

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Guiding Principles

The following key principles outline Whitbourne Parish Council's approach to risk management and internal control:

- The elected Councillors have responsibility for overseeing risk management within the Council as a whole
- An open and receptive approach to solving risk problems is adopted by the Council
- Key risk indicators will be identified and closely monitored on a regular basis.

1. Policy Statement

Whitbourne Parish Council will not knowingly take any risk that will put in jeopardy the Council in relation to its legal or financial requirements. It will ensure that measures will be taken, through the development and review of policy and to minimise any unexpected risks.

2. Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the elected Councillors

The elected Councillors have a fundamental role to play in the management of risk. Their role is to:

- 2.1. Set the tone and influence the culture of risk management within the Council. This includes:
 - 2.1.1. determining whether the Council is 'risk taking' or 'risk adverse' as a whole or on any relevant individual issue
 - 2.1.2. determining what types of risk are acceptable and which are not
- 2.2. Monitor the management of significant risks to reduce the likelihood of unwelcome surprises.
- 2.3. Satisfy itself that the less significant risks are being actively managed, with the appropriate controls in place and working effectively.
- 2.4. Annually review the Council's approach to risk management and advise on changes or improvements to key elements of its processes and procedures.

3. Roles of the elected Councillors, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

- 3.1. Identify and evaluate the significant risks faced by the Council for discussion at a council meeting.
- 3.2. Provide adequate information in a timely manner to the Council on the status of risks and controls.
- 3.3. Undertake an annual review of effectiveness of the system of internal control.
- 3.4. The Clerk should keep copies of all correspondence, keep a simple record of all expenses and administrative costs.

Whitbourne Parish Council

- 3.5. The Responsible Finance Officer should record all financial transactions in a receipts and payments cash book, provide an annual statement of accounts and bank reconciliation statement
- 3.6. The annual precept request is the result of proper budgetary control
- 3.7. Check the accuracy of payments against invoices and that all cheques completed are signed by two signatory councillors
- 3.8. Before any payments can be made a motion must be passed at a council meeting and appropriately minuted
- 3.9. Check that the council's third party liability insurance is current and up-to-date

Signed:
Chairman of Whitbourne Parish Council

Adopted on: 5th May 2021