**Wilmcote Parish Council Standing Orders**

**Date: August 2016**

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1. Meetings

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|  | 1. Meetings shall not take place in premises, which at the time of the meeting, are used for the supply of alcohol unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost. 2. 3 clear days notice of a meeting to be given to councillors and the public. The day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday , a day officially designated as a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning shall not count. Saturday can be considered a working day in exceptional circumstances but is not recommended normally. 3. Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public’s exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public’s exclusion. 4. Subject to standing order 1(c) above, members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. 5. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing order 1(d) above] shall not exceed 30 minutes. This may be varied at the discretion of the Chairman. 6. Subject to standing order 1(e) above, each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes. This may be varied at the discretion of the Chairman. 7. In accordance with standing order 1(d) above, a question asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting shall not require a response or debate. 8. In accordance with standing order 1(g) above, the Chairman may direct that a response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a Councillor for an oral response. 9. A record of a public participation session at a meeting shall be included in the minutes of that meeting. 10. Any person speaking at a meeting shall address his comments to the Chairman. 11. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the Chairman shall direct the order of speaking. 12. Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council’s prior written consent. 13. In accordance with standing order 1(c) above, the press shall be provided reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present. 14. Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman 15. The Chairman, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman, if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a Councillor as chosen by the Councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting. 16. Subject to model standing order 1 (w) below, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors present and voting thereon. 17. The Chairman may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote. 18. Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any question shall be by a show of hands. Each Councillor has one vote and must vote in person, they cannot do so by post, proxy, electronically or in advance of a meeting. The voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each Councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda. 19. The minutes of a meeting shall record the names of councillors present and absent. If a councillor wants their absence from a meeting to which they have been summoned to be approved, the request should be submitted together with the reason for absence before the meeting takes place. A councillor cannot continue in office if they fail to attend a meeting of the council for a period of six consecutive months and the reason for the absence has not been formally approved before the expiry of the six month period. 20. The code of conduct adopted by the Council shall apply to councillors in respect of the entire meeting. 21. An interest arising from the code of conduct adopted by the Council, the existence and nature of which is required to be disclosed by a Councillor at a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes. 22. No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than 3. 23. If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be adjourned. Any outstanding business of a meeting so adjourned shall be transacted at a following meeting. 24. Meetings shall not exceed a period of 2 hours with the exception that the meeting may be further extended by up to 20 minutes at the discretion of the Chair 25. No item will be considered or discussed unless it is included in the agenda. 26. The preparation of the agenda is usually the responsibility of the clerk to the council. A Councillor is entitled to submit a motion for the agenda which is relevant to the forthcoming meeting. If there is a dispute as to the items to be included in the agenda, the final decision should be made by the clerk, having first consulted the Chairman of the forthcoming meeting. Items to be included on the agenda must be notified to the clerk not less than 4 days before the meeting, not including the day of the meeting itself. |

1. Ordinary Council meetings
2. In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new councillors elected take office.
3. In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of a Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.
4. If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 7.30pm.
5. In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council directs.
6. The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Council shall be the first business completed at the annual meeting of the Council.
7. The Chairman of the Council, unless they have resigned or become disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.
8. The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if any, unless they resign or become disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.
9. In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the meeting until a successor Chairman of the Council has been elected. The current Chairman of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council but must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
10. In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the meeting until a new Chairman of the Council has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
11. Following the election of the Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council, the order of business shall be as follows.

In an election year, councillors confirm their declarations of acceptance of office.

Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council and to

receive and note minutes of and/or to determine recommendations made by committees.

Review of delegation arrangements to committees, working groups, employees and other local authorities.

Review of the terms of references for committees.

Receipt of nominations to existing committees.

Appointment of any new committees, confirmation of the terms of reference, the number of members (including, if appropriate, substitute councillors) and receipt of nominations to them.

Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders, financial regulations, risk register and management procedures.

Review of arrangements, including any charters, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities.

Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.

In a year of elections, if a Council’s period of eligibility to exercise the power of well being expired the day before the annual meeting, to review and make arrangements to reaffirm eligibility.

Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment.

Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.

Review of the Council’s and/or employees’ memberships of other bodies.

Establishing or reviewing the Council’s complaints procedure.

Establishing or reviewing the Council’s procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Establishing or reviewing the Council’s policy for dealing with the press/media

Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council for the year ahead.

1. Proper Officer

The Proper Officer shall be the Clerk, and other staff members nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.

The Proper Officer shall do the following:;

Serve the summons on councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery, post or electronically, served and receipted, on councillors, at their residences or by electronic means to the email address provided to the Proper Officer, normally a home/personal email address at least 3 clear days before a meeting.

Give public notice of the time, date, venue and agenda.

Convene a meeting of full Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his or her office.

Make available for inspection the minutes of meetings.

Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.

Receive and retain declarations of acceptance of office from councillors.

Retain a copy of every councillor’s register of interests and any changes to it and keep copies of the same available for inspection.

Keep proper records required before and after meetings;

Process all requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with and subject to the Council’s procedures relating to the same.

Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.

Manage the organisation, storage of and access to information held by the Council in paper and electronic form.

Arrange for legal deeds to be signed as required by Councillors and witnessed by the Proper Officer.

Arrange for the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with the Council’s financial regulations.

Record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council’s response to the local planning authority electronically.

Refer a planning application received by the Council to the all Councillors within 2 working days of receipt. Councillors need to respond within 5 days to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires one.

Action or undertake activity or responsibilities instructed by resolution or contained in standing orders.

1. Motions & Agenda Items
2. Every agenda item, motion and resolution shall relate to the Council’s statutory functions, powers and lawful obligations or shall relate to an issue which specifically affects the Council’s area or its residents.
3. Motions in respect of the following matters may be moved without written notice;
4. To approve the absences of councillors.
5. To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.
6. To correct an inaccuracy in the minutes of the previous meeting.
7. To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.
8. To alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience.
9. To proceed to the next business on the agenda.
10. To close or adjourn debate.
11. To refer by formal delegation a matter to a committee or an employee.
12. To appoint a working group.
13. To consider a report made by a working group or an employee.
14. To consider a report and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional advisor, expert or consultant.
15. To authorise legal deeds and witnessed.
16. To authorise the payment of monies.
17. To exclude the press and public for all or part of a meeting.
18. To silence or exclude from the meeting a Councillor or a member of the public for disorderly conduct.
19. To suspend any standing order except those which are mandatory by law.
20. To adjourn the meeting.

xviii To appoint representatives to outside bodies and to make arrangements for those representatives to report back the activities of outside bodies

xviiii To answer questions from councillors.

1. Rules of debate
2. Every Agenda Item and resolution shall relate to the Council’s statutory functions, powers and lawful obligations or shall relate to an issue which specifically affects the Council’s area or its residents.
3. A motion shall not be considered unless it has been proposed and seconded.
4. During the debate of an agenda item, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. Any Councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the irregularity in the meeting he is concerned by.
5. A point of order shall be decided by the Chairman and his decision shall be final.
6. The Chairman shall first be satisfied that the agenda item has been sufficiently debated before it is proposed, seconded and put to the vote.

It should also be noted that Resolutions made at a meeting risk being quashed by the courts if there is a successful legal claim that one or more councillors had a closed mind or acted with apparent bias when they voted at a meeting. It is acceptable for councillors to be predisposed to voting on a matter in a particular way if, until the matter is put to the vote, they are open to a fair consideration of the information and arguments that are presented at the meeting.

1. Code of member’s conduct.

All councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council as follows:-

**Wilmcote Parish Council Code of Conduct**

You are a member or co-opted member of Wilmcote Parish Council and hence you shall have regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member:

You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.

You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.

When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.

You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.

You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in the box below.

You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

**Registration of interests**

You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority’s Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse’s or civil partner’s, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.

In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority’s monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your authority has decided should be included in the register.

If an interest has not been entered onto the authority’s register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a ‘sensitive interest’. A “sensitive interest” is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority’s monitoring officer consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with him/her, being subject to violence or intimidation.

Following any disclosure of an interest not on the authority’s register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.

Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your authority places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non pecuniary interest as defined by your authority.

Councillors with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will leave the room when the item in which they have an interest is discussed by the Council. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which they had the interest..

Possible sanctions available to the council to impose on a councillor who fails to disclose a pecuniary interest include training, withdrawal of membership from a committee, and or a written apology.

It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest.

A guide document on pecuniary interests can be viewed in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5962/2193362.pdf>

Grant of Dispensations

Section 33 of The Localism Act 2011 made it the responsibility of the parish or town council itself to grant dispensations where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest which has not been previously registered. The process applied is as follows:

1. Councillors may apply for a dispensation in writing to the Clerk of the Council at least three clear days before the date of the meeting.
2. Any written requests for Dispensations will appear on the next agenda for consideration.
3. The existence, duration and nature of any dispensations granted will be clearly minuted and included in the Register of Disclosable Interests held by the Clerk.
4. A dispensation may be granted if having regard to all the relevant circumstances the following applies:
   1. without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great as to impede the transaction of the business
   2. granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council’s area
   3. it is otherwise appropriate to grant dispensation.

**Dealing with Complaints**

1. The complainant should be asked to put the complaint about the council’s procedures or administration in writing to the clerk or other nominated officer.
2. If the complainant does not wish to put the complaint to the clerk or other nominated officer, he or she should be advised to address it to the chairman of the council.
3. The clerk or other nominated officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and advise the complainant when the matter will be considered by the council or by the committee established for the purposes of hearing complaints. The complainant should also be advised whether the complaint will be treated as confidential or whether, for example, notice of it will be given in the usual way (if, for example, the complaint is to be heard by a committee).
4. The complainant shall be invited to attend a meeting and to bring with them a representative if they wish.
5. Seven clear working days prior to the meeting, the complainant shall provide the council with copies of any documentation or other evidence relied on. The council shall provide the complainant with copies of any documentation upon which they wish to rely at the meeting and shall do so promptly, allowing the claimant the opportunity to read the material in good time for the meeting.

## At the Meeting

1. The council shall consider whether the circumstances of the meeting warrant the exclusion of the public and the press. Any decision on a complaint shall be announced at the council meeting in public.
2. The chairman should introduce everyone and explain the procedure.
3. The complainant (or representative) should outline the grounds for complaint and, thereafter, questions may be asked by (i) the clerk or other nominated officer and then (ii), members.
4. The clerk or other nominated officer will have an opportunity to explain the council’s position and questions may be asked by (i) the complainant and (ii), members.
5. The clerk or other nominated officer and then the complainant should be offered the opportunity to summarise their position.
6. The clerk or other nominated officer and the complainant should be asked to leave the room while members decide whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been made. If a point of clarification is necessary, *both* parties shall be invited back.
7. The clerk or other nominated officer and the complainant should be given the opportunity to wait for the decision but if the decision is unlikely to be finalised on that day they should be advised when the decision is likely to be made and when it is likely to be communicated to them.
8. The decision should be confirmed in writing within seven working days, together with details of any action to be taken.
9. Minutes
10. . If a copy of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting has been circulated to Councillors no later than the day of service of the summons to attend the scheduled meeting they shall be taken as read.
11. . No discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy.
12. . Minutes, including any amendment to correct their accuracy, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
13. . Upon a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, any previous draft minutes or recordings of the meeting shall be destroyed.
14. Disorderly conduct
15. . No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.
16. . If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there has been a breach of standing order 8(a) above, the Chairman shall express that opinion and thereafter any councillor (including the Chairman) may move that the person be silenced or excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion.
17. . If a resolution made in accordance with standing order 8(b) above, is disobeyed, the Chairman may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it and/or they may adjourn the meeting.
18. Rescission of previous resolutions
19. . A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within 6 months except either by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 3 councillors of the Council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.
20. . When a special motion or any other motion moved pursuant to standing order 9(a) above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months.
21. It should also be noted that Resolutions made at a meeting risk being quashed by the courts if there is a successful legal claim that one or more councillors had a closed mind or acted with apparent bias when they voted at a meeting. It is acceptable for councillors to be predisposed to voting on a matter in a particular way if, until the matter is put to the vote, they are open to a fair consideration of the information and arguments that are presented at the meeting.
22. Voting on appointments

Where more than 2 persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. Any tie may be settled by the Chairman’s casting vote.

1. Committees

The Council may, at its annual meeting, appoint standing committees and may at any other time appoint such other committees as may be necessary, and:

1. shall determine their terms of reference;
2. may permit committees to determine the dates of their meetings;
3. shall appoint and determine the term of office of councillor or non-councillor members of such a committee (unless the appointment of non-councillors is prohibited by law) so as to hold office no later than the next annual meeting;
4. may appoint substitute councillors to a committee whose role is to replace ordinary councillors at a meeting of a committee if ordinary councillors of the committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer 3 days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
5. an ordinary member of a committee who has been replaced at a meeting by a substitute member shall not be permitted to participate in debate or vote on business at that meeting and may only speak during any public participation session during the meeting;
6. may in accordance with standing orders, dissolve a committee at any time.
7. Extraordinary meetings
8. The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.
9. If the Chairman of the Council does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within 7 days of having been requested to do so by two councillors, those two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two councillors.
10. The Chairman of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee at any time.
11. If the Chairman of a committee does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting within 3 days of having been requested by to do so by 3 councillors, those 3 councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of a committee. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by 3 councillors.
12. Working Groups
13. The Council may appoint working groups comprised of a number of councillors and non-councillors.
14. The Council may appoint working groups which may consist wholly of persons who are non-councillors.
15. Financial matters

The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:

a) the accounting records and systems of internal control

b) the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council

c) the work of the Internal Auditor and the receipt of regular reports from the Internal Auditor, which shall be required at least annually

d) the inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the Council’s accounts and/or orders of payments

e) Procurement policies is as set out in The Wilmcote Parish Council financial procedure attached as Appendix I.

14.1 Expenditure

Any expenditure incurred by the Council shall be in accordance with the Council’s financial regulations. The Wilmcote Parish council financial procedure is attached as Appendix I.

The Council’s financial regulations shall be reviewed once a year.

The Council’s financial regulations may make provision for the authorisation of the payment of money in exercise of any of the Council’s functions to be delegated to the Proper Officer. The delegations of financial authority adopted in Wilmcote Parish Council are as in Budgetary Control, see Appendix 1

14.2 Accounts and Financial Statement

All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the Council’s financial regulations, which shall be reviewed at least annually. The Wilmcote Parish council financial practice is attached as Appendix I.

The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September, 31 December and 31 March in each year a statement summarising the Council’s receipts and payments for the each quarter and the balances held at the end of a quarter. This statement should include a comparison with the budget for the financial year. A Financial Statement prepared on the appropriate accounting basis (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for a year to 31 March shall be presented to each councillor before the end of the following month of May. The Statement of Accounts of the Council (which is subject to external audit), including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to Council for formal approval before 30 June.

**14.3 Delegations of Financial Authority**

At the AGM, Wilmcote Parish Council approve for the following year payment by the RFO without having to discuss/approve individually at meetings:

WALC annual subscription

Insurance renewal Premium

Information Commissioner – Data Protection

CPRE membership

Internal & External Audit fees

Donations to local organizations

The Delegations of Financial Authority relating to expenditure on Willow Wood Play Area matters is described in Appendix IV – Management of Wilmcote Children’s Play Area.

14.4 Estimates & precepts

The Council shall approve written estimates for the coming financial year at its meeting before the end

of January

1. Canvassing of and recommendations by councillors
2. Canvassing councillors or the members of a committee or working group, directly or indirectly, for appointment to or by the Council shall disqualify the candidate from such an appointment. The Proper Officer shall disclose the requirements of this standing order to every candidate.
3. A councillor or a member of a committee or working group shall not solicit a person for appointment to or by the Council or recommend a person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, any such person may give a written testimonial of a candidate’s ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.
4. Inspection of documents

In respect of matters which are confidential, a councillor may, for the purpose of his official duties (but not otherwise), inspect any document in the possession of the Council or a committee, and request a copy for the same purpose.

1. Unauthorised activities

Unless authorised by a resolution, no individual councillor shall in the name or on behalf of the Council or committee, issue orders, instructions or directions.

1. Confidential business

Councillors shall not disclose information given in confidence or which they believe, or ought to be aware is of a confidential nature.

A councillor in breach of the provisions of standing order 18(a) above may be removed from a committee or a working group by a resolution of the Council.

1. Matters affecting council employees

If a meeting considers any matter personal to a Council employee, it shall not be considered until the Council or any relevant committee or any relevant working group has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded pursuant to standing order 1(c) above The Chairman of the Council or any relevant committee or any relevant working group or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and/or appraisal of the employee and shall keep a written record of it. The review and/or appraisal shall be reported back and shall be subject to approval by resolution by Council, committee or working group.

If an informal or formal grievance matter raised by an employee relates to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council or committee or working group, this shall be communicated to another member of Council or committee, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the Council or committee.

Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of Council employees shall keep written records of all meetings relating to their performance, and capabilities, grievance and disciplinary matters.

The Council shall keep written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured under lock and electronic records shall be password protected.

Records documenting reasons for an employee’s absence due to ill health or details of a medical condition shall be made available only to those persons with responsibility for the same. Access and means of access by keys and/or computer passwords to records of employment referred to in standing orders above shall be provided only to the employee or the Chairman of the Council or a committee.

**20. Planning Applications**

Wilmcote Parish Council is the elected body representing the local community. One of the most important parts of the Parish Council’s work is to consider and make comments on planning applications. Wilmcote Parish Council does not have the power to make decisions about planning applications but the planning process and all applications in the Wilmcote Parish are considered and commented upon, and as a statutory consultee the local planning authority has a duty to consider the Parish Council’s views.

The Clerk must circulate a planning application consultation received from SDC within two working days. Councillors will be requested to respond on the standard form within five calendar days. Councillors responses must be based on planning guidelines and state whether their recommendation is to grant or refuse the application

All responses should be circulated to the other Councillors as everyone’s comments are helpful and it may well be that one councillor is more aware of a particular situation than the others, in which case their recommendations could be well informed and helpful to other members. However, it is not considered appropriate for a Councillor to simply state he/she agrees with another Councillor.

If the application is fairly straightforward and all Councillors agree, then the Clerk has delegated powers to formulate a response from the Council to the Planning Authority taking due notice of all the comments received. However, when agreement cannot be reached or when the application needs more consideration and discussion, it should be included on the agenda for the next meeting, and if necessary because of response dates, a special meeting should be called. Rarely, when it is not possible to call a special meeting, the response from the council will be based on the forms emailed to the Clerk by the specified date.

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In view of the complicated nature of some of the planning applications it has been agreed that Wilmcote Parish Council shall use the services of a professional planning consultant as and when necessary. One of the council members has been appointed as Lead Councillor for Planning Applications and they will consider whether or not any planning application warrants advice from a consultant. If that proves to be the case they will make direct contact with the appointed Planning Consultant, copying the Clerk and Chair into all the communications. When such advice has been obtained, they will then, within time constraints set by the SDC Planning process, report back to other member councillors accordingly so a more informed decision can be made. For complex applications, where a consultant is employed, the lead councillor, taking the councillors’ opinions into account, will agree the final submission with the consultant.

This authority will also apply to planning applications/proposals outside of Wilmcote Parish which could have an impact on the area as a whole, or be something which could result in a similar application within the Parish.

The financial authority in connection with Consultant advice is shown in Financial Regulations, Appendix 1 and should be reviewed on a three year basis.

On receipt of a copy of an application from the Planning Authority, the Clerk shall make an electronic register of all planning applications as follows:-

* + - 1. The reference number of the application
      2. The date on which it was received
      3. The date by which comments must be submitted
      4. The name of the application
      5. The place to which it relates
      6. A summary of the nature of the application

The Clerk should keep copies of all Councillors responses to Planning Applications to provide an

audit trail for the official response made by the Clerk. It is up to each Councillor to decide whether

he/she wishes to keep a copy of their own response.

Any resident considering submitting a planning application can request an agenda item to present their proposals for a pre-application discussion with the council.    The council will not be able to provide a view on the acceptability of the proposal but can ask questions and provide suggestions as to the planning documents/criteria that the application would need to satisfy.

21 Freedom of Information Act 2000

All requests for information held by the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of handling requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Such information to be available from the Clerk/Proper Officer between the hours of 10.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday by prior arrangement and on payment of £10 plus any photocopying, postage and telephone costs.

Correspondence from, and notices served by, the Information Commissioner shall be referred by the Proper Officer to the Chairman of the Council. The Council shall have the power to do anything to facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including exercising the powers of the Proper Officer in respect of Freedom of Information requests as set out above.

The Council will not release information that is exempted. Exemptions will be:

a) Personal data

b) Confidential matters

c) Information likely to endanger the health or safety of a Cllr. or Clerk or any other

individual.

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| **Information to be published** | **How the information can be obtained** | **Cost** |
| **Class1 - Who we are and what we do**  (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) |  | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Who’s who on the Council and its Committees | Hardcopy on request |
| Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used)) | Mrs. E. Butterworth Tel: 01789 268998. Email: lizbutterworth1@btinternet.com |  |
| Location of main Council office and accessibility details | No office – Clerk works from home |  |
| Staffing structure | Part-time Clerk only |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it**  (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) |  |  |
| Annual return form and report by auditor | Hardcopy on request | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Finalised budget |
| Precept |
| Borrowing Approval letter | The Council has no borrowings |
| Financial Standing Orders and Regulations | Hardcopy on request |
| Grants given and received | Available on request |
| List of current contracts awarded and value of contract | Available on request |
|  |  |  |
| Members’ allowances and expenses | Not applicable |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing**  (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews) |  | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Parish Plan | Adopted June 2004. Hardcopy on request |
| Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum) | Hardcopy on request |
| Quality status | Not applicable |  |
| Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines | None at present |  |
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| **Class 4 – How we make decisions**  (Decision making processes and records of decisions) |  |  |
| Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings) | Hardcopy on request | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Agendas of meetings (as above) |
| Minutes of meetings (as above) – N.B. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting. |
| Reports presented to council meetings – N.B. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting. | Available on request |
| Responses to consultation papers | Available on request |
| Responses to planning applications | Available on request or SDC website |
| Bye-laws | None made |  |

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| **Class 5 – Our policies and procedures**  (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) |  |  |
| Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business:  Procedural standing orders  Committee and sub-committee terms of reference  Delegated authority in respect of officers  Code of Conduct  Policy statements | Hardcopy on request of existing documents.  Not all are relevant to a Council the size of Wilmcote | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff:  Internal policies relating to the delivery of services  Equality and diversity policy  Health and safety policy  Recruitment policies (including current vacancies)  Policies and procedures for handling requests for information  Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme) |
| **Information security policy:** |  |
| Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive) | As per NALC Legal Topic Note 40. Information available on request |
| Data protection policies | The Council is registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office |
| Schedule of charges (for the publication of information) | See page 6 |
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| **Class 6 – Lists and Registers**  Currently maintained lists and registers only |  |  |
| Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice) | Available on request unless confidential | In accordance with schedule of charges on page 6 |
| Assets Register | Available on request |
| Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by parish councils) | No log in existence |
| Register of members’ interests | Available by appointment to view only |
| Register of gifts and hospitality | Not applicable |  |
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| **Class 7 – The services we offer**  (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) |  |  |
| Allotments | Not applicable |  |
| Burial grounds and closed churchyards |  |
| Community centres and village halls |  |
| Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities |  |
| Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting | Details in asset register |  |
| Bus shelters | Not applicable |  |
| Markets | Not applicable |  |
| Public conveniences | Not applicable |  |
| Agency agreements | Not applicable |  |
| A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees) | Only those detailed in the schedule of charges on page 6 |  |
| Willow Wood Play Area | Details in asset register |  |
| **Additional Information**  This will provide Councils with the opportunity to publish information that is not itemised in the lists above |  |  |
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**Contact details: Mrs. E. Butterworth**

**Clerk to Wilmcote Parish Council**

**Alne View**

**Pathlow**

**Stratford upon Avon**

**Warwickshire**

**CV37 0ES**

**Tel: 01789 268998**

**Email:** [**lizbutterworth1@btinternet.com**](mailto:lizbutterworth1@btinternet.com)

**Information is available from the Clerk between the hours of 10.00 a.m. & Noon Monday to Wednesday**

**by prior arrangement.**

22 Relations with the press & media

a) All requests from the press or other media for an oral or written statement or comment from the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council’s policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media. The Wilmcote Parish Council Policy is set out below.

b) In accordance with the Council’s policy in respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, councillors shall not, in their official capacity, provide oral or written statements or written articles to the press or other media.

The Parish Council is keen to develop a good rapport with the media, whilst ensuring that confidentiality and consent are maintained at all times and policy procedure is imperative.

The following policy outlines the procedures and arrangements for handling the press and what Cllrs. or the Clerk should do if approached by the media or if they are involved in a situation that will attract media attention.

1. On receipt of a request from the press or other media for a statement, the Clerk or Cllr. receiving the request will advise the body making the request that a statement will be considered and issued shortly if appropriate.

2. On receipt of a request, the journalist or other caller should be asked to make it clear who they are working for, and what is the exact nature of their enquiry. Further they should be asked where any information they elicit will be put.

3. The Council is under no obligation to provide a statement and may prefer to make "No Comment"

4. Only the Clerk and/or the Chair shall provide the press with a verbal or written statement - after liaison with each other as a minimum and ideally after input from other Cllrs. also.

5. The exception to (4) above would be if the Chairman or the Parish Council at a parish council meeting had delegated a specific parish cllr(s) to make the response on behalf of the Council.

6. Under no circumstances must anything of a confidential nature be disclosed to the press or other media.

7. The response to the press or other media should be the view of the Parish Council as a whole, not the view of an individual Cllr or the Clerk. (However an individual Cllr may give a direct quote as long as they attribute that quote to their name and make it clear that it is their view and not that of the Parish Council. Never use the prefix "Cllr" when writing to the press as an individual)

8. No response should be made that is in any way damaging to the interests or reputation of the

Parish Council.

9. The Press or representatives from any other media are welcomed at parish council meetings. However, under Wilmcote Parish Council's Standing Orders, if any item or information is deemed personal or sensitive and not for the public domain, then the press/media along with members of the public should leave the meeting when requested to do so at this point.

**Press Releases**

All press releases made on behalf of the Parish Council will be prepared by the Proper Officer following any meetings of Committees and Working Groups.

In the case of an urgent letter or press release being required in advance of a Council Meeting, this may be issued by the Proper Officer with the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, following circulation of a draft version to other Members for comment.

23 Liaison with District and County or Unitary Councillors

1. An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the councillor of the District and County or Unitary Council representing its electoral ward.
2. Unless the Council otherwise orders, a copy of each letter sent to the District or County or Unitary Council shall be sent to the District or County or Unitary Council councillor representing its electoral ward.

24 Allegations of breaches of the code of conduct

1. On receipt of a notification that there has been an alleged breach of the code of conduct the Proper Officer shall refer it to the Council.
2. Where the notification relates to a complaint made against the Proper Officer, the Proper Officer shall notify the Chairman of the Council, who, upon receipt of such notification, shall nominate a person to assume the duties of the Proper Officer set out in the remainder of this standing order, who shall continue to act in respect of that matter as such until the complaint is resolved.
3. Where a notification relates to a complaint made by an employee (not being the Proper Officer) the Proper Officer shall ensure that the employee in question does not deal with any aspect of the complaint.
4. Where the notification relates to a complaint made against a councillor, a councillor cannot be suspended during a complaints process, However, there are potential sanctions applicable if a councillor is found to have breached the Code of Conduct. These may include but are not limited to: censure or reprimand the councillor; report findings to the Parish Council for information and arrange training for the councillor;
5. The subject matter of notifications shall be confidential and, insofar as it is possible to do so by law, the Council (including the Proper Officer) shall take the steps set out below, together with other steps considered necessary, to maintain confidentiality.
6. Draft the summonses and agendas in such a way that the identity and subject matter of the complaint are not disclosed.
7. Ensure that any background papers containing the information set out in (a) above are not made public.
8. Ensure that the public and press are excluded from meetings as appropriate.
9. Ensure that the minutes of meetings preserve confidentiality.
10. Consider any liaison that may be required with the person or body with statutory responsibility for the investigation of the matter.
11. Standing order (e) above should not be taken to prohibit the Council (whether through the Proper Officer or the Chairman from disclosing information to members and officers of the Council or to other persons where such disclosure is necessary to deal with the complaint or is required by law.
12. The Council shall have the power to:
13. seek documentary and other evidence from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter;
14. seek and share information relevant to the complaint;
15. grant the member involved a financial indemnity in respect of legal costs, which shall be in accordance with the law and subject to approval by a meeting of the full Council.
16. References in standing order 24 to a notification shall be taken to refer to a communication of any kind which relates to a breach or an alleged breach of the code of conduct by a councillor.

25 Variation, revocation and suspension of standing orders

1. Any or every part of the standing orders, except those which are mandatory by law, may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business.
2. A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council’s standing orders, not mandatory by law, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 3 councillors.

26 Standing orders to be given to councillors

1. The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council’s standing orders to a councillor upon delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.
2. The Chairman’s decision as to the application of standing orders at meetings shall be final.
3. A councillor’s failure to observe standing orders more than 3 times in one meeting may result in him being excluded from the meeting in accordance with standing orders.

**APPENDIX I - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**1. GENERAL**

1.1 These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. The council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the council has a sound system of financial control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council’s functions, including arrangements for the management of risk and for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. These financial regulations are designed to demonstrate how the council meets these responsibilities.

1.2 The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is a statutory office and shall be appointed by the council. The Clerk has been appointed as RFO for this council and these regulations will apply accordingly. The RFO, acting under the policy direction of the Council, shall administer the Council's financial affairs in accordance with proper practices. The RFO shall determine on behalf of the council its accounting records, and accounting control systems. The RFO shall ensure that the accounting control systems are observed and that the accounting records of the council are maintained and kept up to date in accordance with proper practices.

1.3 The RFO shall produce financial management information as and when required by the council.

1.4 At least once a year, prior to approving the annual return, the council shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.

1.5 In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations shall mean the Regulations issued under the provisions of Section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and then in force.

1.6 In these financial regulations the term ‘proper practice’ or ‘proper practices’ shall refer to guidance issued in Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales – a Practitioners’ Guide which is published jointly by NALC and SLCC and updated from time to time.

**2. ANNUAL ESTIMATES (BUDGET)**

2.1 Detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the year shall be prepared each year by the RFO and Chairman in the form of a budget to be considered by the council.

2.2 The Council shall review the budget not later than the end of January each year and shall fix the Precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved budget.

2.3 The annual budgets shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

2.4 The Council shall consider the need for and shall have regard to a three year forecast of Revenue and Capital Receipts and Payments which may be prepared at the same time as the annual Budget.

2.5 A separate budget shall be established for the Willow Wood Play Area.

**3 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

* Current and deposit accounts to be held at HSBC Bank
* Councillors to agree the appropriate account to manage the financial affairs of the council.
* The Clerk is authorised to transfer monies between current and deposit accounts.
* Transfers between current and deposit accounts will be included in the quarterly financial statement.
* Separate current and deposit accounts to be held for all monies relating to the Willow Wood Play area.

3.1 Expenditure on revenue items may be incurred up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget.

3.2 No expenditure may be incurred that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure. During the budget year and with the approval of council, having considered fully the implications, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings to cover any anticipated overspend(s) or to the council’s reserve as appropriate. All monies relating to the Willow Wood Play Area are ‘ring fenced’ and money in this budget can only be used for Willow Wood Play Area purposes.

3.3.1 The RFO shall at the end of each financial quarter provide the Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budget.

3.3.2 The RFO shall draw the Council’s attention to any significant difference between actual income and expenditure to the appropriate date compared with that planned in the budget.

3.4 The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £200.00, and whenever possible after consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.

3.5 Unspent provisions in the revenue budget shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year unless placed in an earmarked reserve by resolution of the council.

3.6 No expenditure shall be incurred in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available, or the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.

3.7 All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.

3.8 The Lead Planning Councillor is authorized to consult with the Planning Consultants on Wilmcote Parish matters for up to four hours on each consultation and two hours for applications/proposals outside the Parish. Any expenditure over and above this must be approved by the full Council prior to further work being undertaken.

**4. ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT**

4.1 All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

4.2 The RFO shall complete the annual financial statements of the Council, including the council’s annual return, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and shall submit them and report thereon to the Council.

4.3 The RFO shall complete the Accounts of the Council contained in the Annual Return (as supplied by the Auditor appointed from time to time by the Audit Commission) and shall submit the Annual Return for approval and authorisation by the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

4.4 The RFO shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Council's accounting, financial and other operations in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the Council shall, if the RFO or Internal Auditor requires, make available such documents of the Council which appear to the RFO or Internal Auditor to be necessary for the purpose of the internal audit and shall supply the RFO or Internal Auditor with such information and explanation as the RFO or Internal Auditor considers necessary for that purpose.

4.5 The Internal Auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work required by the council in accordance with proper practices. The Internal Auditor, who shall be competent and independent of the operations of the Council, shall report to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report in respect of each financial year. In order to demonstrate objectivity and independence, the internal auditor shall be free from any conflicts of interest and have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the council.

4.6 The RFO shall make arrangements for the opportunity for inspection of the accounts, books, and vouchers and for the display or publication of any Notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

4.7 The RFO shall, as soon as practicable, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from the Internal or External Auditor, unless the correspondence is of a purely administrative matter.

**5. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND CHEQUES**

5.1 The Council's banking arrangements, including the Bank Mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council. They shall be reviewed at least every two years for efficiency.

5.2 A schedule of the payments required, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting, shall be prepared by the RFO and, together with the relevant invoices, be presented to Council. If the schedule is in order it shall be authorised by a resolution of the Council (Standing Order 28) and shall be initialled by the Chairman of the Meeting. If more appropriate the detail may be shown in the Minutes of the Meeting.

5.3 Cheques drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule referred to in paragraph 5.2 or in accordance with paragraph 6.4, shall be signed by two members of Council and countersigned by the Clerk.

5.4 To indicate agreement of the details shown on the cheque or order for payment with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall each also initial the cheque counterfoil.

5.5 Delegations of authority to make payments relating to general WPC business is as follows: All Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and cheques signed by two authorised signatories. The Clerk has authority to settle accounts between meetings to the sum of £200.00.

5.6 Delegations of authority relating to expenditure for the Willow Wood Play Area is described in the Management Procedure for the Willow Wood Play area (see Appendix IV).

## 6 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

6.1 All payments shall be effected by cheque or other order drawn on the Council's bankers.

6.2 All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified and certified by the Clerk. The Clerk shall satisfy him/herself that the work, goods or services to which the invoice relates shall have been received, carried out, examined and approved.

6.3 The RFO shall examine invoices in relation to arithmetic accuracy and shall analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The Clerk shall take all steps to settle all invoices submitted, and which are in order, as soon as possible.

6.4 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 Council, where the Clerk / RFO certifies that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, the Clerk may (notwithstanding Para 6.3) take all steps necessary to settle such invoices provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

6.5 The Council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk/RFO (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

6.6 If thought appropriate by the council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) may be made by variable Direct Debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a variable Direct Debit shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.

## 7 PAYMENT OF SALARIES

7.1 As an employer, the 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 salaries shall be as agreed by Council.

7.2 Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, may be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to and ratified by the next available Council Meeting.

**8 PARISH COUNCILLOR’S ALLOWANCES**

Following the resolution passed by Council on 21st September 2004 regarding allowances:

8.1 An allowance of up to £250.00 may be made to the Chairman, at the Council’s discretion and after consultation with the incumbent.

8.2 Payment may be made to any other Councillor for out of pocket expenses if they wish to so

claim

8.3 All mileage undertaken on council business by all Councillors may be reimbursed for journeys both within and outside the Parish at the mileage rate set by HMRC for basic tax payers’.

**9 LOANS AND INVESTMENTS**

9.1 All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Council policy.

9.2 The council shall consider the need for an Investment Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Policy shall be reviewed at least annually.

9.3 All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.

9.4 All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The terms and conditions of borrowings shall be reviewed at least annually.

9.5 All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.

**10 INCOME**

10.1 The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.

10.2 Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the Council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.

10.3 The Council will review all fees and charges annually, following a report of the Clerk.

10.4 Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council and shall be written off in the year.

10.5 All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be banked intact as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.

10.6 The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.

10.7 Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.

10.8 The RFO 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.

10.9 Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the Council to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

**11 ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES**

11.1 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.

11.2 Order books shall be controlled by the RFO.

11.3 All members and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer 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 13 (I) below.

11.4 The RFO 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 RFO 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.

**12 CONTRACTS**

12.1 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 these regulations shall not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:

(i) for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;

1. for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;
2. 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 Council;

(v) for additional audit work of the external Auditor up to a previously agreed value (in excess of this sum the Clerk / RFO shall act after consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Council);

(vi) for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and/or are only sold at a fixed price.

(b) Where it is intended to enter into a contract exceeding £5,000 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 shall invite tenders from at least three firms

(c) 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 Council.

(d) Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk 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 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.

(e) All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of Council.

(f) If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £5,000 or if all the tenders are identical the Council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.

(g) When it is to enter into a contract less than £5,000 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 / RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £1,000 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 12 (3) above shall apply.

(h) The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

**13 PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

13.1 Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract (subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).

13.2 Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments. In any case where it is estimated that the total cost of work carried out under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will exceed the contract sum of 5% or more a report shall be submitted to the Council.

13.3 Any variation to a contract or addition to or omission from a contract must be approved by the Council and Clerk to the Contractor in writing, the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the financial provision.

**14 ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES**

14.1 The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds of properties owned by the Council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties owned by the 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.

14.2 No property shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the 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 £50.

14.3 The RFO 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 least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

**15 INSURANCE**

15.1 Following the annual risk assessment (per Financial Regulation 17), the RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers.

15.2 The Clerk/RFO shall note all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.

15.3 The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances efected by the Council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.

15.4 The RFO shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to Council at the next available meeting.

15.5 All appropriate employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined by the Council.

**16 RISK MANAGEMENT**

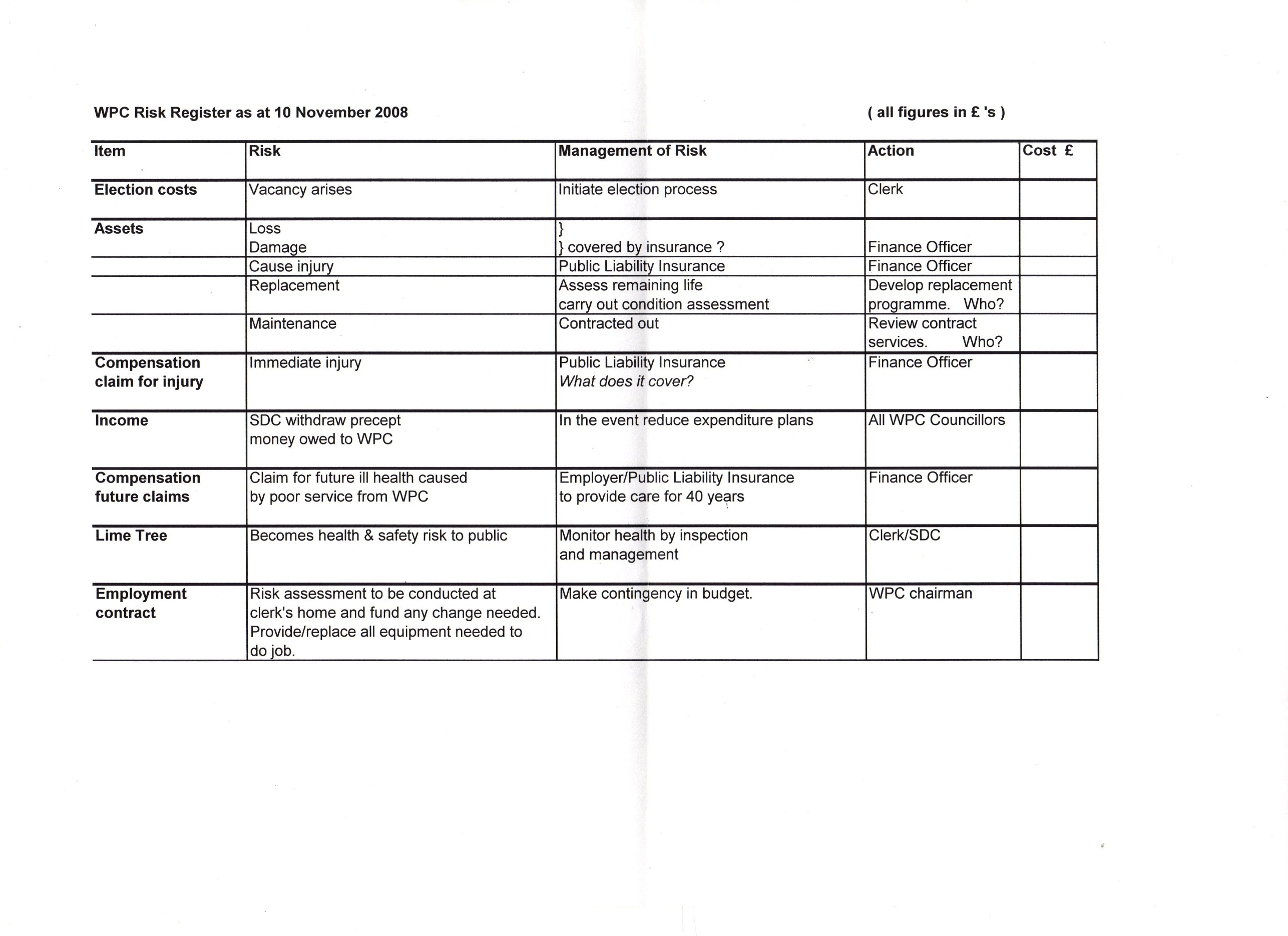
16.1 The council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. A designated Councillor shall prepare, for approval by the council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

16.2 When considering any new activity, the designated Councillor shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and adoption by the council.

**17 REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

17.1 It shall be the duty of the Council to review the Financial Regulations of the Council from time to time and at least every two years. The Clerk shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these financial regulations.

**APPENDIX II – Risk register**

****

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WPC Risk Register as at 18th March 2016** | | | | |  |  |  | **(all figures in £ 's)** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Item** |  | **Risk** |  |  | **Management of Risk** | |  | **Action** |  | **Cost** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **£** |
| **Election costs** | | Vacancy arises | |  | Initiate election process | |  | Clerk |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assets** |  | Loss |  |  | } |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Damage |  |  | } covered by insurance ? | |  | Finance Officer | |  |
|  |  | Cause injury | |  | Public Liability Insurance | |  | Finance Officer | |  |
|  |  | Replacement | |  | Assess remaining life | |  | Develop replacement | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | carry out condition assessment | | | programme. | |  |
|  |  | Maintenance | |  | Contracted out | |  | Review contract | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | services. | |  |
| **Compensation** | | Immediate injury | |  | Public Liability Insurance | |  | Finance Officer | |  |
| **claim for injury** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** |  | SDC withdraw precept | |  | In the event reduce expenditure | | | All WPC Councillors | |  |
|  |  | money owed to WPC | |  | plans |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Compensation** | | Claim for future ill health caused | | | Employer/Public Liability Insurance | | | Finance Officer | |  |
| **future claims** | | by poor service from WPC | | | to provide care for 40 years | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lime Tree** |  | Becomes health & safety risk to public |  |  | Monitor health by inspection |  |  | Clerk/SDC |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | and management | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Employment** | | Risk assessment to be conducted at | | | Make contingency in budget. | | | WPC chairman | |  |
| **contract** |  | clerk's home and fund any change | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | needed. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Provide/replace all equipment needed | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | to do job. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**APPENDIX III – Asset register**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **ASSET** | | **LOCATION** | **DATE ACQUIRED** | **COST** | **REPLACED** | **DISPOSED** | |
| **2** | Dog Bin | |  | pre 1999 |  |  |  | |
| **3** | Dog Bin | | Bovis Triangle | pre 1999 |  | 2011 |  | |
| **4** | Dog Bin | | Entrance access to Canal Towpath, Station Road | 2002 | £160.00 |  |  | |
| **5** | Dog Bin | | Aston Cantlow Road near shop | 2007 | £178.00 |  |  | |
| **6** | Litter Bin | |  | 2003 | £360.00 |  |  | |
| **7** | Litter Bin | | Aston Cantlow Road near shop | 2007 | £230.00 |  |  | |
| **8** | Litter Bin | | Playground | 2008 | £310.00 |  |  | |
| **9** | Footway Lighting - 30 No. | | Throughout Village | pre 1999 | £1.00 |  |  | |
| **10** | Footway Lighting - 06 No. | | Bovis Estate |  | - |  |  | |
| **11** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **12** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **13** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **14** | Hardwood Bench | | Playing Field | 2004 | £900.00 |  | 2006 | |
| **15** | Hardwood Bench | | Playing Field | 2004 | £900.00 |  | 2006 | |
| **16** | Hardwood Bench | | Entrance to Glebe Estate | 2004 | £900.00 | 2010 |  | |
| **17** | Hardwood Bench | | Adjacent to Playground | 2010 | £900.00 |  |  | |
| **18** | Cast Iron Bench | | At base of Lime Tree on The Green | 2007 | £3,360.00 |  |  | |
| **19** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **20** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **21** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **22** | Notice Board | | Entrance to Glebe Estate | 2004 | £200.00 |  |  | |
| **23** | Notice Board | | Aston Cantlow Road opposite shop | 2008 | £600.00 |  |  | |
| **24** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **25** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **26** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **27** | Filing Cabinet | | Clerk's address | 2001 | £81.00 |  |  | |
| **28** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
| **29** | Playground equipment | | Bovis Triangle | 2012 | - |  |  | |
| **30** | Dog bin | | Aston Cantlow Road junct Marsh Road | 2014 | £300.00 |  |  | |
| **NOTES**  **1** | |  | | | | | |
| **2** | |  | | | | | |
| **3** | | Replaced by SDC at no cost because original went missing | | | | | |
| **4** | |  | | | | | |
| **5** | | . | | | | | |
| **6** | |  | | | | | |
| **7** | |  | | | | | |
| **8** | |  | | | | | |
| **9** | | New replacement column & lantern in Glebe Estate plus transfer of service. New replacement column & lantern at Mary Arden;s House plus transfer of service. | | | | | |
| **10** | | Passed to P.C. by SDC | | | | | |
| **11** | |  | | | | | |
| **12** | |  | | | | | |
| **13** | |  | | | | | |
| **14** | | Gifted to P.C. by SWHA.Passed to SDC on surrender of lease | | | | | |
| **15** | | Gifted to P.C. by SWHA. Passed to SDC on surrender of lease | | | | | |
| **16** | | Gifted to P.C. by SWHA | | | | | |
| **17** | | Gifted in memory of D. King | | | | | |
| **18** | | Gifted by Mr. Douglas King | | | | | |
| **19** | |  | | | | | |
| **20** | |  | | | | | |
| **21** | |  | | | | | |
| **22** | | Gifted to P.C. by SWHA | | | | | |
| **23** | |  | | | | | |
| **24** | |  | | | | | |
| **25** | |  | | | | | |
| **26** | |  | | | | | |
| **27** | |  | | | | | |
| **28** | |  | | | | | |
| **29** | | Leased from SDC including land. Insurance cover for £80,000. Specific items as per Digley Associates Annual inspection report. | | | | | |
| **30** | | £97.00 p.a. for emptying. | | | | | |

**APPENDIX IV – Management of Wilmcote Children’s Play Area**

**June 2013**

**Wilmcote Parish Council**

**Willow Wood Play Area**

**Management Procedure**

**Contents:**

**Introduction**

**Annual/Monthly Site Visits**

**Maintenance**

* **Equipment condition**
* **Site condition**

**Reporting from General Public**

**Health and Safety**

**Overall Process**

* **Overall operation**
* **WPC financial sanction**

**Annual Review**

**Contact Details**

**Introduction**

This procedure covers the equipment and site known as Willow Wood Play Area. The land and equipment is owned by Stratford District Council and leased to Wilmcote Parish Council.

There are various European Standards that cover safe operation of playground equipment, these standards are regularly updated and replace existing arrangements. Advice on these current standards and the playground assessments required is provided by Playground Supplies Ltd. (contact details attached).

**Annual Inspections:**

These will be carried out by Playground Supplies Ltd. and comprise:

* 1. Generating an Asset Register of all items within the play area
  2. Identify and record Manufacturers, wherever possible
  3. Identify an anticipated end of life of items on the asset register
  4. Inspect all play items to the relevant BSEN Standards
  5. Photograph all items and findings
  6. Risk assessment of all issues identified
  7. Provide a report to WPC

**Monthly Inspections:**

This will be carried out by Playground Supplies Ltd. who will inspect all equipment to ensure safe for use and meets all relevant BSEN standards and provide a report to WPC recommending any work required.

During the monthly inspection if an item or the site is found to be an immediate risk the inspector will contact WPC clerk by phone from the site. If required and if possible they will immobilise the problem item in general this is only practicable with swings when they will be chained and padlocked to the supports to stop them being used. If considered necessary Playground Supplies Ltd will place signs at the site saying it is closed until emergency repairs have been carried out and padlock the entrance gates.

Any broken glass will be removed from the play area by the inspector as part of his monthly inspection.

**Maintenance**

The maintenance of the site falls into two categories as follows:

1. **Playground equipment**

This will be carried out by Playground Supplies Ltd and comprise the following:

1. Annual maintenance of all equipment in accordance with the manufacturer’s advice.
2. Maintenance of all equipment as agreed with WPC in accordance with the monthly/annual inspection reports provided by Playground Supplies Ltd. Quotations will be provided in the first instance for all works required.
3. Emergency work to be undertaken as agreed with WPC in accordance with the inspection reports from Playground Supplies Ltd.
4. **Site condition**

This will be carried out by Gary Compton and comprise:

1. Grass cutting as required
2. Hedge trimming as required
3. Weekly removal of any litter/waste from the site by the person contracted for maintenance.

**Reports from General Public**

A dedicated telephone number will be posted at the playground area for anyone to report on problems, accidents or equipment requiring urgent attention. This connects to the WPC clerk or in her absence a councillor. Should a problem arise requiring some action relating to the equipment, Playground Supplies Ltd will be informed and requested to either make repairs or isolate the equipment. Where an emergency arises, the site notice directs that the emergency services are called to site and the WPC are informed using the dedicated telephone number. Any accidents reported will be entered into the accident book.

**Health and Safety**

All necessary signage is provided on site to ensure the equipment is used in accordance with manufacturer’s guidance. Where the Playground Supplies Ltd. monthly report highlights actions they will provide a risk assessment and recommend timescales for corrective action.

**Overall Process**

The key management of the site and equipment to ensure a safe play area is delivered through the reporting provided by Playground Supplies Ltd., as follows:-

1. Monthly inspections report on the condition of the equipment and recommend any actions. Where dangerous equipment is reported this will be isolated or locked by the inspector so that it cannot be used. Where this involves some action this will be specified in the inspection report together with a completion date.
2. Monthly inspections will also report on the condition of the site and specify any action required.
3. Where work on equipment is required WPC will request a quotation from Playground Supplies Ltd. to carry out the work.
4. Where work on site condition is required WPC will instruct Gary Compton to carry out the work.
5. An annual inspection report will be provided to give guidance on long term actions that may be required.
6. Annual maintenance will be carried out to ensure the long term integrity of the equipment.

The general operation of the site will be conducted as follows:

1. The Playground Supplies Ltd. monthly reports will be received by the WPC clerk. Where the report recommends:
2. **Emergency action**: the WPC clerk will immediately action Playground Supplies Ltd to correct the position. This action does not require the sanction of WPC councillors.
3. **Repairs**: the WPC clerk will instruct Playground Supplies Ltd to carry out any repairs identified as necessary in a monthly report to meet the time period set out in the report. This action does not require the sanction of WPC councillors.
4. **Alterations/replacement of equipment**: the WPC clerk will inform Playground Supplies Ltd. and seek a quotation for completing the work. On receipt of the quotation, any two WPC councillors have the authority to sanction the work in order that the time scale specified with Playground Supplies Ltd. report is met.
5. The insurance company will be provided with the monthly/annual reports when requested.

**WPC Financial Sanction**

The sanction of work at the site is in two categories:

1. Emergency work requiring immediate action – this will be reported to the WPC clerk who has the authority to instruct Playground Supplies Ltd to immediately carry out any work necessary to make the equipment/site safe.
2. Repairs to existing equipment identified in a Playground Supplies Ltd. report as being necessary by a specified time – the WPC clerk has the authority to instruct Playground Supplies Ltd to carry out the repairs within the time specified in the report up to limit of £2,500.00. On rare occasions, further spending can be sanctioned by unanimous email authorisation by councillors.
3. For all other work, a quotation from Playground Supplies Ltd will be sought. The WPC clerk will seek sanction from any two WPC councillors before proceeding.

**Annual Review**

At a WPC meeting the following will be considered:

1. The arrangements/contract with Playground Supplies Ltd. and Gary Compton to be reviewed annually to ensure value for money and meets requirements.
2. This management procedure will be reviewed and modified if found necessary based on experience.
3. The level of financial sanction reviewed.
4. The annual report from Playground Supplies Ltd. will be discussed and the future of the play area considered.

**Contact Details**

1. **Wilmcote Parish Council**

**Telephone number displayed at Play Area**

07583 432 832

1. **Playground Supplies Ltd.**

Office :-  01536 415143

[**sales@playground**-supplies.com](mailto:sales@playground-supplies.com)

Unit 2, Adam Business Centre

Henson Way

Telford Industrial Estate

Kettering

Northants, NN16 8PX

1. **Gary Compton**

01789 269511

[comptka@aol.com](mailto:comptka@aol.com)

**APPENDIX V –** **Wilmcote Parish Council Community Emergency Plan**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

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Update Schedule:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Plan Date:** | **Update Due:** | **Nominated person:** |
| January 2014 | January 2015 | Parish Clerk |

## Section 1

### Introduction

This plan has been developed by Wilmcote Parish Council in conjunction with Warwickshire Emergency Planning Unit and Stratford on Avon District Council.

Nearly all emergencies affecting the local community will be dealt with routinely by a joint response from the emergency services, local authorities and utility companies. However, in extreme conditions such as snow and flooding, there is a possibility that the emergency services and other agencies may be overwhelmed and not be able to reach us immediately. In such circumstances, the initial response will rely entirely on local people. This plan will enable the community to respond to a major incident/emergency, whilst awaiting the assistance of the Emergency Services and the County or District Council.

### Definition of an Emergency/Major Incident

Defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004:

“emergency” means an event or situation which threatens serious damage to

* human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom
* the environment of a place in the United Kingdom
* the security of the United Kingdom or of a place in the United Kingdom.

### Aim of the Plan

The plan has been designed to enable the Parish Council to identify the immediate actions they should consider during an emergency. These actions may assist the community in reducing the impact an emergency can have until further assistance has been received.

The aim of the plan is to:

* Provide a framework for Parish/Town Councils to deal with the initial impact of an emergency on the local community, particularly when outside assistance from the emergency services and local authorities is delayed.

### Objectives of the Plan

The key objectives of this plan are to:

* Identify resources in the community available to assist during an emergency
* Identify local people and organisations who may be able to assist during an emergency
* Identify vulnerable people in the community and develop arrangements to assist them
* Provide relevant and timely local information throughout the emergency
* Provide key contact details for the Parish Council Emergency Team, key community resources, the emergency services and local authorities
* Establish local co-ordination arrangements for dealing with the impact of the emergency at the local level
* Open and run local rest centres as necessitated by the circumstances of the emergency in conjunction with Warwickshire Emergency Planning Unit

This will include the provision of action sheets and aide memoires to assist members of the Council in fulfilling these roles.

### Warwickshire Countywide Emergency Planning Structure

Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council and the emergency services have an emergency response structure. The diagram below illustrates how the Parish Council plan fits into this structure. Remember to make note of and follow all guidance and instructions from the emergency services and the District and County Council.

Local Resilience Forum / Multi-Agency Response

WCC Emergency Planning Unit

Highways

(Flooding to or from a road)

SOADC

Response

Parish/Town Council E.C.

**Community**

Emergency Services, EA, Health Agencies, Voluntary Agencies etc.

Liaise and Respond as Required

### Types of Emergencies

Types of potential emergencies that may impact our community are:

* Heavy snow
* Flooding
* Other Severe Weather events e.g. storms and gales
* Electricity or Gas failure
* Road Accident
* Fire/Building Collapse
* Terrorist Activity
* Major Gas Leak or Explosion
* Disease

|  |
| --- |
| Parish/Town Council Role in an Emergency |

Parish and Town Councils can be a focal point within the community and could be a direct line into the community for the Emergency Planning Unit and the local District Council

In an emergency, the Emergency Planning Unit will attempt to contact the local Council as necessary to discuss ways in which the Council might assist. This ' role’ could include:

* Providing "local knowledge" for the Emergency Services
* Establishing a co-ordinating link with Parish/Town Councillors and local Voluntary Groups as necessary
* Relaying information and instructions to the local community
* Providing information about persons who may have special problems during an emergency i.e. the elderly and the infirm
* Ensuring that any premises owned by the Council which may be required for emergency use are available, e.g. the village hall
* Assisting and organising local help if required to set up evacuation centres, feeding centres, information and enquiry points

This Plan will help the Parish Council to fulfil these roles and sets out useful information for both the local authorities and the Parish/Town Council for use in an emergency. The trigger for the agencies mentioned within this plan will be mainly through the Emergency Planning Unit, but could come from the Parish Council if they are the first to become aware of the emergency.

### Contact Arrangements Before and During an Emergency

On a day-to-day basis, the link for the Parish Council on emergency planning issues is to WCC Emergency Planning Unit. The EPU will assist the Parish Councils in the development of their emergency plan and in ensuring they are regularly updated in the following way:

* Assisting and supporting Parish Councils with advice on the production of their emergency plans
* Engagement with parishes on emergency planning issues, including presentations at Parish Council Meetings when requested
* Sharing of information within the plans
* Annual reminders for updating the plan
* Maintaining a data base of all plans produced
* Communications links with County and District in the planning process, the start of an emergency, during the emergency and during the recovery phase

Once an emergency has occurred, the local authority link for the Parish Council switches to the District Council as they will deal with the day-to-day issues affecting the local community during the emergency, whilst letting County deal with the bigger picture and support to the District Council. The recovery phase is also very much district lead.

### The Parish Council or Parish Council Emergency Committee

In the absence of the emergency services, the Parish Council or Parish Council’s Emergency Committee will lead the community response and act as central point for information and communication for the community, emergency services, County and District Councils.

#### Activation of the Plan

This plan will be activated when an emergency has occurred and when is obvious that the normal emergency response by the emergency services will be overwhelmed e.g. widespread flooding. It may also be used in smaller incidents at the request of Warwickshire Emergency Planning Unit, when a lesser response may be needed from the Parish Council.

Any member of the Parish Council may activate the plan if they become aware of an emergency situation or a member of the local community contacts them about a situation. Once notified the Councillor must call 999 and inform the emergency services of the situation and give the following information:

* Your name
* Your contact number
* Details of the incident
* Location
* Estimated casualties (walking wounded or more severe)
* Hazards and road blockages

He/she will then alert the Parish Clerk or Chair who will organise an emergency meeting of the Parish Council Emergency Committee.

The venue for the meeting will usually be the Village Hall but if the emergency prevents access to the building, then the meeting should be held in a safe location with safe access e.g. access roads not flooded, etc.

#### Parish Council Emergency Committee Meeting Agenda

At the Emergency Committee Meeting the following are items that may need consideration:

* If there is an immediate threat to life call “999”
* Location of the emergency – near a school, vulnerable area, main access route etc
* Type of emergency – is there a threat to health? e.g. is there a smoke cloud heading towards houses? Flood water rising? No electricity/gas during the winter (hypothermia) etc
* Are there any vulnerable people involved? e.g. elderly, or mothers with young babies with no heating, people cut-off by flood waters etc
* What actions are required?
* What resources are required?
* What information has been given out by the radio from WCC. The District Council or emergency services etc. e.g. expected time of arrival/assistance, safety advice etc.
* Organisation of the Parish Council to deal with local issues
* Temporary arrangements if outside assistance will be delayed

#### Notifying Warwickshire County Council’s Emergency Planning Unit

As soon as the decision has been made that the Parish Council needs to provide a community response, Warwickshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit must be notified that the plan is being activated.

The Emergency Planning Unit have a 24hr, 365 day single point of contact for all agencies, including the District Council, utilities and voluntary agencies.

#### Rest Centres

In the event of an emergency where people are required to leave their homes, the Emergency Planning Unit will set up rest centres in pre-identified locations. They have emergency procedures in place to do this. However, circumstances may dictate that that a more local response is required, particularly in cut-off situations. In that case, the local village hall or community centre may need to be utilised. Guidelines for doing this are contained within Section 4 of this emergency plan.

#### Location of Rest Centre

WCC Rest Centres located in District Council area:

Henley in Arden High School, Stratford Road, Henley

Kineton High School, Banbury Road, Kineton

St Benedict’s RC School, Kinwarton Road, Alcester

Southam College, Welsh Road West, Southam

Shipston High School (former Stour Valley Community School, Darlingscote Road

Stratford upon Avon School, Alcester Road, Stratford

Studley High School, Crooks Lane, Studley

Stratford Visitor & Leisure Centre, Bridgefoot, Stratford

Local premises that may be used as a rest centre:

Wilmcote Village Hall & Youth Centre

Wilmcote Club, Aston Cantlow Road

Wilmcote C of E Primary

#### Communications

The Parish Council (through the Emergency Committee) will communicate and notify the community via the following methods:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Where Available** |
| Written | Updates will be placed on the following notice boards;  Village Hall  Village Notice Boards  Church Notice Boards  Cemetery Notice Board  Library  Parish Council web site  Local Shops and Public Houses |
| Verbal | Community Briefings/Meetings |

Note: during emergencies the mobile phones and landline phones may become jammed and therefore should not be relied upon.

Generic Emergency Action Check list

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Action | Initials | **Date & Time** | **Completed** |
| 1 | If an emergency is reported to a member of the Parish Council by the community and it is possible that the emergency services are not aware, call 999 as soon as possible |  |  |  |
| 2 | Contact and inform Warwickshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit and the District Council  Take note of any safety advice given to you and discuss at the Parish Council’s Emergency Committee Meeting |  |  |  |
| 3 | Keep a log and record:   * Any decisions made and actions taken * Who was spoken to and what was said * Any information received |  |  |  |
| 4 | Contact the other members of the Parish Council, volunteers and key holders as appropriate |  |  |  |
| 5 | Organise a Parish Council Emergency Committee Meeting (via the Chair or Clerk) in a venue which is safe from the emergency with safe access routes |  |  |  |
| 6 | Decide actions to undertake e.g. consider the need for:   * Shelter * Visiting and checking on vulnerable people * Warm place * Distributing sandbags * Providing blankets, |  |  |  |
| 7 | Decide how to inform the community of the emergency and actions being undertaken  Inform the community of any advice given to you from the County and District Councils or the emergency services  Request the community to tune in to the local radio |  |  |  |
| 8 | Inform the Emergency Planning Unit and District Council of any decisions that have been made |  |  |  |
| 9 | Remember to liaise regularly with the County and District Councils to maintain the safety of the community.  If at any time an immediate threat to life occurs or is likely to occur, call 999.  **Remember that all reasonable steps must be taken to avoid harm to yourself and the public** |  |  |  |

In a major emergency or crisis formal procedures for control will be instigated by the Chief Constable or Chief Executive of WCC. This will include the establishment of a Strategic Co-ordinating Group or Gold Control.

## Section 2 - Contact Details

|  |
| --- |
| Local Authority Contacts (County and District) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Details** |
| Warwickshire County Council: | Office hours only 01926 410410 |
| Emergency Planning Unit: | 01926 412580 (Answer phone message if out of office hours) |
| County Emergency Centre: | When operational 01926 412719 |
| Emergency Planning Duty Officer:  **For emergency use by Parish Council only** | 01926 412745 or mobile phone 07867 520802 |
| Environment & Economy Directorate: Highways Emergencies  NB – to report flooding on Highways, please use these numbers, not the Duty Emergency Planning number | During office hours: 01926 412515  Out of office hours via Police HQ 01926 415000 |
| Duty Social Worker: | Emergency line out of hours 01926 886922 |
| Trading Standards: | Advice line: 01926 414000  Animal Health issues: 01926 410410 |
| District Council:  Emergency Planning lead  Duty Officer:  **This number is only for the use of the Parish Council during a major emergency, and must not be passed to any other individua**l | 01789 267575  Robert Weeks 01789 260810  07976 206246 – Robert Weeks |
| During a major emergency Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s Emergency Response Centre will be opened in order to co-ordinate responses. The Emergency Response Centre can be reached on 01789 260380 or 01789 260381. (NB: These numbers are unobtainable at all times the Centre is not in operation. | |
| Local Authority staff living within area: |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Parish Council Details |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chair: | Cllr.C. Ray 01789 296721 |
| Clerk: | Mrs E Butterworth 01789 268998  e-mail [lizbutterworth1@btinternet.com](file:///E:\User\AppData\Local\Documents%20and%20Settings\Ppat\Local%20Settings\Temp\notesA60827\lizbutterworth1@btinternet.com) |
| Emergency Committee: | All Parish Councillors |
| Other Parish Councillors:  contact order in an emergency | Cllr. C Lowis 07825171895  Cllr. K. McMillan 07976 325250  Cllr K Shilvock 01789 294184  Cllr. L Stewart 01789 414091 |

### District and County Councillor Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Local County Councillor: | John Horner 01926 842068 |
| Local District Councillor: | Simon Lawton 07831682051 |

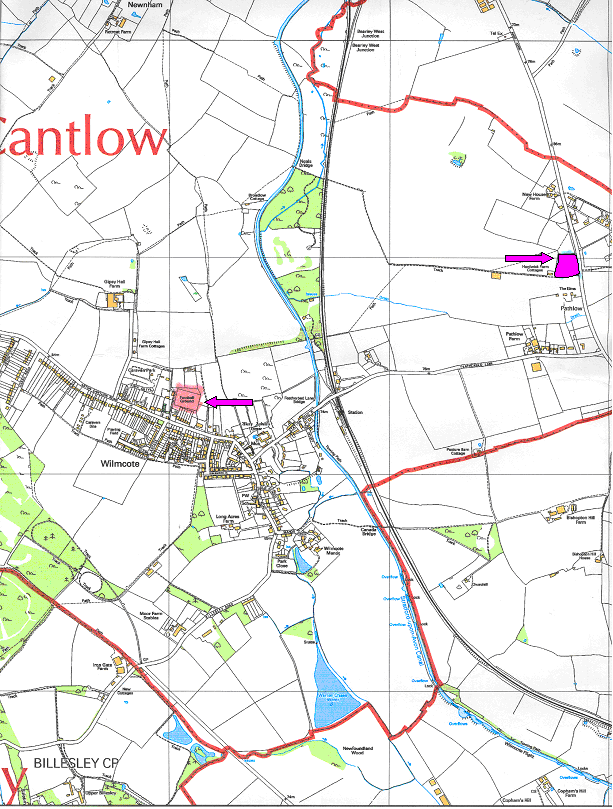
### Parish Emergency Box and other Resources

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Location: | Village Hall |
| Contents | Possible items include the following:  Emergency Plan  Local street map  First aid kit |
| Tabards, space blankets & ID Badges: | 4 Tabards & ID badges, 50 space blankets |

### Emergency Services

To report an emergency dial 999 \*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Warwickshire Police Headquarters: | 01926 415000 |
| Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters: | 01926 423231 |
| West Midlands Ambulance Service Warwick Locality Headquarters: | 01926 881331 |
| Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Air Ambulance | 024 7663 9043  Air Traffic Control 024 7676 2220 |
| Nearest Police Station or House: | Stratford on Avon |
| Nearest Fire Station: | Stratford-on-Avon |
| Nearest Ambulance Station: | Stratford-on-Avon |
| Emergency Services staff living within area: |  |
| Possible Air Ambulance landing sites:  NB whilst the pre-identification of potential landing sites for the Air Ambulance is useful, circumstances on the day may mean an alternative site is selected | See map below |



|  |
| --- |
| Premises for Emergency Use and Key Holders |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Premises** | **Details** |
| Village Hall & Youth Centre | Key holders:  Lesley Deacon 01789 296081  Joan Gibbons 01789 204924  Liz Butterworth 01789 268998 |
| Wilmcote Club Aston Cantlow Road | Andrew Carvell – 07734649307 |
| Wilmcote C of E Primary, Church Road | Mr. P Ballinger 01789 731631  Mrs. E. Banyard 01789 204395 |
| Masons Arms | 01789 297416 |
| Mary Arden Inn | 01789 267030 |

### WCC nominated Rest Centres (activated via the Emergency Planning Unit)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Premises** | **Details** |
| Henley in Arden High School | Stratford Road, Henley |
| Kineton High School | Banbury Road, Kineton |
| St Benedict’s RC School | Kinwarton Road, Alcester |
| Southam College | Welsh Road West, Southam |
| Shipston High School | Darlingscote Road, Shipston on Stour |
| Stratford upon Avon School | Alcester Road, Stratford |
| Studley High School | Crooks Lane, Studley |
| Stratford Visitor & Leisure Centre | Bridgefoot, Stratford on Avon |

|  |
| --- |
| Local Volunteer Details |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation | Details |
| WRVS: |  |
| St John Ambulance: |  |
| British Red Cross: | County Headquarters:  Bradbury House, Wheeler Road, Coventry  024 7630 4200 |
| Womens Institute Warwickshire Branch: | **01926 419998**  e-mail: [admin@wfwi.co.uk](mailto:admin@wfwi.co.uk)  President:  Mrs Ann Platt 01789 488321 |
| Local Scout/Guide Groups: | 1st Wilmcote Scouts  A Morris e-mail [WILMCOTEANDY@aol.com](mailto:WILMCOTEANDY@aol.com) |
| Lions: |  |
| Rotary: |  |
| Church Groups: | Priest in Charge:  Rev. Richard Livingston  Assoc.Minister: Rev.Canon Roy Brown 01926 850638  Church Wardens:  Aston Cantlow  Mrs N Chatterton 01789 488039  Wilmcote  Mrs. D. Howles 01789 269418  Mr. S. Lapidge 01789 295750 |
| Community Groups: |  |
| Other agencies: |  |
| Other people who may assist in an emergency: |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Health and Medical Information |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | Details | |
| Local Doctors: | Rother House Medical Centre, Alcester Road,  Stratford on Avon 01789 269386  Trinity Court Surgery, Arden Street  Stratford on Avon 01789 292895 | |
| Local Hospitals | George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton 02476 351351  Rugby Hospital of St Cross 01788 572831  UHCW Royal Hospital, Coventry 02476 964000  Warwick Hospital 01926 495321 | |
| Bordering Hospitals | Alexandra Hospital, Redditch 01527 503030  Birmingham Children Hospital 0121 333 999  Cheltenham General Hospital 08454 222222  Horton General, Banbury 01295 275500  Good Hope, Sutton Coldfield 0121 3782211  Heartlands, Birmingham 0121 4243263  John Radcliffe, Oxford 01865 741166  Solihull Hospital 0121 4244226  Worcestershire Royal Hospital 01905 763333 | |
| Nursing staff/Midwives/Health Visitors: | M Kemp Minola 01788 204758  M Goddard 01789 266298 | |
| Chemists/Pharmacies: | Boots, Maybird Centre, Birmingham Road,  Stratford on Avon. 01789 297223 | |
| Suppliers of medical equipment: |  | |
| First Aiders: |  | |
| Health Centre or Clinic: | Stratford-on-Avon | |
| Warwickshire Primary Care Trust: | 01926 493491 | |
| Veterinary Surgeons: | Mr Nick Blayney, Little Alne 01789 488025  Arden Forest Veterinary Group, 1 Cross Road, Alcester, B49 5EX – 001789 764455 Arden Forest Veterinary Group, 20A High Street, Henley-in-Arden (corner of Rose Avenue), B95 5AG - 01564 792444 The Ark Veterinary Practice, 352 Birmingham Road,  Stratford on Avon. 01789 261471 | |
| **NHS Direct** | **0845 4647**  [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) | |
| Emergency Supplies and Specialists | | |

Local shops and suppliers and any arrangements with shops/suppliers for providing food in an emergency

Warwickshire County Council will reimburse reasonable costs to local suppliers for items used in an emergency. It is essential that the Emergency Planning Unit is informed when arrangements are put in hand during an emergency.

Morrisons and Sainsbury Supermarket chains operate a crisis purchasing scheme and disaster assistance policy. These can only be activated via Warwickshire Emergency Planning Unit

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation | Details |
| Wilmcote Stores | 01789 298824 |
| Mary Arden Inn | 01789 267030 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Specialists** | **Details** |
| The inclusion of the following names does not imply a recommendation nor is the list exhaustive. An instant response is not guaranteed names are included purely as a guide to the resources available within the local community | |
| **Builders** | Roger Barnard 01789 400076 |
| **Plumbers** |  |
| **Electricians** |  |
| **Mechanics** | Karl McMillan 07976 325250 |

|  |
| --- |
| Local Resources |

Local suppliers of plant and equipment, four wheel drive vehicle owners, garages, generators, blankets, etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Resource | Contact Details |
| Edward Brain & Sons | 01789 266908 Mobile 07771 887807. |

|  |
| --- |
| Details of Neighbouring Parish Councils |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parish** | **Contact Details** |
| Aston Cantlow | Clerk:  Mrs E. Butterworth 01789 268998 |
| Bearley | Clerk:  Ms. L. Price 07760 819436 |
| Billesley | Chairman:  Mr R. Barnard 01789 400076 |
| Great Alne | Clerk:  Ms. S. Duran 07833 790375 |
| Haselor | Clerk:  Mrs E. Butterworth 01789 268998 |
| Old Stratford & Drayton | Clerk:  Mr. Roger Huxley 01789 296454 |
| Wootton Wawen | Clerk:  Mrs. V J Pratt 01564 794370 |

|  |
| --- |
| Utilities and other Agencies |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation | Contact Details |
| Gas: National Grid | 0800 111999 |
| Western Power Distribution | **0800 328 1111** |
| British Telecom: | 0800 800 150 |
| Environment Agency:  (Rivers) | Emergencies 24 hour public line 0800 807060  Floodline 0845 988 1188 |
| Severn Trent Water: | Emergencies 0800 783 4444 |
| AA Roadwatch: | 0906 88 84322 |
| Faith Agencies |  |
| Utility and other agency staff living within area: |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Details of any persons who may have special problems during an emergency and that the Parish Council are aware of |

NB For Data Protection purposes, names should only be recorded here if approval has been given by the people concerned. In normal circumstances, a statement to the effect that the Parish Clerk has details (if that is the case) will suffice.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Person** | **Details** |
| Mrs M Jones | Partially sighted  Thyme Bank |
| Mr P Clancy | Epileptic  49 Glebe Estate 01789 292894 |

|  |
| --- |
| Details of Local Radio Stations |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BBC Coventry & Warwickshire  (94.8, 103.7 & 104 FM) | Switchboard 02476 551000 |
| Radio WM (95.6 FM) | 0121 567 6767 |
| Heart FM (100.7 FM) | 0121 226 5700 |
| Mercia FM (97.0 & 102.9 FM) | 024 7686 8200 |
| Heart FM Oxfordshire (97.4 & 102.6 FM) | Newsroom 01865 871000 |
| BRMB (96.4 FM) | 0121 566 5200 |
| Touch FM (102 FM) | 01926 485600 |
| Rugby FM (107.1) | 01788 541100 |

|  |
| --- |
| Special Risks etc. |

Detail of any particular risks such as Homes for Elderly People, utility sub-stations, petrol stations, hazardous sites, etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Risk | Contact Details |
|  |  |

## Section 3

|  |
| --- |
| Parish Flood Arrangements |

The following reference documents may be of assistance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Source** | **Contact** |
| Preparing for an Emergency | HM Government | [www.pfe.gov.uk](http://www.pfe.gov.uk) |
| Flooding | Environment Agency | 0845 988 1188  [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood) |
| Flood protection equipment | National Flood Forum Blue Pages | <http://www.floodforum.org.uk> |
| Emergency Planning advice | Emergency Planning web pages | <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/epu> |
| District Council | Emergency Planning web pages | <http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk> |

Flooding is a complex issue involving many agencies. During any major flood event, it can be difficult to obtain an accurate picture of what is actually happening. It is therefore important that contact is maintained with both the District Council and the Warwickshire Emergency Planning Unit.

Flooding can take several forms and it can be confusing as to which agency queries should be directed. As a general rule, queries on a day-to-day basis should be directed as follows:

* Flooding of drains and sewers to Severn Trent Water Ltd
* Flooding of the highway to County Highways
* Flooding from local watercourses to the relevant District Council
* Flooding from main rivers to the Environment Agency
* Flooding of council houses or District premises should be directed to the relevant District Council
* Flooding from private sewers to the householder concerned

During major flood events, these agencies will work together in responding to the impact of the flooding. **It is essential though, that people are encouraged to make their own arrangements as far as possible to deal with the impact of any flooding.** Flooding cannot be prevented, but some local action may mitigate the effects such as local supplies of sandbags, individual household obtaining protection such as flood gates, air brick covers, etc. Details of these and many other products are obtainable from the National Flood Forum Blue Pages.

Occasionally requests may be received from the Emergency Services or members of the public for assistance. The main request will be for sandbags. The following should be noted when dealing with requests for sandbags:

* County Highways have stocks of sandbags but these are normally only used to deal with flooding problems on the highway
* At the specific request of the Manager of the Emergency Planning Unit, County Highways will make sandbags available to specific locations or individuals. This will **only** occur when major flooding is likely to lead to significant danger to property or to life and could take some time to achieve depending on the nature of the event
* All Parish Councils are regularly offered unfilled sandbags by the Emergency Planning Unit – individuals requesting sandbags will first be referred to their Parish Council if they took up the offer of sandbags
* During office hours, the Emergency Planning Unit and the District Council will pass on relevant and up to date information regarding weather and flood reports to parish councils and individuals who have provided e-mail addresses
* During a major flood event, information will be provided via the media and WCC website

The WCC website also contains a wealth of information about flooding and other emergencies. It also contains links to many other websites that may be of use to the local community.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parish Flood Information** |  |
| Details of Parish Flood Group (if established) |  |
| Details of Sandbags held within the Parish | As Aston Cantlow - Unfilled bags and sand hopper at Manor Farm - Mr Godfrey - contact Parish Clerk |
| Details of other Sandbag suppliers | Fairview Trading, Honeybourne 01386 833001  Bailey Buildbase, Nuneaton 024 7664 1641  Bailey Buildbase, Foleshill, Coventry  024 7666 8000  Bailey Buildbase, Kenilworth 01926 851155  Sapcote Site Supplies Ltd, Sapcote, Leicester 01455 274528/273099 |
| Details of any equipment held by Parish Council |  |
| Other Rivers/Critical Watercourses liable to flooding (main Rivers listed on next page) | Shottery Brook |
| Details of any premises at risk |  |
| Details of any local flood arrangements |  |

### Floodline Quick Dial Codes (QDC)– Warwickshire

Floodcall No. 0845 988 1188

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flood Watch** |  | **Flood Warning** |  |
| *Flood Watch Name* | *QDC* | *Flood Warning Area Name* | *QDC* |
| Rivers in West Warwickshire | 0524617  0523726 | River Alne at Bird in Hand  River Alne at Henley-in-Arden  River Alne at Wootton Wawen  River Alne at Aston Cantlow | 0524441  0524442  0524443  0524444 |

### Tree Emergency Procedure – Wind Related

**General Information**

The District Council response will be prioritised based on the assessment of the information given. In severe weather this could be several hours.

Callers will be reassured that once a tree / branch is on the ground, whilst inconvenient it is normally safe.

(Response times for non-priority works are normally within the week. However some tree works depend on the seasons and so there is no standard response time. During an emergency situation the response time could be longer. Each case will be judged on merit/risk.)

If a tree has fallen on a house or car the emergency services and insurance company should also be contacted by the owner.

If a building has been damaged Building Control need to be made aware. **01789 267575. (or visit www.stratford.gov.uk)**

**The District Council will require the following information**:

* What is the exact location of the tree
  + It is critical that the District Council has the precise location of any fallen or dangerous trees.
  + Stratford District Council are responsible for trees on SDC land such as parks, recreation grounds, closed churchyards, play areas, nature areas and nature areas.
  + They also act as agents for WCC for highway trees in the Rugby urban area (above ground only – enquires about root damage on highway should be reported to WCC).
* How tall the tree is
* Is the tree on a park or Open Space
* Is the tree on a new development? Tree work on new developments is the responsibility of the developer until the development has been adopted by SDC or WCC.
* Is the tree on a road? If tree is blocking a road within the urban area, RBC will deal with.
* If tree is blocking road within rural area, WCC Highways Customer Service Centre on **01926 412515** should be contacted
* Is the tree on a footpath or roadside verge? WCC Highways Customer Service Centre on **01926 412515** should be contacted
* Is the tree in a private garden or business premise? If so, the owner will need to make their own arrangements. The Arboricultural Association has a complete list of approved contractors and consultants on **01794 368717** or at <http://www.trees.org.uk/consultants.php>. Local telephone directories and the local press should also list consultants. However, they are often found listed under tree surgery. Always check the consultant/contractor has Public Liability Insurance, Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.
  + WCC operate the Home Chipping Service on **01926 738827**.

**Other questions could include:**

* What is the problem with the tree?
  + Looks dangerous
  + Fallen branches
  + Hanging branches
  + Fallen tree
  + Fallentree on house / car
* If a tree has fallen on a house or car the emergency services and insurance company should also be contacted by the owner. If a building has been damaged Building Control need to be made aware. **01604 864768**
* Fallen blossom/fruits/leaves/sap
  + The District Council cannot respond to blossom, fruits or leaves falling from trees. If they are causing a slip hazard on the footpath, this will be passed to Environmental Services.
  + Some trees secrete sap or attract aphids (mainly Lime) – unfortunately this is nature and something that cannot be helped.
* Blocking light
  + There are no laws governing “right to light”.
* If the tree / branch were to fall, where could it fall?
  + Road
  + House
  + School
  + Other

**Important Information**

* If in doubt over who should deal with a dangerous or fallen tree contact the Environment Service.
* Contact Address:

Elizabeth House

Church Street

Stratford upon Avon

CV37 6HX

* Opening hours: Monday-Wed, 9am-5.15pm. Thursday and Friday to 5.00pm
* WCC Highways Customer Service Centre: **01926 412515**
* WCC Home Chipping Service **01926 738827**
* Arboricultural Association **01794 368717** or [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

**Useful Contacts**

* British Waterways: **01788 890666**
* BTCV: **01302 388888** or [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)
* Commonwealth War Graves Commission: **01628 634221**
* DEFRA: **08459 33 55 77**
* Environmental Agency: **08708 506 506**
* Greenflag Park Awards: **0151 231 6900** or [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)
* Greenspace: **01189 469 060** or [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)
* Highways Agency: **08547 50 40 30**
* Ofcom: **020 7981 3000**
* Warwickshire Wildlife Trust: **02476 302912** [www.warwickshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk](http://www.warwickshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk)
* The Woodland Trust: **01764 581111** or [www.woodland-trust.or.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.or.uk)

## Section 4

## Aide-memoires

|  |
| --- |
| Rest Centres |

**Rest Centres may need to be set up for many different reasons. The prime concern is the shelter and care of those affected by an emergency. If possible an Emergency Planning Officer will be sent to manage the Rest Centre but this may not always be possible.**

The following points should be considered:

1. If possible contact the Emergency Planning Unit
2. 01926 412580 office hours
3. 01926 412745 out of office hours
4. 07867 520802 Duty Officer mobile
5. Emergency Centre 01926 412719

Decide which premises will be most suitable for the purpose

Contact members of the Parish Council and local community to assist

Arrange for premises to be opened

If available arrange for Parish Emergency Box and identifying tabards and badges to be taken to the Centre

Remember that you may have to operate shifts

Can you obtain additional mobile telephones to help with communications?

On arrival check the **following** –

heating – gas, electric, is it metered? etc

lighting

water – is supply turned on?

fire alarms and fire exits – what will you do in the event of a fire?

car parking

disabled access – is it possible to look after the disabled?

area for pets

Allocate areas within the Centre for different functions as space allows. Consider –

* reception
* registration
* first aid room
* nursing mothers
* leisure facilities
* play area
* luggage and secure area
* sleeping arrangements
* smoking/no smoking
* staff area
* washing/toilet facilities
* dining area

Consider what additional resources you may need such as blankets, food, drink – do you have arrangements with any local store?

### Remember

If possible, maintain contact with the Emergency Planning Unit – keep them informed and pass on requests for additional resources

Brief helpers as they arrive and allocate tasks

Make sure they are clearly identified – tabards and ID badges

Brief helpers at regular intervals

### Evacuees

Brief evacuees on arrival and on a regular basis

If the Rest Centre is open for more than 12 hours you may wish to record details of those in the Centre - a copy of the basic registration card is shown overleaf

|  |
| --- |
| Registration |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parish |  |
| Location of Rest Centre |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Surname | First Name | Address | Sex  M/F | \*Special Needs  catering or welfare |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |

\*SPECIAL NEEDS:

Catering – any special dietary need e.g. gluten free, diabetic etc.

Welfare – special needs e.g. medication, disabled etc.

|  |
| --- |
| Severe Weather |

##### When Severe Weather Strikes

Heavy snow, blizzards, dense fog, gales, heavy rain and widespread ice -can greatly disrupt daily routines and, in some cases, cause loss of life. The elderly, infirm, disabled and young can be particularly vulnerable.

Warwickshire County Council has a major role to play in such situations. Together with district and parish councils, the police, the fire and rescue service and various agencies, they provide a wide range of services, to help return the situation to normal, quickly and efficiently, alleviating suffering and even saving lives in the process.

Individuals also have a vital role to play. Being a good neighbour, aware of those who are particularly vulnerable, is very important.

The following hints are designed to help reduce discomfort and save lives.

##### For the car

Ample fuel

De-icer

A shovel

A radio and spare batteries

A torch

A blanket

Spare warm clothing

Water or a warm drink

##### For the home

An easily accessible supply of candles, matches, batteries and a torch

A battery operated radio tuned to your local radio station

A stock of food

A list of useful telephone numbers -police, library, social services office etc.,

Portable camping gas cooker if you rely solely on electricity.

##### Remember

Heed the advice when told not to travel .

Stowaway garden furniture and remove loose articles from outside. These might cause damage in a storm

Make sure your emergency equipment is at hand

If you have elderly, infirm or disabled neighbours, tell them to contact you if they need help -and keep an eye on them

If you rely on one source of energy for heating, lighting or are operating essential equipment -make sure you have adequate standby arrangements

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| Arrangements for Contacting Electricity Company in an Emergency |

##### Central Networks East and West Procedure

Central Networks West monitor Met Office information and if forecasts predicts weather likely to have an impact on their systems, they have additional resources put on standby to deal with subsequent problems.

During any power failure, all callers should use the 24 hour Central Networks Customer Contact Centre telephone number – 0800 056 8090. Trained call takers are available to deal with your enquiries (100 active operators). These staff will be able to deliver updated reports. In addition, a group of trained engineers are available to answer more specific engineering queries.

The line is always staffed and has overflow arrangements and recorded messages. This information is usually the most up to date.

24 hour Central Networks Customer Contact Centre telephone number – 0800 056 8090

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| General Advice to Parish Councillors about what to do in an Emergency |

This section is intended to be a general guide to help Councillors should an emergency occur and is reproduced here to enable easy access. Some of the information is repeated in other Sections of this Plan.

The information is based on the Government document ‘Preparing for Emergencies’ which was circulated to all households in 2005.

The Emergency Planning Co-ordinator for the Parish Council is \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

If you find yourself in the middle of an emergency, your common sense and instincts will usually tell you what to do. However, it is important to:

Common sense and instinct will usually tell you what to do. However, it is important to:

* Make sure ‘**999**’ has been called, including a request for an ambulance if people are injured or if there is a threat to life
* Re-assure bystanders and keep them away from the incident
* Keep bystanders back and out of the way of the Emergency Services
* Avoid putting yourself or others in danger – Rest areas may be available at the Village Hall
* Remain calm and think before acting and try to reassure others
* If you are appropriately trained, you could check for injuries, **however**, remember to help yourself first before attempting to help others and **do not** put yourself in any danger
* Always follow the advice of the emergency services

If you are not involved in the incident, but are close by or believe you may be in danger, in most cases the advice is:

* Advise people to go inside a safe building (or rest area if available)
* Stay inside until advised to do otherwise
* Tune in to local radio or TV for more information

Of course, there are always going to be particular occasions when you should not ‘go in’ to a building, for example, if there is a fire. Otherwise advise: **GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN**

REMEMBER

Do not assume that somebody has already taken action – it is better that the initial response is duplicated rather than no response is given at all!

Follow instructions given by the emergency authorities supported by information included in this Plan

Take appropriate further action until the Emergency Services arrive

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| Emergency Services Role |

The emergency services are trained to cope with a wide range of emergency situations, but there is a lot that you can do to help them and yourself.

Emergency plans exist in all areas of the UK

The police, fire and ambulance services have tried and tested plans for responding to incidents, from fires to explosions, whether they are at your home, your school or affecting transport networks.

Health and Hospitals

Emergency equipment, vaccines and antibiotics are stored around the UK and are quickly available to doctors

Emergency planning exercises

Every year, many exercises are held involving the emergency services and all agencies responsible for recovery. These exercises practise the responses to a range of emergencies, including terrorism, by testing our preparedness.

In most emergencies, the experts from the emergency services will be the best people to deal with any situation. Please ensure that they have been alerted by calling ‘**999**’ and asking for **Warwickshire Emergencies**. Ask bystanders to keep back and not interfere or become casualties themselves. The ‘walking wounded’ will be dealt with by the emergency services

Contact telephone numbers for emergency services are listed in Section 2. Although **999** will often be more appropriate. Leave the emergency to the trained professionals and help by keeping bystanders back and obeying the instructions of the emergency services

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| Coping with Specific Emergencies |

##### Fire

If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999

Keep bystanders back and out of the way of the Emergency Services

Avoid putting yourself or others in danger

Try to remain calm and think before acting, and try to reassure others

##### Bombs

If there is an explosion, get out, stay out and call 999

If a bomb goes off, stay in a safe area and tell the police what you saw.

Obey the instructions given by the Emergency Services

##### Chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological (CBRN) incident

If there is an incident involving CBRN, in most instances the advice will be to stay indoors and shut doors and windows.

Call 999

Obey the instructions given by the Emergency Services

Remember that in a chemical incident the fire service may need to carry out decontamination.

##### Major Crash - Road Traffic or Aircraft

If there is a crash, call 999

Move away from the immediate source of danger if appropriate

Obey the instructions given by the Emergency Services

##### Civil Unrest

If there is a riot, call 999

Stay in a safe area and tell the police what you saw.

Obey the instructions given by the Emergency Services

##### Severe Weather

Detailed advice is contained in Section 4 of this document

##### Flooding

Even if you are not in a flood plain, or have no major rivers in the parish, you may still suffer the effects from surface water flooding.

##### Tornado

Telephone the Emergency Services - dial **999** and ask for **Warwickshire Emergency Services**

**In all of these situations -keep calm, think before you act and listen to the advice of the emergency services.**

**Emergency plans exist in all areas of the UK** The police, fire and ambulance services have tried and tested plans for responding to incidents, from fires to explosions, whether they are at your home, your school or affecting transport networks.

Health and hospitals

Emergency equipment, vaccines and antibiotics are stored around the UK and are quickly available to doctors.

Emergency planning exercises

Every year, many exercises are held involving the emergency services and all agencies responsible for recovery. These exercises practise our response to a range of emergencies, including terrorism, by testing our preparedness.

##### School

If children are at school parents will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible in the event of a major emergency. The local authority have detailed plans for such a situation. Please listen to your local radio station for advice and for details of the arrangements the local authority has made for letting parents know when to collect their children from school.

In addition, all schools have plans to cope with local emergencies such as fire and flood, and teachers and support staff do all they can to look after the pupils in their charge. You can find out more about school emergency planning from [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk) and [www.teachernet.gov.uk/emergencies](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/emergencies)

### Preparing for an Emergency – what you can do

##### To prepare for an emergency, it may be useful to know:

_Pic101

_Pic103

If you are at home and an emergency happens, try to gather together:

A list of useful phone numbers, such as your doctor’s and close relatives’

Home and car keys

Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication A battery radio, with spare batteries

A torch with spare batteries, candles and matches

A First Aid kit

Your mobile phone

Cas and credit cards

Spare clothes and blankets

* Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies in your home
* The emergency procedures for your children at school
* The emergency procedures at local workplaces
* How you will stay in contact in the event of an emergency
* If any elderly or vulnerable residents might need your help
* How to tune into a local Radio Station
* Where fire hydrants are in the village

If you are at home and an emergency happens, try to gather together:

* A list of useful phone numbers, appears later this booklet (page 7)
* Home and car keys
* Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication,
* A battery radio, with spare batteries
* A wind-up torch with a torch with spare batteries, candles and matches
* A First Aid kit
* Your mobile phone
* Cash and credit cards
* Spare clothes and blankets
* Luminous waistcoats

Also, it is always useful to have:

Bottled water, ready-to-eat food (e.g. tinned food) and a bottle/tin opener, in case residents have to remain in their home for several days

In certain very unlikely situations, residents may be asked to leave their home by the emergency services. If this happens, encourage them to leave as quickly and calmly as possible. And, if they have time:

* Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows
* See the items listed above for what to take with them
* If they leave by car, take bottled water and blankets, and tune in to local radio for emergency advice and instructions
* When they are told that it is safe to return home, encourage them to open windows to provide fresh air before reconnecting gas, electricity and water supplies.

### Important Telephone Numbers

##### Emergency Services - 999 and ask for Warwickshire Emergency Services

Police:

Warwickshire HQ 01926 415000

Police Station

Fire:

Fire Station 01926 423231(HQ)

Ambulance:

Warwickshire Office 01926 881331

Warwickshire County Council:-

Emergency Planning Unit 01926 412580

Emergency Planning Duty Officer 01926 412745

Do mobile 07867 520802

Highways Flooding During office hours: 01926 412515

Out of office hours via Police HQ 01926 415000

Utilities

Electricity Supplies 0800 056 8090

Gas 0800 111999

Water 0800 783 4444

**For further information on any of the organisations involved in a countywide emergency response refer to the Warwickshire County Council Emergency Planning website on http://www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/EPU or call the Emergency Planning Unit.**