

KEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

(Adopted by the Council at its meeting held 18th March 2014)

Last reviewed 16th March 2026

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.

Audit Commission – Worth the Risk: Improving Risk Management in Local Government (2001:5)

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 subject
- 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.

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 files and recent records are kept at the clerk's home, backed up at least weekly using a secure and encrypted cloud-based service . In addition, the clerk makes a bi-monthly back up of files with backup held offsite by one of the councillors. In the event of the clerk being indisposed the Chairman to contact the Parish and Community Development Team at IW Council for advice.	Review when necessary Ensure procedures below are undertaken
Meeting location	Adequacy Health and Safety	L	Meetings are held in either Kempford or Whelford Village Hall. The Clerk holds a key and in the event of her being indisposed the Chairman or other parish councillor member will contact the Village Hall Committee for access to the building. All the premises and facilities are considered to be adequate for the Clerk, Councillors and any Public who attend from a health and safety and comfort aspect.	Existing procedure adequate
Council Records	Loss through theft, fire, damage	L	Current papers will be held at the Clerk's home. Archived papers are held in a locked cupboard at the Village Hall.	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, backed up at least weekly using a secure and encrypted cloud-based service and a bi-monthly copy is also held on an external pen drive, which is kept offsite by one of the councillors. The Clerk's computer contains Internet Security/Virus Protection that is updated automatically when	Existing procedure adequate

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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 receives monthly budget update information and detailed budgets in the late autumn. The precept is an agenda item at the December 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. Monthly information provided to parish council members at meetings.	Existing procedures adequate Review Financial Regulations as necessary
Cash	Loss through theft or dishonesty	L	The Council has no petty cash or float. Any cash transactions are made by the clerk, are fully receipted and then reimbursed monthly or paid by cheque on receipt of an invoice.	Existing procedures adequate
Financial controls and records	Inadequate checks	L	Monthly reconciliation prepared by RFO and circulated to Parish Council members. Two signatories on cheques. Internal and external audit. Any financial obligation must be resolved and clearly minuted before any commitment. All payments must be resolved and clearly minuted. Any s137 payments must be recorded at time of approval	Existing procedures adequate Regular in-house check by appointed councillor
Freedom of Information Act	Policy Provision	L M	The Council has a model publication scheme for Local Councils in place. The clerk is aware that if a substantial request arrives then this may require many hours of additional work	Monitor and report any impacts made under Freedom of Information Act
Clerk	Loss of clerk Fraud Actions undertaken Salary paid incorrectly	M L L L	A contingency fund should be 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 The IWC has been appointed to undertake payment of clerks monthly salary	Include in financial statement when setting precept Membership of SLCC maintained Monitor working Conditions
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. Ensure sufficient funds held within contingency fund to meet such costs.	Include in financial statement when setting precept

VAT	Re-claiming/charging	L	The Council has financial regulations which set out the requirements. Returns completed annually.	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 and playground equipment	Damage to play equipment and benches etc.	L	An asset register is kept up to date and insurance is held at the appropriate level for all items. Twice monthly inspections carried out on playground inspection as part of out playground safety procedures.	Existing procedures adequate
Mobile speed sign	Theft, vandalism, and damage from large vehicles.	L	Padlocks fitted and regular inspection. Included in Insurance Policy.	Existing procedures adequate

LIABILITY

Subject	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments	L	All activity and payments made within the powers of the Parish Council (not ultra vires) and to be resolved and clearly minuted.	Existing procedures adequate
Minutes/ Agendas/ Statutory documents	Accuracy and legality Non compliance with statutory requirements	L 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 the Chairman	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 and seek advice from Parish and Community Development Team at County Hall	Existing procedures adequate
Legal Liability	Legality of activities Proper and timely reporting via Minutes Proper document control	M L L	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 PROPERTY

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