

EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY

The Parish Council recognised that efficient management of its records is necessary to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective overall management of the Parish Council. This document provides the policy framework through which this effective management can be achieved and audited. It covers:

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by the Parish Council in the course of carrying out its functions. Records are defined as all those documents which facilitate the business carried out by the Parish Council and which are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created, received or maintained in hard copy or electronically. A small percentage of the Parish Council's records will be selected for permanent preservation as part of the Council's archives and for historical research.

Responsibilities

The Parish Council has corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record management systems in accordance with the regulatory environment. The person with overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy is the Clerk to the Parish Council, the Clerk is required to manage the Council's records in such a way as to promote compliances with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and in a timely manner.

Retention Schedule

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Parish Council is required to maintain a retention schedule listing the recorded series which it creates in the course of its business. The retention schedule lays down the length of time which the record needs to be retained and the action which should be taken when it is of no further administrative use. The Clerk is expected to manage the current record keeping system using the retention schedule and to take account of the different retention periods when creating new record keeping systems. This retention schedule refers to records series regardless of the media in which they are stored.

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS	MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD	REASON
Minute Book	Indefinite	Archive
Scales of fees & charges	6 years	Management
Receipt & Payment Accounts	6 years	Audit
Receipts book of all kinds	6 years	VAT
Bank Statement, including deposit/savings accounts	6 years	Audit

Cheque book stubs	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 (as amended) Audit
Bank paying-in book	6 years	Audit
Quotation & Tenders	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 (as amended)
Paid Invoices	6 years	VAT
VAT records	6 years	VAT
Petty Cash, postage, telephone books	6 years	Tax, VAT, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Time sheets	6 years	Audit
Wage Book	12 years	Superannuation
Insurance Policies	While valid	Management
Public Liability Certificate	40 years from date on which insurance commenced or renewed	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI. 2735), Management
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Title Deeds, Leases, Agreements & Contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Members Allowance Register	6 years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Term of Office	Management
Members register of Interest	Term of Office	Management
Complaints	1 year	Management
General Information	3 months	Management
Routine correspondence/emails	6 months	Management

Planning Applications

All planning applications and relevant decision notices are available at Chichester District Council. There is no requirement to retain duplicates locally. All Parish Council recommendations in connection with these applications are recorded in the Council minutes and are retained indefinitely.

Disposal procedures

All documents that are no longer required for administrative reasons should be shredded and disposed of.

Signed: K. Martin Chairman Earnley Parish Council

Dated: 24th November 2016 Minute No: 121.16(2)

Review Date: November 2018