

Harwell Parish Council

AIMS: To act in those areas for which we are responsible, for the benefit of the overall community while preserving/safeguarding the heritage and rural character of the Parish and the wider environment. To provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development.

- Number Objectives
- To set and manage the annual budget
  - To hold monthly Parish Council meetings and an Annual General Meeting to which the public are invited
  - To manage and maintain Parish owned property
  - To manage and maintain Parish owned land
  - To manage and maintain the Parish communications
  - To comply with GDPR regulations
  - To represent the parish's interests in planning applications
  - To operate safely and in the best interests of the staff, parishioners and council members

Risk	High	3	6	18
	Medium	2	4	8
Likelihood	Low	1	2	3
	PROBABILITY			

Number	Owner	Actionee	Risk Description	Inherent Values		Response Type	Proposed Response Plan	Residual Values	Review Date	Remarks
				Probability	Impact					
1. Might not be Council 2. Must be recognised/accepted 3. In WRITING!			CAUSE: 'Trigger'	3		For Threats: AVOID (100%) REDUCE SHARE TRANSFER CONTINGENCY ACCEPT		High/ Med / Low	1. Task Specific or 2. Calendar driven	OPEN or CLOSED
			EVENT: 'Uncertain Event'	2						
			EFFECT: 'Potential outcome/impact'	1						

Num ber	Risk Category	Own er	Action ee	Risk title	C/E/E	Risk Description	Probability	Impact	RATING	Response Type	Control	Residual risk	Date review ed	Acti on	NOTE	DR 19/10/19
1	FINANCIAL			Precept level insufficient	EFFECT	There is a risk that PC is unable to meet financial obligations (pay staff, insurances, memberships, maintain equipment)	1	3	3	AVOID	Monitoring of sufficiency of budget on a monthly basis. Quarterly budget review. Both in form setting of precept. Healy reserves	Low				low probability. Have a 5 year rolling budget so items like tree maintenance can be budgeted for.
					CAUSE	Because PC set the precept (budget) level too low										
					EVENT	which could result in Financial obligations in excess of income			3							
2	FINANCIAL			Inaccurate financial records	EFFECT	There is a risk that there is an overspend/underspend on budget	2	2	2	REDUCE	Monthly and annual R&P and bank statement checked against R&P	Low			What is R&P? Any other mitigation Clk- R&P = receipts and pavments	see comment above
					CAUSE	Because Records are absent/ not adequate / out of date										
					EVENT	which could result in Records are insufficient to make informed judgement			4							
3	FINANCIAL			Lost/stolen cash book	EFFECT	There is a risk that there is an overspend/underspend on budget	1	1	1	REDUCE	Councillor checks monthly; RFO bank reconciliation;	Low			Control needs clarifying. Confirm residual risk	
					CAUSE	Because the cash book has been lost or stolen									What does this mean Clk - note cashbook is kept electronically on laptop	low probability, is there a PC backup?
					EVENT	which could result in an inaccurate reconciliation of monies			1							
4	FINANCIAL			Excessive reserves drawdown	EFFECT	There is a risk that PC becomes financially vulnerable	2	1	1	REDUCE	Level of reserves reviewed annually to check they are in line with auditors recommendation	Low				low risk OK
					CAUSE	Because an unexpected event										
					EVENT	which could result in expenditure which necessitates drawing down of reserves.			2							
5	FINANCIAL				EFFECT		3	1	1							duplicate - removed 11/2019
					CAUSE	Because										
					EVENT	which could result in										
6	FINANCIAL			Online fraud,theft	EFFECT	There is a risk of Fraud, Theft, Data Loss of the inherent vulnerabilities in online banking	3	3	3	REDUCE	Security protocols in place: 1) Password protected; 2) pwd & logon combn changed each visit 3) bank reconciliation done monthly by RFO & clir 4) All payments by cheque require 2 Councillors 5) All direct payments require PC approval.	Medium (?)			confirm residual risk	now 2 signature reduce probability to 1. Are emails filtered to show external, could a request come to pay a bill or give phishing information? Clk - no filters that I know of but I would only pay a bill I recognised and which had been approved by PC
					CAUSE	Because Unauthorised access is gained to PC account(s)			3		Risk is spread by having a number of bank accounts					
					EVENT	which could result in			3							
7	FINANCIAL			Poor return on capital	EFFECT	There is a risk of Not optimising use of public money	2	1	1	REDUCE	RFO considers alternatives annually	Low			(RFO and Chair to consider frequency)	low risk
					CAUSE	Because Sub-optimal investment return on financial resources, reducing potential income										
					EVENT	which could result in Invested income not appreciating as much as market could allow			2							
8	FINANCIAL	Clerk		Harwell News net loss	EFFECT	There is a risk of Harwell News runs at a net loss,	1	1	1	ACCEPT	Council to review advertising charges at budget meeting in December	Medium				review and reduce probability to 1









Num ber	Risk Cate gory	Owner	Actio nee	Risk title	C/E/E	Risk Description	A 4	5 6	7 8	9 10	11 12	13 14	15 16	17 18	19 20	21 22	23 24	25 26	
1	IT	Webmaster		Website carrying incorrect material	EFFE CT	There is a risk of damage to reputation of parish council	2	2	4	REDUCE	Webmaster frequently updates 2)Monitoring by members of Council 3)Clerk to ensure webmaster has posted	Low							
					CAUSE	Because incorrect or missing website content													
					EVENT	which could result in													
2	IT	Webmaster			EFFE CT	There is a risk of reputational damage to parish council;	3	1	3	REDUCE	Server backed up nightly. Database backed up every 24 hours - allowing rapid restoration	Low							
					CAUSE	Because The website may													
					EVENT	which could result in													
3	IT	Clerk, supported by IT literate councillor or			EFFE CT	There is a risk of reputational damage to parish council; information not available to the public	1	1	1	REDUCE		???							
					CAUSE	Because Webmaster may													
					EVENT	which could result in													
4	IT	Clerk, Webmaster			EFFE CT	There is a risk of reputational damage to parish council; information not available to the public	1	1	1	REDUCE		????							
					CAUSE	Because Domain name may													
					EVENT	which could result in													
5	IT	Clerk, Webmaster			EFFE CT	There is a risk of Interruption to work of parish clerk and councillors	1	3	3	REDUCE	Ensure domain name and server are paid up and running well. Emails are copied to clerk's PC which should be backed-up regularly. 2) Cloud-based storage to be used in future; 3) Consider alternatives should server fail and webmaster not available	Low							
					CAUSE	Because Loss of domain name or server													
					EVENT	which could result in													
6	IT	Clerk, supported by IT literate councillor or			EFFE CT	There is a risk of Interruption to work of clerk/councillors (unable to access bank accounts, emails).	3	3	3	REDUCE	Clerk to maintain an inventory of passworded IT assets and have a plan for obtaining the password if the normal password holder is not available.	Low?							
					CAUSE	Because Passwords for any PC IT asset could be lost													
					EVENT	which could result in													
7	IT				EFFE CT	There is a risk of cost to Parish, reputation of parish	2	3	3	REDUCE	Clerk and at least one member of parish council has had some GDPR training; Advise from DALC Appoint GDPR controller/ Data consent being collected and collated by Clerk	Medium?							
					CAUSE	Because Council is in													
					EVENT	which could result in													
8	IT	Clerk	Data breach		EFFE CT	There is a risk of Data breach or damage to PC IT	1	3	3	REDUCE	Clerk now takes laptop home								
					CAUSE	Because IT security and/or protocols are inadequate													

It feels as if this mitigation is a bit weak. Clerk - ONLC advice was that PCs do not need a Data Controller but that if one is appointed it should preferably not be the clerk (possible conflict of interests as clerk is employee)















asbestos,  
parish  
office,  
cemetery  
shed?,  
defibrillator  
,  
eventually  
add new  
staff  
building  
during and  
after works



Audit Observations

Audit date	Priority	Observation	Recommendation	Status	Comments
13 June 2019	H	The council uses online banking however do not have dual authorisation in place. Councillors are not set up to authorise payments online.	The authority must develop specific control procedures for any payments by bank transfer or online. This must include a requirement for dual authorisation of online bank payments.	Pending	Discussed 25.6.19. Clerk to set up dual authorisation as soon as possible. Report at July meeting.
	H	It was noted the draft Annual Return numbers prepared by the Council include a large creditor of £29,105 in respect of a S106 agreement. Guidance received from External Auditors has clarified that amounts received under a S106 agreement (or under CL) should not be recorded as creditors, they must be recorded as income when received. It is unclear when this amount was received (it was not received during the 2018-19 financial year).	The Council will need to amend the Annual Return computation for 2018/19 and restate the values for the 2017/18 financial year.	Complete	S106 funds were previously entered as income but one external auditor had insisted that S106 money should be held as a creditor. This was accordingly shown in the accounts, however a subsequent external audit (2017-18) said the opposite. Council is aware of this. Clerk has restated 2017-18 accounts and will post them on the PC website by July meeting. DONE
	H	It was noted from a review of the cashbook that some items of income and expenditure have been netted off on the same account analysis code.	Items of income and items of expenditure must always be recorded gross and not netted off against each other.  The Council may need to recalculate the values computed for the accounting statements.	Complete	Refers to income & expenditure being entered in same column. Clerk to set up separate columns in cashbook. Report at July meeting. DONE
	H	Bank reconciliation have not been subject to independent review  The Practitioner's Guide 1.10 states "Statements reconciling each of the authority's bank accounts with its accounting records need to be prepared on a regular basis, including at the financial year-end, and reviewed by members of the authority."	On a regular basis, at least quarterly, bank statements must be subject to formal review. The bank reconciliation statement should be signed and dated and the supporting bank statements initialled as evidence of this review.  On a regular basis reconciliations should be reviewed by Council and signed and dated as evidence of this review.	Complete	One councillor checks petty cash and does monthly bank reconciliation but this is not signed off at present. Signing off to be mandatory from July meeting. DONE from September meeting onwards.
	M	The Council has in place a set of financial regulations which seem to be a version of the old NALC Model Financial Regulations, they do not refer to the 2015 Public Contract Regulations and the current tender threshold stated is £60,000.	The council should review and update its Financial Regulations. The Council may wish to adopt the latest (2016) Model Regulations issued by NALC.	Complete	Clerk to download copy of 2016 Financial Regulations for adoption by the Council. For July meeting. DONE
	M	It was not possible to agree the the current salaries for staff to their contracts of employment.	The council to review the current pay and agree to staff contracts of employment.	Pending	Employment contracts to have current salaries appended as an amendment. By July meeting. DONE- Staffing Committee noted current rates of pay appended to employment contracts.

Priority	
H	<b>High Priority:</b> Potential of legal or regulatory non-compliance or risk of significant financial or reputational impact
M	<b>Medium Priority:</b> Potential for operational impact, medium risk of financial or reputational impact
L	<b>Low Priority:</b> Issues that the Council should be aware of, or that have been resolved. No further action required.

*L. Rose*



HPC ACTION PLAN ADVENTURE PLAY AREA July 2019 – discussed by Lands Committee 23.7.19

Nb Lands Committee consider replacing all gym equipment using S106 funds, as well as installing new items, perhaps with running route around rec.

ACTION REQUIRED BY RoSPA REPORT 2018 not completed by date of RoSPA report 2019	BY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	RISK SCORE	COMMENTS	CHECK/DONE
Gate needs buffer	Staff	Immediate	Staff aware	L	ongoing	
Gate does not close securely	Contractor	6 months	Not possible for staff to fix because fence needs to be realigned	L	PC consider costs 9.2018	Not done
Poor drainage on spinner bowl	?	-	Ongoing problem – staff clear small holes regularly, problem already noted by PC, clerk reported as a design fault to manufacturer c. 2016	L	Ongoing problem	weekly
Tunnels – worn grass	Staff	Autumn	Staff aware. NB This is an ongoing problem in all grassed areas which staff keep a check on and repair when necessary	L	Grass seed added autumn/winter 2018 but ongoing issue	11.2018
Jupiter bridge – worn rung, dismantling needed to check for wear on ropes etc	Staff Contractor	Autumn/winter	Awaiting feedback from contractor. Contractor out of business. Staff effected repairs. Possible outside advice needed re: chains & supports	L	DONE Ongoing issues	12.2018
Air skier – rocking	Staff	Ongoing – monitor	Staff aware	L	Ongoing	-
Air walker – rocking	Staff	Ongoing - monitor	Staff aware. Same problem was fixed last year by manufacturer	L	ongoing	-
ACTIONS REQUIRED – RoSPA REPORT 2019						
Fit gate buffer	Staff	Immediate	Staff aware	L		DONE 8.2019
Adjust gate	Contractor	6 months	Fence needs re-aligning; see report 2018 above	L	staff re-positioned post	DONE 8.2019
Sign has projecting bolts – cut & file	Staff	Immediate	Staff aware	M		DONE 8.2019
			Inspection arranged for winter 2019-20			

Zipwire needs expert maintenance	Contractor	Annual	Staff comments 8.2019 – zipwire parts very flimsy (seat could ideally be harder rubber as it frays easily), and whole assembly needs replacing rather than just seat – chain is very slim. Could better parts be used?	L	PC budget for costs	12.2019
Jupiter bridge needs expert maintenance and inspections – arrange	Contractor	Annual	Arrange inspection  clk contacted zipwire mtce contractor 7.2019 – 1 quote received, awaiting further quote (£200 upfront costs to be refunded if use 1 quote)	L	“	12.2019
Jupiter bridge – rough edges need sanding	Staff	Immediate	Staff aware	L	& Loose slats and eye bolts tightened 8.2019	DONE 8.2019
Rope climber – loose bolts	Staff	Immediate	Staff aware	M	Tightened	DONE 8.2019
Air skier rocking	Staff monitor	Ongoing	Staff aware & will report	L	Ongoing 23.7.19 LC recommends replacing all gym equipmt when new items installed	
Air walker – rocking	“	“	“	M	“	
Air walker – base cap missing from post – replace	Clerk order replacement	Immediate	Staff to fit	L	Part ordered 8.2019	9.2019
Rower – corrosion at base	Staff monitor	Ongoing	Part has already been replaced once after same problem. PC consider replacing whole item with superior model	L	Ongoing	12.2019
Bark surface – needs topping up under slide, rocker bowl, spinner bowl & nest swing	Staff	Autumn	Staff to re-rake existing bark to fill low patches if possible before topping up in autumn	M	Quotes sought 7.2019	11.2019
Spinner bowl – not rotating, lower part rocking	Staff	Immediate	Staff to repair  Problem worse by 8/19 – staff have fenced off with tape & DO NOT USE notice. PC aware – remove if necessary.  TOO HEAVY for staff to repair/remove.	M	Rotating 8.2019. PC consider rocking when staff building started – may have to move this piece of equipment	9.2019
Small rocker – loose bolts	Staff	Immediate	Staff to tighten bolts	L		DONE 8.2019

Sharp items near slide – remove	Staff	Immediate	Staff check surface and remove any sharp objects	L		DONE 8.2019
Uneven surface near tunnel slide	Staff	Immediate	Staff to smooth surface as necessary	L		DONE 8.2019
Nest swing – monitor chain wear	Staff	Ongoing	Staff monitor and report	L		
Toddler swings – one not level	Staff	Immediate	Staff alter chain height until swing is level	L		DONE 8.2019
Ground needs repair near tunnels	Staff	Autumn	Staff replace grass  23.7.19 or create steps/install matting	M	Worn sections filled with topsoil, retaining blocks installed, re-turfed 8.2019. Needs matting (clerk obtained quotes)	DONE 9.2019



