

# Risk Assessment – Non Financial

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SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Contents

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Scope and Objectives ..... | 2 |
| 2. Introduction .....         | 2 |
| 3. Risk Analysis .....        | 3 |

## 1. Scope and Objectives

The purpose of this document is to identify potential non-financial risks facing Sutton Parish Council ('the Council') and how those risks can be managed to ensure the Council is able to deliver the services expected of it.

This document will be reviewed by the Council annually (March meeting), enabling the Council to:

- a) Appraise itself of identified risks
- b) Agree appropriate actions to minimise the impact of the risks
- c) identify new risks and appropriate measures to manage them
- d) ensure the Council's insurance is adequate for the forthcoming year

## 2. Introduction

Risk management is NOT just about financial management, but about achieving the objectives of the organisation to deliver high quality public services. The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation, reputation and the ability to deliver the expected services.

The new approach to local Council audit seeks to address these issues by placing emphasis on local Council's strengthening their own corporate governance arrangements, improving their stewardship of public funds and improving assurances to taxpayers. In other words, 'the buck' stops with you, the Councillors!

Members are ultimately responsible for risk management because risk threatens achieving the objectives of the Council. As a minimum, members should at least annually formally:

- a) Take steps to identify key risks facing the Council
- b) Evaluate the potential consequences to the Council in the event of an identified risk occurring
- c) Agree upon appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or control the risk or its consequences

All of the above objectives should be served by this document. If they are not, then it is up to the Council to determine how they should be met and to put in place appropriate measures.

This document should be read in conjunction with the current Insurance Policy in force for the Council.

### 3. Risk Analysis

The following table attempts to identify all non-financial risks and to assign a probability ('Prob') of that risk occurring, and should it occur, its impact ('Imp') on the Council. Both the 'Probability' and 'Impact' of a risk are scored on a 1 – 5 scale; 1 being the lowest score (i.e. very improbable or very low risk) and 5 the highest (i.e. highly probable and very high impact). Both these scores are multiplied to give an Overall Risk Rating (ORR). Any risks over ORR 20 will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

The 'Managed by' column details how the risk is managed, either by protecting the Council from its impact (typically by way of insurance) or by reducing the probability of that risk occurring. All Councillors should be aware of the importance of keeping their register up to date and declaring any interests at meetings as and when appropriate. The below list is not exhaustive and items can be added, amended or removed as and when appropriate.

| Number | Details   | Prob | Imp | Overall Risk Rating | Managed by...   | Review Date | Action Taken or to be taken                                   |
|--------|---|------|-----|---------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 1      | Damage or loss to <b>Bus Shelter</b> from vandalism or poor maintenance     | 3    | 1   | 3                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance and its annual review</li> <li>Annual review of assets identified in Council's Asset Register</li> </ul> | March 2026  | Review asset annually or after any reported damage/vandalism  |
| 2      | Damage or loss to <b>Litter/Dog Bins</b> from vandalism or poor maintenance | 3    | 1   | 3                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance and its annual review</li> <li>Annual review of assets identified in Council's Asset Register</li> </ul> | March 2026  | Review asset annually or after any reported damage/vandalism  |
| 3      | Damage or loss to <b>Village Sign</b> from vandalism or poor maintenance    | 3    | 1   | 3                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance and its annual review</li> <li>Annual review of assets identified in Council's Asset Register</li> </ul> | March 2026  | Review asset annually or after any reported damage/vandalism  |
| 4      | Damage or loss to <b>Notice Boards</b> from vandalism or poor maintenance   | 3    | 1   | 3                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance and its annual review</li> <li>Annual review of assets identified in Council's Asset Register</li> </ul> | March 2026  | Review assets annually or after any reported damage/vandalism |

| Number | Details  | Prob | Imp | Overall Risk Rating | Managed by...   | Review Date | Action Taken or to be taken    |
|--------|--|------|-----|---------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 5      | Damage to third party property or individuals resulting from the Council providing services or amenities to the public | 3    | 5   | 15                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance - public liability cover of £10,000,000</li> <li>Councillors are required to ensure that any service, product or amenity the Parish Council supplies to the public is in line with the Council's insurers</li> </ul> | March 2026  | Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 6      | Liability claims against assets owned by the Council   | 3    | 2   | 6                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance - public liability cover of £10,000,000</li> </ul>   | March 2026  | Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 7      | Libel and Slander  | 1    | 1   | 1                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance – however Councillors must take appropriate steps to ensure they act in line with the Suffolk Code of Conduct (reviewed annually)</li> </ul>   | March 2026  | Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 8      | Business activities are outside the legal powers applicable to local Councils  | 2    | 2   | 4                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate training for the Clerk/RFO</li> <li>Retained membership of SALC</li> <li>Council adopted General Power of Competence in May 2023</li> </ul>  | March 2026  | Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 9      | Failure to meet the regulations of employment law and HMRC protocols   | 1    | 2   | 2                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate training for the Clerk/RFO</li> <li>Retained membership of SALC</li> <li>Use of qualified and suitable Internal Auditor</li> </ul>   | March 2026  | Strict adherence to guidelines |

| Number | Details  | Prob | Imp | Overall Risk Rating | Managed by...  | Review Date  | Action Taken or to be taken      |
|--------|--|------|-----|---------------------|--|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 10     | Register of Members interests, gifts and hospitality being incomplete, inaccurate or out of date | 1    | 1   | 1                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate training for all</li> <li>• Councillors to read and understand guidance from SALC on member's interests, gifts and hospitality</li> <li>• Annual reminder to Councillors each May</li> </ul>  | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 11     | Multiple Freedom of Information Act requests   | 1    | 3   | 3                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy for dealing with 'Freedom of Information Act' requests exists</li> </ul>   | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines |
| 12     | Preservation of records and documents  | 1    | 2   | 2                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All important Parish Council documentation held cupboard at Clerk's address</li> <li>• Clerk to keep electronic records of all Parish Council business via Microsoft 365 cloud storage and in accordance with GDPR. (Log in details held by Chair)</li> </ul> | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines |

| Number | Details  | Prob | Imp | Overall Risk Rating | Managed by...   | Review Date  | Action Taken or to be taken   |
|--------|--|------|-----|---------------------|---|--------------|---|
| 13     | Issues when SID is moved and/or battery is changed                                 | 2    | 4   | 8                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for all SID operators</li> <li>• Yellow fluorescent jackets can be provided</li> <li>• SID to be relocated as per the SCC Guidelines</li> </ul> | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines  |
| 14     | Abuse towards volunteers on Speedwatch   | 3    | 2   | 6                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate training</li> <li>• Three adults in attendance at each session</li> </ul>  | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines  |
| 16     | Unauthorised speaking on behalf of the Council                                     | 3    | 3   | 9                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Annual reminder of the Suffolk Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Cllrs. Advised to make any personal comments very clear</li> </ul>         | • March 2026 | • Strict adherence to guidelines  |
| 17     | Defibrillator not in working order   | 2    | 5   | 10                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly check by Andrew Barlow on behalf of the Clerk</li> <li>• Accessories purchased in advance</li> </ul>   | • March 2026 | • Andrew to arrange annual inspection and recording   |
| 18     | Incident when volunteers are undertaking highways maintenance (e.g. sign cleaning) | 3    | 5   | 15                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate safety equipment to be available (warning signs, high vis jackets, cones, etc.)</li> <li>• Guidance from SCC Highways followed</li> </ul>    | • March 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict adherence to guidelines</li> <li>• Guidelines/Policy to be drawn up and signed by each Volunteer</li> </ul> |

Adopted by Hollesley Parish Council at a meeting on: *31<sup>st</sup> March 2026*

Signed:

*C B Cooper*

*A McManus*

Clare Cooper  
Clerk

Alan McManus  
Chair