

Houghton-on-the-Hill Parish Council
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Houghton-on- the Hill Parish Council Financial Regulations

- * **Please Note: The Clerk to the Parish Council is also the Responsible Financial Officer**

These Financial Regulations were adopted by Houghton on the Hill Parish Council at its meeting held on 12 September 2019.

1. General

- 1.1 These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Parish Council and may be amended or varied only by resolution of the Parish Council.
- 1.2 The Parish Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the Parish Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Parish Council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3 The Parish Council's accounting control systems must include measures:
 - for the timely production of accounts;
 - that provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money;
 - to prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud; and
 - identifying the duties of officers.
- 1.4 These financial regulations demonstrate how the Parish Council meets these responsibilities and requirements.
- 1.5 At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, the Parish Council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.6 Deliberate or wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.

1.7 Parish Councillors are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of Parish Councillor into disrepute.

1.8 The Clerk to the Parish Council has been appointed as Responsible Financial Officer for this Parish Council and these regulations will apply accordingly.

1.9 The Clerk to the Parish Council:-

- acts under the policy direction of the Parish Council;
- administers the Parish Council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
- determines on behalf of the Parish Council its accounting records and accounting control systems;
- ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
- maintains the accounting records of the Parish Council up to date in accordance with proper practices;
- assists the Parish Council to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources; and
- produces financial management information as required by the Parish Council.

1.10 The accounting records determined by the Clerk to the Parish Council shall be sufficient to show and explain the Parish Council's transactions and to enable the Clerk to the Parish Council to ensure that any income and expenditure account and statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional information, as the case may be, or management information prepared for the Parish Council from time to time comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

1.11 The accounting records determined by the Clerk to the Parish Council shall in particular contain:

- entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the Parish Council and the matters to which the income and expenditure or receipts and payments account relate;
- a record of the assets and liabilities of the Parish Council; and
- wherever relevant, a record of the Parish Council's income and expenditure in relation to claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant or subsidy.

1.12 The accounting control systems determined by the Clerk to the Parish Council shall include:

- procedures to ensure that the financial transactions of the Parish Council are recorded as soon as reasonably practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible;
- procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct any lost records;
- procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the Parish Council for approval to be written off except with the approval of the Clerk to the Parish Council and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records; and
- measures to ensure that risk is properly managed.

1.13 The Parish Council is not empowered by these Regulations or otherwise to delegate certain specified decisions. In particular any decision regarding:-

- setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);
- approving accounting statements;
- approving an annual governance statement;
- borrowing;
- writing off bad debts;
- declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and
- addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors, shall be a matter for the Parish Council only.

1.14 In addition, the Parish Council must:

- determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all Parish Council bank accounts;
- deal with any grants in accordance with its Policy on Grants.

1.15 In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations or 'the regulations' shall mean the regulations issued under the provisions of section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and then in force unless otherwise specified.

In these financial regulations the term 'proper practice' or 'proper practices' shall refer to guidance issued in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils - a Practitioners' Guide (England)* issued by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG), available from the websites of NALC and the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

2. Accounting and audit (internal and external)

- 2.1 All accounting procedures and financial records of the Parish Council shall be determined by the Clerk to the Parish Council in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, appropriate guidance and proper practices.
- 2.2. On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a Parish Councillor other than the Chairman or a cheque signatory shall verify bank reconciliations for all accounts produced by the Clerk to the Parish Council. The Parish Councillor shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Parish Council.
- 2.3 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall complete the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the Parish Council contained in the Annual Return (as specified in proper practices) as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and having certified the accounts shall submit them and report thereon to the Parish Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 2.4 The Parish Council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records, and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. The Clerk to the Parish Council or Parish Councillor shall make available such documents and records as appear to the Parish Council to be necessary for the purpose of the audit and shall, as directed by the Parish Council, supply the internal auditor or external auditor with such information and explanation as the Parish Council considers necessary for that purpose.
- 2.5 The internal auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work in relation to internal controls required by the Parish Council in accordance with proper practices.

2.6 The internal auditor shall:

- be competent and independent of the financial operations of the Parish Council;
- report to the Parish Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each financial year;
- demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, be free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
- have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the Parish Council.

2.7 Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:

- perform any operational duties for the Parish Council;
- initiate or approve accounting transactions; or
- direct the activities of any Parish Council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.

2.8 For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as is described in proper practices.

2.9 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and statements of account required by the Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

2.10 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all Parish Councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

3. Annual estimates (budget) and forward planning

- 3.1 The Clerk to the Parish Council must each year, as far as practicable and by no later than November, provide detailed financial information to enable the Parish Council to prepare a budget for the forthcoming financial year.
- 3.2 The Parish Council shall fix the precept (council tax requirement) to be levied for the ensuing financial year not later than the end of January each year. The Clerk to the Parish Council shall issue the precept to the billing authority.
- 3.3 The approved annual budget shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

4. Budgetary control and authority to spend

- 4.1 Revenue expenditure may be incurred up to the amounts included in the Parish Council's budget.
- 4.2 The Clerk to the Parish Council may incur expenditure subject to a limit of £300 on behalf of the Parish Council which is either:-
 - a) of such extreme risk to the delivery of Parish Council services that, in the opinion of the Clerk to the Parish Council, it must be done at once, whether or not there is budgetary provision. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement or other work.
 - or
 - b) in respect of grounds maintenance works that, in the opinion of the Clerk to the Parish Council, it is desirable to carry out in order to maintain the service standards as detailed in appropriate contracts.

The Clerk to the Parish Council shall report such action to the chairman as soon as possible and to the Parish Council as soon as practicable thereafter.

Such reporting is to be evidenced by a minute to that effect.

- 4.3 Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.
- 4.4 No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure other than by resolution of the Parish Council. During the budget year (typically at the October Parish Council meeting) the Parish Council having considered fully the implications for public services, may move unspent and available amounts to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate ('virement').
- 4.5 Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.
- 4.6 The salary budgets are to be reviewed at least annually for the following financial year. The Clerk to the Parish Council will inform the Parish Council of any changes, so far as he/she is aware, impacting on the budget requirement for the coming year in good time.
- 4.7 No expenditure shall be authorised in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Parish Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.
- 4.8 All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Parish Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.
- 4.9 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall each quarter, or more frequently if requested, provide the Parish Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget.
- 4.10 Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by the Parish Council as part of the budgetary control process.

5 Banking arrangements and authorisation of payments

- 5.1 The Parish Council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the Clerk to the Parish Council and approved by the Parish Council. They shall be regularly reviewed for safety and efficiency.
- 5.2 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall prepare a schedule of payments (excluding salaries and regular expenses) requiring authorisation, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting and present the schedule to the Parish Council. The Parish Council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by a resolution of the Parish Council. A detailed list of all payments shall be recorded as an appendix to the minutes.
- 5.3 All invoices for payment shall be examined by the Clerk to the Parish Council to confirm as far as practicable that the work, goods or services to which each invoice relates has been received, carried out, examined and represents expenditure previously approved by the Parish Council.
- 5.4 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall examine invoices for arithmetical accuracy and analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The Clerk to the Parish Council shall take all steps to pay all invoices submitted, and which are in order, as soon as practicable following the next available Parish Council meeting.
- 5.5 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of items only in the following circumstances:-
- a) If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of Parish Council, where the Clerk to the Parish Council certifies that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Parish Council;

b) fund transfers within the Parish Councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £5,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Parish Council.

5.6 Parish Councillors are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the Parish Council and shall comply with the Code and Standing Orders when a decision to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary or other interest, unless a dispensation has been granted.

6 Instructions for the making of payments

6.1 Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to the Parish Council shall be signed by two Parish Councillors in accordance with a resolution instructing that payment. A Parish Councillor who is a bank signatory, having a connection by virtue of family or business relationships with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to the payment in question.

6.2 To indicate agreement of the details shown on the cheque or order for payment, the signatories shall each also initial the cheque counterfoil.

6.3 Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at a Parish Council (including immediately after such a meeting). Any signatures obtained away from such meetings shall be reported to the Parish Council at the next convenient meeting.

6.4 If thought appropriate by the Parish Council, payment for certain items (principally salaries) may be made by banker's standing order provided that the instructions are authorised by two Parish Councillors.

6.5 If thought appropriate by the Parish Council, payment for certain items may be made by BACS or CHAPS methods provided that the instructions for each payment are authorised by two Parish Councillors.

- 6.6 If thought appropriate by the Parish Council payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which Parish Councillors approved the payment.
- 6.7 No employee or Parish Councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the Parish Council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the Parish Council.
- 6.8 Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer in question, and preferably off site.
- 6.9 The Parish Council, and any Parish Councillors using computers for the Parish Council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- 6.10 Where internet banking arrangements are made, the Clerk to the Parish Council shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate approved by the Parish Council shall identify a number of Parish Councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts.
- 6.11 Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking will be authorised by two Parish Councillors.
- 6.12 Any Prepaid Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk to the Parish Council and will be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £250 unless authorised by the Parish Council before any order is placed. The Clerk to the Parish Council will top up the card by not less than £10.00 on each occasion in order to maintain a balance of not less than £50.00. Authorisation for such transactions will be made in accordance with paragraph 6.6.

6.13 The Parish Council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk to the Parish Council (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Parish Council's bankers with such frequency as the Clerk to the Parish Council considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.

7. Payment of salaries

7.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk to the Parish Council to calculate payment of salaries and wages in accordance with the rates in force and arrange for such payment to be made via the Parish Council's banker, cheque or other means agreed by the Parish Council.

7.2 As an employer, the Parish Council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation. The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salary rates shall be as agreed by the Parish Council.

7.3 Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be required to be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, or similar statutory or discretionary deductions must be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts.

7.4 No changes shall be made to any employee's pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the Parish Council.

7.5 Each and every payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded as a separate confidential record which is not open to inspection or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise) other than by:-

- a) any Parish Councillor who can demonstrate a need to know;
- b) the internal auditor;
- c) the external auditor; or
- d) any person authorised under the Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation.

7.6 The total of such payments in each quarter shall be reported with all other payments as required under Financial Regulation 4.9 to ensure that only payments due for the period have actually been paid.

7.7 Any termination payments shall be supported by a clear business case and reported to the Parish Council. Termination payments shall be authorised only by the Parish Council.

7.8 Before employing interim staff, the Parish Council must consider a full business case.

8. Loans and investments

8.1 All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Parish Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by the Parish Council as to terms and purpose. The application for borrowing approval, and subsequent arrangements for the loan shall be approved only by the Parish Council.

- 8.2 Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible assets) shall be subject to approval by the Parish Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to the Parish Council in respect of value for money for the proposed transaction.
- 8.3 If possible, the Clerk to the Parish Council will arrange with the Parish Council's banks and investment providers for the sending of a copy of each statement of account to the Chairman of the Parish Council at the same time as one is issued to the Clerk to the Parish Council. Otherwise, the information will be available either by the Chairman's electronic access to the Parish Council's statement of account or by copies of statements made available to the Chairman.
- 8.4 All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Parish Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Parish Council policy.
- 8.5. An Investment Strategy and Policy, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the Parish Council at least annually.
- 8.6 All investments of money under the control of the Parish Council shall be in the name of the Parish Council.
- 8.7 All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 8.8 Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, or branch, shall be made in accordance with Regulation 5 (Authorisation of payments) and Regulation 6 (Instructions for payments).

9. Income

- 9.1 The collection of all sums due to the Parish Council shall be the responsibility of the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 9.2 Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed at appropriate intervals by the Parish Council, notified to the Clerk to the Parish Council who shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Parish Council.
- 9.3 The Parish Council will review all fees and charges at appropriate intervals.
- 9.4 Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the Parish Council and shall be written off in the year.
- 9.5 Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 9.6 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall promptly complete any VAT Return that is required. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.

10. Orders for work, goods and services

- 10.1 An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained.
- 10.2 Order books shall be controlled by the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 10.3 All Parish Councillors and the Clerk to the Parish Council are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. The Clerk to the Parish Council issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any de minimis provisions in Regulation 11.1.

10.4 A Parish Councillor may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the Parish Council.

10.5 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the Clerk to the Parish Council shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved so that the minutes can record the power being used.

11. Contracts

11.1 Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:

- a) Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) as follows:-
- (i) for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;
 - (ii) for specialist services such as are provided by legal professionals acting in disputes;
 - (iii) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;
 - (iv) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Parish Council;
 - (v) for additional audit work of the external auditor up to an estimated value of £500 (in excess of this sum the Clerk to the Parish Council shall act after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council); and

- (vi) for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and/or are sold at only a fixed price.
- b) Where the Parish Council intends to procure or award a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract as defined by The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ('the Regulations') which is valued at £25,000 or more, the Parish Council shall comply with the relevant requirements of the Regulations¹.
- c) The full requirements of The Regulations, as applicable, shall be followed in respect of the tendering and award of a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract which exceed thresholds in The Regulations set by the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU (which may change from time to time)².
- d) When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Parish Council.
- e) Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk to the Parish Council shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk to the Parish Council in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
- f) All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk to the Parish Council in the presence of at least one Parish Councillor.

¹ The Regulations require councils to use the Contracts Finder website to advertise contract opportunities, set out the procedures to be followed in awarding new contracts and to publicise the award of new contracts

² Thresholds currently applicable are:

- a) For public supply and public service contracts £189,330 net of VAT
- b) For public works contracts £4,733,252 net of VAT

- g) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order 16 and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- h) When it is to enter into a contract of less than £25,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk to the Parish Council shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £3,000 and above £100 the Clerk to the Parish Council shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10.3 shall apply.
- i) The Parish Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.
- j) Should it occur that the Parish Council does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the Parish Council requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.

12. Assets, properties and estates

12.1 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the Parish Council. The Clerk to the Parish Council shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties held by the Parish Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 12.2 No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the Parish Council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed £250.
- 12.3 No real property (interests in land) shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Parish Council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to the Parish Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).
- 12.4 No real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the Parish Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to the Parish Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).
- 12.5 Subject only to the limit set in Regulation 12.2, no tangible moveable property shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the Parish Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to the Parish Council with a full business case.
- 12.6 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at appropriate intervals, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

13. Insurance

- 13.1 Following the annual risk assessment (per Regulation 14), the Clerk to the Parish Council shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Parish Council's insurers.
- 13.2 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall provide prompt notification to the Parish Council of all new risks or properties which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 13.3 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the Parish Council and the property and risks covered.
- 13.4 The Clerk to the Parish Council shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to the Parish Council at the next available meeting.
- 13.5 All appropriate Parish Councillors and employees of the Parish Council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined by the Parish Council.

14. Risk management

- 14.1 The Parish Council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The Clerk to the Parish Council shall prepare, for approval by the Parish Council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the Parish Council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the Parish Council at appropriate intervals.

15. Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations

15.1 It shall be the duty of the Parish Council to review the Financial Regulations of the Parish Council from time to time. The Clerk to the Parish Council shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the Parish Council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these Financial Regulations.

15.2 The Parish Council may, by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of Parish Council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all Parish Councillors.