

NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment and management (financial) for the period May 2025

The risk management procedures, as documented below, were confirmed to be in practice by the Internal Auditor on April 2025

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
Precept	Not submitted	L	Full Minute – RFO follow up	Diary
	Not paid by DC	L	Confirm receipt	Diary
	Adequacy of precept	H	Quarterly review of budget to actual	Diary
Other Income	Cash handling	L	Cash handling is avoided, but where necessary – appropriate Controls are in place	Annual review of documented controls
	Cash banking	L	Segregate duties. Check bank statements. Regular bank reconciliations	Member to verify reconciliations taking place
	From Allotments	M	Check allotment register to Invoices	Member to verify
Grants	Claims procedure	M	Clerk/RFO check as required	Diary
	Receipt of grant when due	M	Clerk/RFO check as required	Diary
Investment Income	Receipt when due	L	Clerk/RFO check as required	Diary
	Surplus funds	L	Review levels and investment policy annually +	Diary

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Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	M	Check salary to minute, check hours and rate to contract	Member to verify
	Wrong deductions – NI and Income tax	M	Check to PAYE Calculations	Member to verify
	Self employed status challenged	M	Agree with Inland Revenue self employed status	Obtain letter from Inland Revenue and keep on file
Direct Costs and overhead expenses	Goods not supplied to Council	M	Follow up on all orders	Approval check
	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	Check arithmetic on invoices and perform bank reconciliations on monthly basis	Member to verify
	Cheque payable is excessive or to wrong party	M	Signatory initials Stub & Voucher	Approval check
Grants & support	No power to pay or no evidence of agreement of Council to pay	M	Minute council agreement with the power used to authorize payment	Member verify
	Conditions agreed	L	Agree and document any reasonable conditions	RFO check
Election Costs	Invoice at agreed rate	L	RFO check and consider budget	RFO verify
VAT	VAT analysis	M	All items in cash book lists	RFO verify
	Charged on sales	M	Consider annually	RFO verify
		L	Consider all items per cash book lists	RFO verify
	Charged on purchases			
	Claimed within time limits	M	Agree returns submitted	RFO verify

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Reserves – General	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget setting	RFO opinion. 3 year plan
Reserves – Earmarked	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget and review of final accounts	RFO opinion
	Unidentified Earmarked or Contingent liability	L	Review minutes	RFO/member view
Assets	Loss, Damage etc	M	Annual inspection, update insurance and asset registers	Diary
	Risk or damage to third party property or individuals	M	Review adequacy of Public Liability Insurance	Diary
Staff	Loss of key personnel (Clerk)	L	Hours, health, stress, training, long term sick, early departure – risk monitored and managed as appropriate	RFO/member view
	Fraud by staff	L	Fidelity Guarantee value appropriately set	Council to review annually
Loss	Consequential loss due to critical damage or third party performance	L	Review adequacy of Insurance cover	Diary
Maintenance	Reduced value of assets or amenities – loss of income or performance	M	Annual maintenance inspection	Diary
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payment	H	Educate Council as to their legal powers	Diary
Financial Records	Inadequate records	L	RFO/clerk check regularly + internal audit review	Diary
Minutes	Accurate and legal	L	Review at following meeting	Diary
Members interests	Conflict of interest	M	Declarations of interest to be documented/minuted and any conflict addressed as appropriate	Diary

Reviewed and adopted on: _____

Note: Risk assessment must be reviewed and adopted by council/meeting/board/body annually during the financial year and before 31 March.