

Wilton Town Council Policy

Adopted by Wilton Town Council on 24th February 2021 Reviewed by Wilton Town Council June 2022 and March 2023 Minute reference; Review date; January 2024

1. Background

- 1.1. Risk is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, will have an effect on the achievement of Wilton Town Council's objectives. Risk management is the process whereby the Council methodically address the risks associated with what it does and the services it provides. The focus of risk management is to identify what can go wrong and take proportionate steps to avoid this or successfully manage the consequences. Good risk management allows stakeholders to have increased confidence in the authority's corporate governance arrangements and its ability to deliver its priorities.
- 1.2. Risk management is not just about financial management; it is about protecting the achievement of objectives set by the Council to deliver high quality public services. The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, and can impact on the ability to achieve desired outcomes. The authority generally and members individually are responsible for risk management.
- 1.3. Risk management is an ongoing activity that comprises four elements:
 - a) identifying risks;
 - b) assessing risks;
 - c) addressing risks; and
 - d) reviewing and reporting.

2. Identifying risks

- 2.1. In order to manage risk, the Council needs to know what risks it faces. Identifying risks is therefore the first step in the risk management process.
- 2.2. The Council will identify the key risks to achieving successfully its priorities and service objectives, in the following categories:
 - a) financial loss of money;
 - b) security fraud, theft, embezzlement;
 - c) property damage to property;
 - d) legal breaking the law or being sued;
 - e) IT failure of IT systems or misuse; and
 - f) reputational actions taken could harm the authority's public reputation.

3. Assessing risks

3.1. Having identified potential risks, the Council assesses the likelihood of it happening and the impact it would have, using JPAGs recommended assessment process. This allows the Council to identify low, medium and high risks when considering measures it should take.

3.2. Wilton Town Council's risk assessment matrix:

$\left\{ \right.$	Likelihood		Highly likely (3)	Medium (3)	High (6)	Very high (9)
			Possible (2)	Low (2)	Medium (4)	High (6)
			Unlikely (1)	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Medium (3)
				Negligible (1)	Moderate (2)	Severe (3)
				In	npact on the Counc	zil

4. Assessing risks

4.1. Risk is unavoidable, and every organisation needs to take action to manage risk in a way which it can justify to a level which is tolerable. The response to risk, which is initiated within the Council, is called 'internal control' and may involve one or more of the following standard responses:

Tolerate	For risks that are containable; where the possible controls cannot be justified (e.g. they would be disproportionate) and where risks are unavoidable e.g. terrorism.
Treat	Imposing controls so that the organisation can continue to operate; or introducing measures to deal with the risk.
Transfer	Buying in a service from a specialist external body or taking out insurance. Some risks cannot be transferred, especially reputational risk.
Terminate	Avoiding or cancelling activities where no response can bring the risk to an acceptable level.

- 4.2. The Council will use insurance to help manage risk to include the following:
 - a) The protection of physical assets owned by the authority buildings, furniture, equipment, etc. (loss or damage).
 - b) The risk of damage to third party property or individuals as a consequence of the authority providing services or amenities to the public (public liability).
 - c) The risk of consequential loss of income or the need to provide essential services following critical damage, loss or non-performance by a third party (consequential loss).
 - d) Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty (fidelity guarantee).
 - e) Legal liability as a consequence of asset ownership (public liability).
- 4.3. The limited staff resources available to the Council means that it works with specialist external bodies to help manage risk include the following:
 - a) Security and maintenance for vulnerable buildings, amenities or equipment.
 - b) The provision of services being carried out under agency/partnership agreements with principal authorities.

- c) Banking arrangements, including borrowing or lending.
- d) Ad hoc provision of amenities/ facilities for events to local community groups.
- e) Markets management.
- f) Vehicle or equipment lease or hire.
- g) Trading units (leisure centres, playing fields, burial grounds, etc.).
- h) Professional services (planning, architects, accountancy, design, etc.).

5. Reviewing and reporting

- 5.1. Having identified likely risks, the Council records this in the Wilton Town Council Risk Register (Appendix 1). This register is kept under review by the Responsible Financial Officer and is reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 5.2. The Council seeks advice and guidance on risk management from its insurers, JPAG, the National Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks and other training providers. The Council provides training for its staff through the CiLCA qualifications and additional specialist training where appropriate.

Wilton Town Council

Risk Register

21st March 2023



Categories of risk

- **1.** Financial loss of money, fraud, theft, embezzlement
- 2. Property and Facilities– damage to property
- **3.** Legal breaking the law or being sued
- 4. IT failure of IT systems or misuse
- 5. Reputational actions harm the Council's public reputation

Submitted to Full Council: 04/04/23

1. Financial

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Mitigation
no.				score	score	rating	
1.1	P&R	Precept not sufficient for intended purpose	The Council has insufficient income for the forthcoming year	1	2	2	Budgeting process is robust – budget working group reports to the principal committees and the committees report to Council in December. Budgeting is now fully undertaken using RIALTAS software and broken down by cost centre. Variations and spend is monitored in real time. Revisions can be made throughout the year to bring in additional funds from reserves and other external sources – such as s106 projects. Projected spend is now monitored as part of the devolved budgeting arrangements to the committees. Actions required: NONE
1.2	P&R	Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty (fidelity guarantee)	The Council loses income and assets	1	2	2	No cash now kept in the Office. 90% of transactions online. All payments subject to approval by two elected members of the Council. All cheques to be signed by two elected members. Staff debit cards covered by new policy. Insurance cover maintained. Actions required: NONE
1.3	P&R	The Council does not identify its risks	Financial, criminal or reputational loss.	1	2	2	Annual review of risk undertaken by P&R Committee and Council and larger scale activities such as the Christmas Lights event have a separate risk assessment carried out and reviewed by the Clerk. Actions required: NONE
1.4	P&R	The Council is not insured adequately	Financial, criminal or reputational loss.	1	3	3	P&R Committee reviews insurance policy annually to ensure adequate cover is maintained. RFO works with the broker annually to confirm adequate cover. on a policy arranged through Came and Company a specialist provider of local Council insurance. Actions required: NONE
1.5	P&R	Failure to correctly award contract for services or the purchase of capital equipment.	The Council does not award contracts correctly resulting in financial or reputational loss to the Council.	2	2	4	Standing Orders were reviewed in February 2022 Financial Regulations were reviewed in October 2022 Actions required: NONE
1.6	P&R	The Council does not act legally and exceeds its powers.	The Council risks financial and reputational loss.	1	3	3	Clerk qualified in CILCA to ensure high standard of competency; Assistant Clerk completed ILCA. Section 137 expenditure reported separately within the budget. Two Cllrs signing off payments check payment against invoices. Accounting Technician undertaking independent check of financial systems. Actions required: NONE.

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Mitigation
no.				score	score	rating	
1.7	P&R	Activity does not match information reported.	The Council does not know of activity undertaken and risks financial loss. An unauthorised activity takes place.	1	2	2	Schedule of payments submitted to Full Council / Committee for approval All online payments require 2 Councillors to authorise before payment. Cheques authorised by two Councillors. Password protection for internet and telephone banking. Oversight of income and expenditure from payment schedule to cashbook and bank statements undertaken by both Chair of P & R and Internal Auditor. Processing of orders and authorisation of invoices separated between the Clerk and Assistant Clerk
1.8	P&R	Contracts are not reviewed annually.	The Council does not achieve value for money or works are not carried out correctly.	1	2	2	Actions required: NONE WC toilet cleaning contract reviewed December 2021. Grounds maintenance contract renewed 01/04/22 after tender process inc a full review of the contract. Utility contracts were reviewed February 2023 –provider changed Phone and broadband contract renewal due early 2023. Actions required: NONE
1.9	P&R	Failure to adhere to codes of practice for procurement and investment	Financial loss to the Council.	1	2	2	Covered by Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; Professional advice sought on larger projects.
1.10	P&R	Failure to regularly reconcile bank accounts.	The Council is unaware of its financial position. Financial loss to the Council.	1	2	4	Monthly reconciliation undertaken by the RFO or Accounting Technician using RIALTAS software and online banking services. Bank reconciliations reported to Full Council and signed by the Chair of the meeting. Annual review by Internal Auditor.
1.11	P&R	The Council does not scrutinise income or expenditure.	The Council is unaware of its financial position. Financial loss to the Council. Risk of reputational loss.	1	3	3	Expenditure schedule reported to Full Council and Committees and signed by 2 Councillors following approval. Regular budget monitoring reports submitted to committees and Council giving real time information about spend and income. Oversight of income and expenditure from payment schedule to cashbook and bank statements undertaken by both Full Council and Internal Auditor. Processing of orders and authorisation of invoices separated between the Clerk and Assistant Clerk Actions required: NONE

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Mitigation
no.				score	score	rating	
1.12	P&R	Salaries and contributions are not paid correctly.	The Councils risks reputational and financial loss	1	2	2	Salaries of staff are processed by the external Payroll provider. Salaries reported to budget working group – including increases approved by JNC. Pension calculations checked annually. All items checked by Internal Auditor. Meetings arranged to facilitate achievement of HMRC and pension scheme deadlines. Actions required: NONE
1.13	P&R	The Council fails to review contracts of employment for all staff and does not take account of any changes in relevant legislation.	The Council risks financial and reputational loss.	1	2	2	NALC model contracts used for all staff. Actions required: annual review by staffing committee.
1.14	P&R	Council does not charge or claim back appropriate VAT	The Council risks financial loss.	1	2	2	Financial regulations set out requirements. VAT returns submitted online quarterly by the Clerk. Internal Auditor checks Annually. Actions required: NONE
1.15	P&R	The Council fails to make required submissions to HMRC and/or Wiltshire Pension Fund.	The Council risks being fined.	1	2	2	 HMRC records are prepared through HMRC Basic Pay Tools Online payment of Wiltshire LGPS reported to Full Council Clerk has powers to authorise payments using the Business Account debit card and report retrospectively to Full Council in appropriate situations Actions required: NONE
1.16	P&R	The Council does not monitor its budgets adequately.	The Council is unaware of its income or expenditure against targets set. Financial loss to the Council.	1	2	2	Regular budget monitoring statements & projections prepared by RFO and presented to Full Council. Actions required: NONE
1.17	P&R	The Council does not monitor income – grants (eg S106), CIL or loans correctly.	Financial loss to the Council.	1	2	2	PWLB payments monitored by Full Council. S106 income is reported as part of the project review. Income is included in the budget and monitored by committee. Actions required: NONE
1.18	P&R	Minutes of meetings are not properly kept	The Council risks reputational damage. Risk of illegality of decisions.	1	2	2	Minutes are signed soon after the meeting and filed. Minute files kept in fire resistant filing cabinet. Actions required: NONE

2. Property and facilities

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no.				score	score	rating	
2.1	P&R	Parish Office - fire, loss or damage.	The loss or damage to buildings or assets will affect the Council's ability to carry out its business. Loss of rental income.	2	3	6	 Insurance updated to represent new value of building since alterations in 2018. Fire alarms regularly checked and maintained. Security system regularly checked and maintained. Fire-fighting equipment regularly checked. Actions required: Repair and maintenance schedule to be prepared
2.2	P&R	Parish office – assets	Financial and reputational loss to the Council.	2	3	6	 High value silver items kept in the safe. All other buildings contents insured by AXA Asset register reviewed annually. Actions required: Update buildings valuation Separate insurance assessment of high value items Archival assessment by WC
2.3	E&A	Castle Meadow Pavilion – fire, loss or damage.	Loss of income from hire fees	2	2	4	 Insurance cover provided by AXA. Fire alarms regularly checked and maintained. Security system regularly checked and maintained. CCTV system installed. Fire alarm system installed. Fire-fighting equipment to be procured. Shutter and door locks. Actions required: Electrical testing carried out annually. Repair and maintenance schedule to be prepared Hire agreement reviewed to cover risks. Fire extinguishers need replacing in 2023
2.4	E&A	Castle Meadow Sports Field - risks to users	Claims for compensation arising from accidents, injuries and physical harm. Reputational risk.	2	3	6	 Public liability indemnity maintained through AXA. Play and gym equipment inspected weekly by grounds maintenance contractor – Idverde. Actions required: Playing fields to be free of dog mess. Sewage Treatment Package - regular maintenance schedule. Electrical testing carried out annually. Information boards and warning signs Legionella Risk Assessment Staff training for legionella testing.

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no.				score	score	rating	
2.5	E&A	Cemetery Lodge - fire, loss or damage.	The loss or damage to buildings or assets will affect the Council's ability to carry out its business.	2	2	4	 Security alarm installed but no fire alarm. Regular weekly inspections by contractors and lead Councillor. Actions required: Arrange fire safety inspection Investigate the installation of a fire alarm system.
2.6	E&A	Cemetery	Claims for compensation arising from accidents, injuries and physical harm. Reputational risk.	1	2	2	Regular weekly inspections by contractors and lead Councillor. Actions required: NONE
2.7	E&A	Council owned play areas: Bulbridge, Minster Street (including tennis courts), Wishford Road. Risk of accidents.	Equipment may become unsafe and cause risk of injury to users. Risk of legal claims for compensation and associated, reputational harm.	2	2	4	All play equipment and associated furniture insured by the Town Council through AXA and inspected weekly by the Council's contractors, Idverde. Maintenance/repair issues are reported to the Clerk. Damaged equipment is removed or fenced off where required. The publicly accessible Defibrillators (Baptist Church, Castle Meadow and Community Centre) are checked monthly by the Assistant Clerk. Tennis courts closed between December and April to avoid risk of frost damage. Actions required: NONE
2.8	E&A	Council owned play areas: Bulbridge, Minster Street, Wishford Road. Risk of loss or damage.	Equipment may be damaged and have to be removed from use. Potential financial loss to the Council and reputational harm.	3	1	3	All play equipment and associated furniture insured by the Town Council through AXA. All equipment and furniture could be replaced with 21 days. All play equipment is inspected weekly by the Council's contractors, Idverde, and any maintenance/repair issues are reported to the Clerk. Damaged equipment is removed or fenced off where required. The publicly accessible Defibrillators (Baptist Church, Castle Meadow and Community Centre) are checked monthly by the Assistant Clerk. Actions required: NONE
2.9	E&A	Public conveniences – risk of accidents and/or loss/damage	Slips, trips and falls hazards. Risk of legal claims for compensation and associated , reputational harm.	1	3	3	Insured through AXA. Inspected daily by the Council's contractors, Idverde, and any maintenance/repair issues are reported to the Clerk. Any damaged equipment, leaks or blockages are repaired within 14 days of report and the facility may be closed during this period depending on the risk involved. Actions required: Monitor WC cleaning contract.
2.10	E&A	Old St Mary's Church Yard - risk of accidents and/or loss/damage	Damage to property> Slips, trips and falls hazards. Risk of legal claims for compensation and associated, reputational harm.	2	3	6	Insured through AXA. Inspected weekly by the Council's contractors, Idverde, and any maintenance/repair issues are reported to the Clerk. Frequent damage caused by cars, litter, dog mess and graffiti also reported. Actions required: None

2.11	E&A	Outdoor Assets – Bins, Benches, Bus Stops & Signage	Risk of injury (splinters, trip hazard, minor cuts etc) if outdoor assets are not well maintained. Risk of Vandalism or other damage to equipment which in turn could cause injury	1	2	2	Assets are checked throughout the year by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor, IdVerde. Damage caused by weather is routinely inspected, cleaned and/or repaired. Replacement and repairs are undertaken as required. Actions required: NONE
2.12	E&A	Open Space Contract activities – grass cutting, hedge trimming/cutting, managing shrubbery	Risk of injury to both public and contractors if sensible precautions not put in place	1	2	2	All contractors who carry out work for the Parish must have PLI insurance to a minimum of £5m. Contractors approved by Wiltshire Council. Actions required: NONE
2.13	E&A	Water Features – Rivers, ditches and fountain.	Risk of injury or drowning to public if signs are disregarded	1	3	3	Castle Meadow and Minster Street have adjoining rivers and watercourses. The Council is taking steps to minimise risks to users of these facilities. The fountain in Minster Street has been brought back into operation and a separate review of its use is recommended. Actions required: • signage required • review of fountain safety.
2.14	E&A	Litter Picking	Risk of injury if involved in litter picking – glass or other dangerous item or from a collision with bikes or vehicles.	1	3	3	Parish Litter Picker always wears high vis garment – Volunteers covered by the Councils insurance through AXA. High visibility wear, gloves, pickers and bags (with hoops) to be provided. Safety guidelines to be provided to volunteers and organisers. Children always properly supervised by either parents or group leaders (e.g. Brownies or Cubs) and evidence of Safeguarding required. Actions required: New safety equipment to be purchased
2.15	E&A	Deployment of the Speed Indicator Device	Risk of injury to volunteers Risk of damage to device	1	3	3	Volunteers must complete the online training provided by Wiltshire Council. Volunteers must abide by Risk Assessment and sign to confirm they have read and understood the documentation. Actions required: Monitor

2.16	Staffi ng	Lone Working	Risk of injury	1	3	3	All Staff must follow the Lone Worker Policy adopted by Wilton Town Council. All Staff issued with a Councillor contact list for use in an emergency.
							Actions required: NONE
Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no.				score	score	rating	
2.17	E&A	Ownership of Trees – the Council is responsible for a large number of trees on its land and open spaces.	Damage caused to or by trees which endangers public safety or causes legal nuisance to others.	2	3	6	Parish Trees are inspected by the Council's grounds maintenance contractors on a weekly basis. Issues are reported to the Clerk and action taken where necessary following inspection by arboriculture contractor. Full tree survey completed in 2021. Actions required: Tree survey work to be completed
2.18	E&A	Failure of security for buildings, amenities or equipment – e.g.store at Castle Meadow	Buildings, amenities or equipment may be damaged or stolen preventing use or access.	1	2	2	The Castle Meadow compound is secured and monitored by CCTV. Insured through AXA.
2.19	E&A	Unauthorised traveller encampment	Damage caused to land or assets due to an unauthorised traveller encampment; costs incurred.	1	3	3	 The following procedure is in place to deal with unauthorised traveller encampments; the Clerk will: notify the Police, issue a code of conduct to persons, supply bin bags and request considerate use of the land ensure staff do not attend a site unaccompanied or without a mobile phone Serve notice to vacate and authorises the Clerk to put Bailiffs on standby if the encampment fails to vacate by the date specified on the notice Financial Regulations (no 4.5) allow for up to £5k of spend to clear the site and a further £1k to clean up the site An annual inspection to be carried out of all sites to assess for vulnerabilities to encampments.
2.20	E&A	Failure to identify work undertaken by contractors or suppliers.	The Council does not know of work undertaken by contractors or suppliers or its outcome.	2	2	4	The Council's grounds maintenance contractor, Idverde, provides a weekly inspection report for the WC and has a monthly meeting with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to review performance and discuss any issues relating to all matters under the contract. All invoices are submitted to the Council for approval and are subject to scrutiny. Works not undertaken to a satisfactory standard are subject to review by the Clerk and payments may be held until resolved. Actions required: NONE

3. Legal

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no. 3.1	P&R	Legal liability as a consequence of asset ownership (public liability)	The Council has to contest legal cases that may lead to financial or reputation loss.	score 1	3	ating 3	 The Council maintains appropriate insurance cover through AXA insurance. This is a specialist local government insurance policy covering: Property Damage Business Interruption Money and Personal Accident Assault Group Personal Accident Employers Liability (covering staff and volunteers) Public and Products Liability Officers Liability (Officials Indemnity) Council Legal Liability and Legal Expenses (including Employee
3.2	P&R	The risk of damage to third party or individuals as a consequence of the Council providing services or amenities to the public (public liability)	An insurance claim may be made against the Council	2	2	4	Dishonesty) Actions required: NONE All amenities and public open spaces, managed by the Parish Council are insured through AXA for public liability up to a maximum of £10 million. Risks are assessed on an annual basis. And facilities are monitored weekly by the Council's principal contractor, IdVerde. Actions required: NONE
3.3	P&R	Legal liability as a consequence of an event (public liability)	The Council has to contest legal cases that may lead to financial or reputation loss.	2	2	4	A risk assessment is carried out for each event and shared with key personnel. An event owner is assigned. All third parties booked for events are asked to supply their own risk assessment and a copy of their PLI. Actions required: Develop a new risk assessment template for public events.
3.4	P&R	Failure of professional services employed by the Council.	The Council may use unqualified or insufficiently qualified professionals leading to loss.	1	2	2	Staff are supported to obtain professional qualifications through CiLCA. The Council will use properly accredited professionals who appear on approved contractor lists from SLCC or NALC; or have sought recommendation, proposals and quotes from 3 providers for any advice. Advice service from both SLCC and WALC (subset of NALC) regularly used as first port of call for advice. Professionals should have in place professional indemnity insurance. Actions required: NONE

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no.				score	score	rating	
3.5	P&R	Loss of Clerk/RFO	The Council may be unable to undertake all duties and responsibilities in a way that is complaint with current legislation	1	4	4	The Council is insured for loss of key personnel for up to a maximum of £2.5k. A locum clerk may be available through contact with SLCC or NALC. The Assistant Clerk has been trained on key aspects of the role in the event that the Clerk was unavailable having completed the ILCA. The Clerk's inbox and IT files are accessible by the Assistant Clerk. Actions required : Additional training for Assistant Clerk and increased insurance cover to provide additional resources in the event of the loss of the Clerk.

4. IT

Risk	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Risk	Response
no.				score	score	rating	
4.1	P&R	Business continuity	Loss of Parish Office would restrict access to documentation	2	2	4	All files are electronically stored and accessible in the cloud. Copies of recent leases are held by the Council's Solicitors. A hard copy of Minutes is maintained as well as copies of approved minutes on the parish website (separate to the Office 365 cloud copy). Daily back up of computers. Actions required: NONE
4.2	P&R	The Council risks losing files and data	The Council is unable to carry out its business and regulatory requirements.	2	2	4	All files are stored on the Council Server are backed up daily using Cloudberry. Actions required: • IT security audit to be commissioned
4.3	P&R	Unrestricted access to Council data	Council data is accessible to non-Council staff	2	2	4	Passwords are in place to access computers, datafiles, and finance systems. Filing cabinets are locked. Actions required: NONE
4.4	P&R	Accessing Electoral Roll data	An offence may occur if data is not used correctly	1	3	3	The data is password protected and can only be accessed with the authority of the Clerk. Actions required: NONE

5. Reputational

Risk no.	Resp	Description	Impact	Likelihood score	Impact score	Risk rating	Response
5.1	P&R	The Council does not respond to enquiries from the public	The Council risks reputational damage.	2	2	4	Telephone enquiries dealt with at the time and recorded if considered important. E-mail and other mail dealt with and filed. Important communications shared with all members of the Council. Actions required: NONE
5.2	P&R	The Council fails to handle documents correctly.	The Council risks reputational damage.	1	2	2	Policies are now in place in line with GDPR legislation. These cover the management, retention, transfer and disposal of data. All staff are briefed on their responsibilities in accordance with these policies Actions required: NONE
5.3	P&R	Members are unaware of the Council's policy regarding declarations of interests and the receiving of gifts and hospitality	The Council risks reputational damage.	1	3	3	Recording and monitoring members' interests, gifts and hospitality received undertaken by Clerk. Code of conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are all reviewed annually by Council. New Councillors joining part way through a year/term are all issued with a copy of these key policies. Gifts and/or hospitality of £25 or over should be recorded in a register kept by the Clerk as required by the Code of Conduct Actions required: NONE
5.4	P&R	Members (or employees) do not behave to the standards expected	The Council risks reputational damage.	2	3	6	New code of conduct for Members adopted May 2021 Actions required: NONE

Risks reviewed: 21/03/2023 Minute reference: PR/27/23