



Ashchurch Rural Parish Risk Management Policy

Last reviewed by Ashchurch Rural Parish Council on 22 January 2024
Next review due in January 2025 or sooner if required.

Introduction

Risk management is a structured approach to managing known, and perceived threats, (for example, cuts at Borough and County level which may reduce local services) and also Opportunities (positive Risks) which may be exploited for the benefit of the Parish. It closely relates to a Council's ongoing activities and flows from regular assessment of risk, for Parish Councils this may be described as risk awareness & engagement.

Strategy

Ashchurch Rural Parish Council and its Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer will manage risks within Ashchurch Rural Parish on an ongoing basis by:

- identifying risks to the parish and parishioners
- developing strategies to manage, and alleviate these risks
- working in partnership with the community using its resources
- working with others outside its boundaries who share its interests and aims

Objective

The principal objective of risk management by the parish council is to manage the certainty of their ability to deliver their governance of the parish within the expectations of the parishioners. For example, it is reasonable for parishioners to expect that the council should take steps to represent public interest within the parish and also to ensure that public money (the precept) is spent in a responsible and transparent way.

A Structured Approach

The Council's approach to risk management is an ongoing process, which will react to changes over time. By setting aside time each year to review its business and strategies the Council will maintain a clear view of its priorities and revisit its objectives and how they are to be managed. This will aid the identification of new risks and also changes to existing threats and opportunities.

Risk Assessments

When the need is identified, risk assessments may be carried out by the lead Councillor(s) with the assistance of the Clerk as required. For example, when there is new housing development in the parish, assessing new play areas for children, and their ongoing safety.

Risk Register

The parish council will maintain a risk register of all known threats and opportunities. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and as new threats emerge or circumstances change but will be subject to formal review at least once per year.

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