

Stradishall Parish Council Risk Assessment

Risk assessment and management (financial) for the period 1 April 2024 - 31st March 2025

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Action	Action completed
Precept	Not submitted	L	Prepare budget in November, submit precept request.	Clerk to add to list of actions	November 2024, receipt of precept form confirmed by WSC.
	Not paid by West Suffolk Council.	L	Confirm receipt	Clerk to add to list of actions	Added to May 2025 agenda.
	Adequacy of precept	L	Prepare budget in November, review budget in March	Clerk to add to list of actions	Budget reviewed March 2025.
Other income	Cash handling	L	Cash handling is avoided, but where necessary appropriate controls are in place	Annual review of Financial Regulations and controls Councillor to verify and cash receipts.	July 2024.
Grants	Claims procedure	M	Clerk to ensure that the correct procedure is followed	Clerk to keep the Council informed of the progress of grant applications and any conditions which have been applied.	Four grants were received in 2024/25 – West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council Locality funding for the new VAS and pavilion roof.
	Receipt of grant when due	M	Clerk to ensure that the grant has been received	Councillor to verify. Verification to be minuted.	Parish councillors updated at September 2024 and January 2025 meetings
Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	M	Clerk to calculate salary, hours and rate to contract.	Councillor to verify. Verification to be minuted.	Reviewed at meeting on 4 th November 2024.
	Wrong deductions - NI and income	M	Clerk to use HMRC's RTI PAYE tool	Councillor to verify.	Verified by councillor

	Tax		to ensure deductions are calculated correctly.	Verification to be minuted.	checking the accounts and minuted (3 rd March 2025)
Direct costs and expenses	Goods not supplied to Council	M	Clerk to follow up on all orders.	Council to check invoice and confirm receipt of goods before payment.	The clerk confirms receipt of all goods before payment. Invoices are verified at meetings.
	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	Clerk to check arithmetic on invoices and perform monthly bank reconciliations	Councillor to verify.	The clerk checks invoices when they are received. Invoices are verified at meetings.
	Cheque payable is excessive or to the wrong party	M	Signatory to sign invoice and initial stubs or payment schedule	Councillor to verify.	Cheques are rarely used but all cheques are checked against the relevant invoice and signed by two signatories.
Grants and support	No power to pay or no evidence of agreement of Council to pay	M	Clerk to minute council agreement with the power used to authorise payment	Councillor to verify.	All payments are minuted and the correct power listed.
	Conditions agreed	L	Clerk to present documents and any conditions to Council for approval.	Clerk to ensure any conditions are minuted.	No grants were made.
Election costs	Invoice at agreed rate	L	Clerk to check. Council to consider future election costs as part of the budget.	Clerk to include in budget.	The 2023 election was uncontested, so the election costs were minimal.
VAT	VAT not recorded separately for invoices where VAT paid	L	Clerk to ensure VAT is recorded separately in the accounts	Councillor to verify.	VAT is recorded separately in the accounts. This is checked at year end.
	VAT not claimed within time limits	M	Clerk to ensure VAT is claimed at the end of each financial year	Councillor to verify.	Claimed April 2024. Next claim will be made April/May 2025.

Reserves - general	Adequacy	L	Clerk to review when setting the budget	Council to confirm	Reserves confirmed at meeting on 3 rd March 2025.
Reserves - earmarked	Adequacy	L	Clerk to review when setting the budget	Council to confirm	Earmarked reserves confirmed at meeting on 3 rd March 2025.
Assets	Loss/damage etc	M	Councillor to inspect Council property annually. Clerk to update insurance and asset register.	Clerk to add to list of actions	Insurance checked by clerk in March 2025 and asset register updated. Councillor appointed to check Council property at meeting on 3 rd March 2025.
Public liability	Risk or damage to third party property or individual	M	Review adequacy of public liability insurance	Clerk to add to list of actions	Level of liability insurance reviewed at meeting on 3 rd March 2025.
Staff	Loss of key personnel (clerk)	L	Monitor hours, health, stress of clerk and manage as appropriate	Council to monitor	The clerk is the sole employee. She has a good working relationship with the Council and informs them if her workload is excessive.
	Fraud by staff	L	Ensure that Financial Regulations are complied with. Ensure that the Council has an adequate level of Fidelity Guarantee.	Councillor to complete checklist of internal controls at every meeting.	Completed at every meeting as part of checklist of internal financial controls. Bank statements are checked against the Scribe accounts. The level of fidelity guarantee is reviewed annually at the March meeting.

Maintenance	Reduced value of assets or amenities - loss of income or performance	M	Councillor to inspect Council property annually.	Clerk to add to list of actions	Council property inspected May 2024. Next inspection due April 2025.
Legal powers	Illegal activity or payment	L	Clerk to ensure Council is aware of its legal powers and to check when not sure	Clerk to include legal power in the minutes against payments to be authorised and to check Council has the legal power to carry out a specific action	All payments are minuted and the correct power listed. Clerk backs up all files regularly.
Financial records	Inadequate records	L	Clerk to keep adequate records	Internal controls and annual audit ensure financial records are adequate.	Accounts are checked by a councillor at every meeting and annually in January/February. More detailed checks are carried out by an independent internal auditor annually in April.
Minutes	Accurate and legal	M	Declarations of interest to be documented/minuted and any conflict addressed as appropriate	Council to check the accuracy of minutes before approval and signing by the Chairman.	Minutes are checked before signing. 'Declaration of Interest' is an item on every agenda. Any declarations are minuted.
Playing field and play area	Claims arising from use of playing field and play area.	L	Regular inspections are carried out. The Council has public liability insurance.	Clerk to ensure play inspection reports are presented to the Council. Council to ensure that any defects are repaired.	The play equipment is inspected monthly by West Suffolk Council and the reports emailed to the clerk. These are discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting and action

					taken where necessary.
	Injuries from falls.	L	Safagrass matting has been installed under all the play equipment except the hammock	Council to carry out regular inspections of the safety surface.	The play equipment is inspected monthly by West Suffolk Council and the reports emailed to the clerk. These are discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting and action taken where necessary.
	Injuries from use of equipment e.g. trapped hands, heads, etc.	L	Professional play equipment installers constructed the area and the installed equipment was built according to then current British Standard safety rules. Regular inspections are carried out.	Council to ensure that any defects are repaired.	The play equipment is inspected monthly by West Suffolk Council and the reports emailed to the clerk. These are discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting and action taken where necessary.
	Injuries from broken equipment.	L	Regular inspections are carried out.	Clerk to ensure play inspection reports are presented to the Council. Council to ensure that any defects are repaired.	The play equipment is inspected monthly by West Suffolk and the report emailed to the clerk. These are discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting and action taken where necessary.
	Risk of disease from animal excrement or attack from animals.	M	The playing field is a public place and animals cannot be excluded. However, dog fouling is specifically forbidden, and bins have been provided for dog excrement.	Remind dog owners via the village newsletter of their responsibility to clear up after their dogs.	Regular reminders are included in the newsletter asking owners to clear up after their dogs and a bin is provided.

Reviewed on: 3rd March 2025

Next review date: March 2026

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