

**Warmingham Parish Council Risk Assessment – Updated March 2024 – approved 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 PC meeting**

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, workplace activities and environmental factors that will enable the Parish Council to identify any and all potential inherent risks. The Parish Council, based on a recorded assessment, will take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is practically possible.

This document has been produced to enable Warmingham Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them.

**FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT**

| Subject | Risk(s) indentified  | H/M/L | Management/control of Risk   | Review/Assess/Revise         |
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| Precept | Adequacy of precept in order for the Council to carry out its Statutory duties | L     | To determine the precept amount required, the Council regularly receives budget update information monthly. At the precept meeting Council receives a budget report, including actual position and projected position to the end of year and indicative figures or costings obtained by the Clerk. With this information, the Council maps out the required monies for standing costs and projects for the following year and applies specific figures to budget headings, the total of which is resolved to be the precept amount to be requested from Cheshire East County Council. The figure is submitted by the Clerk in writing. The Clerk informs the Council when the monies are received. | Existing procedure adequate. |

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| Financial Records          | Inadequate records<br>Financial irregularities      | L<br>L | The Council has Financial Regulations which sets out the requirements.  | Existing procedure adequate<br>Review the Financial regulations when necessary |
| Bank and banking           | Inadequate checks<br>Banks mistakes                 | L<br>L | The Council has Financial Regulations which set out banking requirements<br><br>Monthly reconciliation  | Verify bank reconciliations at each meeting                                    |
| Reporting and auditing     | Information communication                           | L      | Financial information is a regular agenda item (Finance Report) and discussed/reviewed and approved at each meeting.  | Existing procedures adequate. At each PC meeting – agenda item Finance.        |
| Grants                     | Receipt of grant                                    | L      | Parish Council does not presently receive any regular grants.   | Procedure would be formed, if required   |
| Charges-rents receivable   | Payment of rents                                    | L      | N/A   | N/A  |
| Grants and support payable | Power to pay<br>Authorisation of Council to pay     | L      | All such expenditure goes through the required Council process of approval, minuted and listed accordingly if a payment is made using S137 powers of expenditure.   | Existing procedure adequate.   |
| Best value accountability  | Work awarded Incorrectly.<br>Overspend on services. | L<br>M | Normal Parish Council practice would be to seek, if possible, more than one quotation for any substantial work to be undertaken. For major work competitive tenders would be sought. If problems encountered with a contract the Clerk would investigate the situation and report to the Council. | Existing procedure adequate.<br>Include when reviewing financial regulations.  |

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| Procurement               | Supplier fraud including the adequacy of supplier onboarding controls. | L      | Parish Council has not required the services of any suppliers and does not envisage doing so in the future.  | Procedure would be formed, if required                                   |
| Salaries and assoc. costs | Salary paid incorrectly.<br>Unpaid Tax to Inland Revenue.              | L<br>L |  | Checked salary & Tax is paid correctly – check annually with clerk       |
| Employees                 | Fraud by staff<br><br>Health and safety                                | L<br>L | Requirements of any insurance adhered to with regards to fraud.<br>All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles  | Existing procedures adequate.<br>Risk assessment procedure now in place. |
| VAT                       | Reclaiming/charging  | L      | The Council has Financial Regulations which set out<br>The requirements.   | Existing procedures adequate   |
| Annual Return             | Submit within time limits  | L      | Employers Annual Return is completed and submitted online with the prescribed time frame by the Clerk.<br>Annual Return completed and signed by the Council, submitted to internal auditor for completion and signing then checked and sent to External Auditor within time frame. | Existing procedures adequate.  |
| Legal Powers              | Illegal activity or payments   | L      | All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved at full Council Meetings, including reference to the power used under the Finance section of  | Existing procedures adequate   |

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|   |   |                  | agenda and Finance report monthly.   |   |
| Minutes/agendas/<br>Notices Statutory<br>Documents` | Accuracy and legality<br><br>Business conduct             | L<br><br>L       | Minutes and agenda are produced in the prescribed manor by the Clerk and adhere to the legal requirements.<br>Minutes are approved and signed at the next Council meeting.<br>Agenda displayed according to legal requirements.<br>Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chair | Existing procedures adequate.<br><br>Members adhere to Code of Conduct            |
| Members interests                                   | Conflict of interests<br>Register of members<br>interests | L<br>M           | Declarations of interest by members at Council meetings.<br>Register of members interest's forms reviewed regularly.   | Existing procedures adequate.<br>Register in place and agenda item on PC meeting. |
| Insurance   | Adequacy<br>Cost<br>Compliance<br>Fidelity Guarantee      | L<br>L<br>L<br>M | An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements. Employers and Employee liabilities a necessity and within policies.<br>Ensure compliance measures are in place.<br>Fidelity checks in place.   | Existing procedure adequate.<br>Insurance reviewed annually.                      |
| Data protection                                     | Policy provision  | L                | The Parish Council is registered with the Data Protection Agency   | Ensure annual renewal of registration<br>Backup of data procedure in place.       |
| Freedom of<br>Information                           | Policy<br>Provision                                       | L<br>M           | The Council has a Model Publication scheme in place. To date there has been no requests under FOI.   | Monitor any requests made under FOI   |

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|                                    |   |        | The Parish Council is aware that if a substantial request came in it could create a number of additional hours work. The Parish Council can request a fee to supplement the extra hours   |  |
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| <b>PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS</b> |   |        |   |  |
| Assets                             | Loss or damage<br>Risk/damage to third party (ies) property | L<br>L | An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision  | Existing procedures adequate                                       |
| Maintenance                        | Poor performance of assets or amenities                     | L      | All assets owned by the Parish Council are regularly reviewed and maintained. All repairs and relevant expenditure for any repair is actioned/authorised in accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish Council. Assets are insured. | Existing procedures adequate                                       |
| Notice Board                       | Risk of damage  | L      | The Parish Council currently has one notice board. No formal inspection procedures are in place but any reports of damage or faults are reported to the Parish Council and dealt with in accordance of the correct procedures of the Council. | Existing procedures adequate                                       |
| Meeting locations                  | Adequacy<br>Health & Safety                                 | L<br>M | The Parish Council meeting is held in a venue considered to have appropriate facilities for the Clerk, members and the general public.  | Existing procedures adequate                                       |
| Council records – paper            | Loss through:<br>Theft                                      | L      | The Parish Council records are stored at the home of the Clerk. Records include historical  | Damage (apart from fire) and theft is unlikely and so provision is |

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|                              | Fire damage   | M<br>L | correspondences, minutes, insurance, bank records.   | adequate. Records are kept to a minimum, through regular shredding of historical data and electronic scanning. |
| Council records – electronic | Loss through:<br>Theft, fire damage or corruption of computer | L<br>M | The Parish Council electronic records are stored on the Clerks computer at his home.<br>Back ups of electronic data is made at regular intervals | Back up in place.  |