



This document is controlled and no changes can be made without a parish council resolution.

Version 1

Approved: April 2026 Item 6

Document no. CB 08

CHERITON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT 2026

Subject	Risk(s) identified	Risk Score Severity/Probability *	Management/Control of Risk	Review Date/Reassessment
Business Continuity	Council not being able to continue its business due to an unexpected or tragic circumstance	Moderate/Low	All files and recent records kept at Clerk's home. Computer back up of files made when computer is switched on or off in Google cloud. If Clerk is indisposed, the Chairman holds email log on information and to contact DALC For list of locum clerks.	Review when necessary
Meeting location	Adequacy Health & Safety	Low/Low High/Low	Meetings are held in rooms which are adequate for clerk, councillors and any public attending with regard to health,	Adequate risk control in place

			safety & comfort. During pandemic meetings are held remotely to avoid risk of infection at meetings	
Council Records	Loss due to theft, fire or damage	Moderate/Low	Current papers held in files in Clerk's home. Old records are held at County Records Office	Damage or theft is unlikely to provision is adequate
Electronic Council Records	Loss through damage, fire or corruption of computer	Moderate/Low	Electronic records are stored on council's computer. Backups are done when computer is turned on or off and stored in Google Cloud	Adequate risk control in place
Precept	Adequacy of precept	Moderate/Low	Sound budgeting to underline annual precept. Clerk receives regular bank statements and reports budget monitor to council every quarter. Precept is reviewed and set annually in January	Existing procedure adequate
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	High/Low Low/Low High/Low Moderate/Low	Insurance arrangements reviewed annually. Employer's liability, public liability and Fidelity guarantee are statutory requirements.	Existing procedure adequate. Reviewed annually
Banking	Inadequate checks	Moderate/Low	Council's Financial Regulations set out requirements for banking, cheques and reconciliation of accounts. Accounts are reviewed annually by internal audit and if required external audit	Existing procedures adequate. Review Financial Regulations as necessary
Cash	Loss through theft or dishonesty	Moderate/Low	No petty cash or float held. Any cash transactions by clerk are receipted and re-imbursed monthly by bank transfer after approval by Council	Existing procedures adequate
Financial Controls and records	Inadequate checks	High/Low	Monthly bank reconciliations carried out by clerk. Two out of three signatories required for cheques of internet banking authorisation. All expenditure approved by Council and	Existing procedures adequate

			minuted. Annual internal audit and if required external audit. S137 payments approved by Council and minuted.	
Freedom of Information requests	Policy provision inadequate	High/Low	Model Publication Scheme for local councils is in place. Clerk is aware that if a substantial request is received it may require many hours of additional work. Council is able to request a fee if the work will take over 15 hours.	Monitor and report impact from any FOI requests.
Clerk	Loss of Clerk Fraud Actions	Moderate/Moderate High/Low High/Low	Chairman has contact details for DALC to arrange locum. Training monies should be budgeted annually to enable any new clerk/RFO to attend initial training and then CiLCA qualification. Requirements of the Fidelity guarantee must be adhered to. Clerk to be provided all relevant training, reference books and legal advice	Include in annual training budget when setting Precept. Maintain membership of DALC. Monitor working conditions. Membership of SLCC recommended
Election	Risk of election cost	Moderate/Moderate	Risk is higher in election year. There are no measures which can be adopted to minimise the risk of a contested election. A contingency fund should be kept to meet possible costs, particularly in an election year.	Include in financial budget when setting precept.
VAT	Incorrect reclaim or charge	Moderate/Low	Council's Financial Regulations set out requirements. Re-claim VAT annually.	Existing procedures adequate.
Annual Return	Not submitted within time limits	Moderate/Low	Annual return is completed and signed off by Council, submitted to Internal Auditor for completion for signing. Checked and sent to External Auditor within time limits (if required)	Existing procedures adequate
Assets				

Street & open space furniture, playground and equipment, machinery	Damage to or theft of assets Injury to third party	Low	Asset register is kept up to date and insurance is in place at appropriate amount for all items. Assets regularly checked by councillors. Playground is inspected annually by ROSPA and recommendations acted upon.	Existing procedures adequate.
Liability				
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments. Working parties taking decisions	Low	All activity and payments made within the powers of the council and are clearly resolved and minutes. Working parties are not allowed to make financial decisions.	Existing procedures adequate.
Minutes, agendas, statutory documents	Accuracy and legality Non compliance with statutory requirements	Low Low	Minutes and agendas are produced in the prescribes method and adhere to legal requirements. Minutes are approved and signed at the next suitable meeting. Minutes and agendas are displayed according to legal requirements. Business conducted at meetings is managed by chairman	Existing procedures adequate. Clerk and councillors undertake adequate training. Councillors adhere to the Code of Conduct
Public liability	Risk to third parties, property or individuals	Moderate	Insurance is in place. Risk assessment of open spaces is carried out. Risk assessment of individual events is undertaken	Existing procedure adequate
Employer liability	Non compliance with employment law	Low	Undertake adequate training and seek advice from DALC or District Council where necessary. Maintain HR committee	Existing procedure adequate
Legal liability	Legality of activities Proper and timely reporting via minutes	Moderate	Clerk to clarify Council's legal position on proposals and seek advice if necessary. Council always receives and approves minutes at monthly meetings	Existing procedures adequate

Councillors' Proprietary				
Members interests	Conflict of interest Register of Members' Interests	High/Low High/Moderate	Councillors have a duty to declare any interest at the start of the meeting. Register of Members interests form to be reviewed on an annual basis. Councillors to undertake appropriate training	Existing procedures adequate. Members to take responsibility to update their own registers

Severity = impacts upon any of: health and safety, finances, disruption to PC activity or local image of PC

Probability = likelihood of risk event occurring in any one year period

Signed Date

Reviewed April 2022