes.</li> <li>Lack of uptake for training</li> </ol>		<ol> <li>Councillors to refer all matters through the Clerk for advice and guidance.</li> <li>Ensure that all Councillors have handbook including Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Powers and Duties, policies and procedures</li> <li>Facilitate training for all Councillors.</li> <li>Take advice from LALC and Solicitors as required.</li> </ol>	PO All Councillors	In Process	

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report RISK DESCRIPTION RISKS TARGE **RISK CONTROLS** BY **Progress** Current **TRAG** Notes Status 1. Absence of standing orders PO 5. Review and ratify standing orders and scheme In Process of delegation 6. Ensure there is an annual review 2. Actions by the PC outside its PO 7. As at 1 above but ensure that powers are In Process highlighted or extracted into effective powers as set out by Legislation summary. PO 3. Lack of commitment to 8. Regular reference to appropriate regulations In Process in agenda items. regulations and procedures. 9. Delegation of responsibilities to individual Chair councillors. 10. Financial Regulations and Scheme of PO Items purchased without In Process Delegation identifying authority to act. proper tendering procedures, resulting in accusations of 11. Introduce practice of estimates for all commercial favouritism purchases over an agreed figure as recommended by the internal audit April 2017 PO/RFO Payments made without 12. Ensure all payments are approved in Council In Process prior approval and meetings and recorded in minutes. 13. Keep cash payments to a minimum and avoid F&A adequate control. if possible. Committee 14. Keep authorised signatories to a minimum but Lack of control of signatories PO/RFO In Process consistent with practicalities. to cheques 15. Introduce electronic banking and BACS VAT not properly accounted 16. Ensure appropriate publications held and that PO/RFO In Process for, resulting in over-claims Clerk has good knowledge of regulations. and large demands from HMRC. Lack of knowledge of РО In Progress To identify and 1. All councillors to be made aware of need **Nature Trail** regularly review the setting objectives, setting for objectives and identification of risk. Chair Grant Council's priorities priorities, and identifying 2. Implementation of Committees to application risks to their achievement. consider priorities for recommendations made to Chairs of to full Council SKDC Committee **Prosperity** All Clirs Fund.

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			11010			13333	Nature Trail
							Awaiting feedback.
							18/04/2023
							received
							email
							confirming that the SK
							Prosperity
							Fund URN
							1048
							application
							has now
							been
							reviewed by
							officers and
							is going
							forward to
							the next
							<b>UKSPF Board</b>
							meeting for
							consideratio
							n on Tuesday
							the 25 <sup>th</sup> of
							April.
							Ash Die Back
							is visible on the Nature Trail.
							Agenda item
							on PC meeting

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							07/03/2023 to
							apply for a
							Grant of £1,200 form
							the South
							Kesteven
							Prosperity
							Fund towards
							a Tree Survey.
							War Memorial
							18/04/2023
							Grant
							application received from
							Colsterworth
							Festival of
							Remembranc
							e for a grant
							of up to
							£3,500 to
							wards restoration of
							the War
							Memorial.
							It was agreed
							at the December
							2022 PC
							meeting for Clli
							T Neale to star
							a dialogue with
							Colsterworth
							Festival of
						1	Remembrance

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								(CFoR) to investigate a working partnership to support the restoration of the War Memorial.
		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.	
		<ol><li>No steps taken to combat identified risks</li></ol>		6.	As at 1 above.	PO	In Process	
(4)	To influence other council departments and Government organisations to fulfil the requirements of the	Lack of effective lines of communication with other organisations		1. 2.	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	Change in legislation due to COVID-19 to hold remote meetings.	
	Parish population.	Lack of effective lines of communication with parishioners		3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	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	Change in legislation due to COVID-19 to hold remote meetings. Not all Parishioners have access to technology.	

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		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		<ul> <li>10. As at 1 above.</li> <li>11. Experienced councillors to assist newcomers to establish essential contacts.</li> <li>12. Delegate responsibility for specific contacts to individual councillors</li> </ul>	PO/RFO Chair		
(1)	To ensure that all councillors are aware of their responsibilities, and possible liabilities,	Lack of knowledge of possible culpability of councillors		Creation of standing orders and familiarisation with those where greatest risk occurs	PO	In Process	
	and to provide adequate insurance cover for all possible risks	Lack of education of     Councillors regarding     culpability		<ul> <li>2. As at 1 above. Delegate responsibility to one or two councillors to assist newcomers to understand culpability.</li> <li>3. Attend any training courses available</li> </ul>	PO Chair Cllrs	In Process	
		Inadequate insurance     cover taken out –     property, personal liability,     employer's liability		Review risk assessment by including on agenda at least quarterly	PO F&A Clirs	In Process	
(1)	To keep appropriate books of account accurately and up-to-date throughout the financial year	Lack of knowledge of accounting requirements		<ol> <li>Ensure all councillors are familiar with current financial regulations and include them in the council's Standing Orders.</li> <li>Regularly review Standing Orders.</li> <li>Appoint separate RFO (perhaps a councillor) to ensure another line of responsibility for financial management.</li> </ol>	PO/RFO Chair	In Process	
		Lack of commitment to accounting requirements		<ul><li>4. As at 1 above.</li><li>5. RFO to produce financial reports at all meetings.</li></ul>	PO/RFO Chair F&A	In Process	

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(1)	To explore all possible sources of income and ensure that expected income is fully received	Lack of knowledge of possible sources of income e.g. grants.  2.		1.	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	
	·	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. 4.	Regular checks by F&A Committee. Internal audit checks	RFO F&A	In Process	
		<ol><li>Debts not pursued promptly.</li></ol>		5.	As at 3 above.	RFO	In Process	
		VAT claims not made promptly or made incorrectly.		6. 7. 8.	Ensure Clerk has appropriate and up-to- date VAT official publications. Regular checks by RFO. Internal audit checks	RFO	In Process	
(1)	To ensure that the annual precept requirement results from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget is regularly	Lack of knowledge of budgetary process, and of Council		2. 3.	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	
	monitored; and reserves are appropriate	Lack of commitment to budgetary process			As at 1 above Involve all councillors in budgetary process	RFO Chair	In Process	
		Inadequate consideration of requirements for annual precept		6.	Place item on agenda early in year to remind councillors of budget process and actions required.	RFO Chair	In Process	

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				<ul> <li>7. Delegated responsibility for managing initial budgetary process RFO.</li> <li>8. Start consideration of need at least 4 months prior to submission date.</li> </ul>			
		Calculation not in accordance with Council regulations		<ol> <li>Create annual and quarterly plans to assist in process.</li> <li>Checks by RFO and Internal Auditor.</li> </ol>	RFO	In Process	
		Inadequate internal controls with regard to monitoring expenditure		<ul><li>11. Checks by RFO and Internal Auditor.</li><li>12. Financial and budget progress reports to all PC meetings</li></ul>	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 employees and amounts paid to	Inappropriate rate of pay to employees.		<ol> <li>Ensure employee regulations are available and understood by Clerk.</li> <li>Checks by RFO.</li> <li>Internal audit checks.</li> </ol>	PO/RFO	In Process	
	contractors are paid in line with council regulations, and are adequately monitored	Tax and NI arrangements not in accordance with regulations.		4. As at 1 above	PO/RFO	In Process	
	adoquatory monitored	Amounts paid to contractors not in accordance with contract and inadequately monitored		<ul><li>5. Internal audit checks.</li><li>6. Checks by RFO.</li><li>7. F&amp;A to monitor contract work carried out</li></ul>	PO/RFO F&A	In Process	
(1)	To ensure that year end accounts are prepared on the correct accounting basis, on time, and	Lack of knowledge of Council regulations and procedures		<ol> <li>Include financial regulations in Standing Orders.</li> <li>Attend training seminars where available.</li> <li>Include a time table in Standing Orders/Committee terms of reference</li> </ol>	RFO F&A	In Process	

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	supported by an adequate audit trail	Late or non- submission of annual accounts		4. RFO to monitor progress against timetable and report to PC meetings.  RFO In Process F&A
		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 In Process F&A
(1)	To identify, value, and maintain all the assets of the Parish Council,	Lack of knowledge of assets of Parish Council.		Ascertain and record all assets for which PO In Process     Parish council is responsible.     Create permanent asset register.
	and ensure that asset and investment registers are complete, accurate and properly maintained	Assets lost or misappropriated		3. Establish who is responsible for security and maintenance of each asset.  4. Identify appropriate Committee responsible for regular monitoring of location and use of assets falling under its remit  In Process  F&A  E&A  H&F
		Inadequate or inaccurate valuation of the council's assets.		Arrange for periodic review of valuations and arrange for professional valuation where necessary.      In Process  In Process  In Process
		Asset register not established or inadequately maintained.		7. Create asset register in accordance with Audit Commission requirements
(12)	To comply with appropriate Government legislation regarding disability,	Lack of knowledge of applicable legislation		<ol> <li>Clerk to have all appropriate legislation available.</li> <li>Review liabilities and responsibilities periodically at PC meetings.</li> </ol> PO Chair Chair
	racial equality, safeguarding children etc	Lack of public awareness of applicable legislation.		3. Include, as appropriate, in any public consultations.

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-End-