

Annual review of risk management

Carlton Parish Council (the PC) is required to undertake a risk assessment, and to review it at least annually (Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014; Governance and Accountability for Local Councils A Practitioners' Guide (England) 2018).

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires the PC to provide a service to the public during and after a period of disaster. The PC has a statutory duty to develop a business continuity plan for all of the public functions that it provides.

a) Activities of the Parish Council

The PC is a landowner, and is responsible for Saint Andrew's Churchyard, Carlton Parish Cemetery, Carlton Green, the Glebe Farm Green, Little Lane and the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

The PC is responsible for the Toddlers Play Area in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

The PC carries out works on land which it owns and on land owned by others, arranges for work to be carried out by volunteers, and also engages contractors to carry out works and to supply goods and services.

The PC owns or is responsible for items of street furniture and equipment.

The PC is an employer, and must therefore take out employer's liability insurance (Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969).

The PC deals with money, and holds public money on trust. The PC is required to take a security for employees who deal with money, though this need not be in the form of fidelity insurance (Local Government Act 1972, s114).

The PC carries on the business of local government, which includes holding public meetings, managing a website, and publishing a parish newssheet, minutes, reports and other material.

The PC holds and maintains important public documents and records.

b) Insured risks

As stated in current policy [1 st June 2025]	£
Public and products liability	12,000,000
Employers liability	10,000,000
Hirers indemnity	5,000,000
Officials indemnity	250,000
Inadvertent libel or slander	250,000
Fidelity	250,000
Commercial legal protection	100,000
Employee dishonesty	5,000
Property loss, damage and theft (revised 2021; p.1837/4 refers)	
2 bus shelters	19,985
Playground equipment	19,859
Jubilee sign	4,518
Vehicle activated sign	4,428
Defibrillator at church	2,725
Defibrillator at Gate Hangs Well	1,604
Money	
Non negotiable money	250,000
In transit (other than above)	5,000
In private dwelling house of principals or authorised employees	500
Assault, personal injury and accident to Councillor, Clerk or volunteer workers while on Council business	Contingency table

Councillors are classified as employees; sums above are subject to excess

c) Risks managed by the Parish Council

Acting *ultra vires*. All expenditure must be lawful. The PC adopted the Power of General Competence on 17th May 2023; this power will expire in May 2027. The statutory basis for any resolutions outside of normal business must be checked. The PC holds recent editions of administration and best practice guides and membership of LRALC & NALC which are both indemnified to offer legal advice. Members and the Clerk must not enter into any arrangements or agreements which could be interpreted as bribery.

Land and property are managed through assets register; regular maintenance; annual review and index-linking of insurance cover; and insurance held by contractors and sub-contractors. Safety considerations and risk assessments are an integral part of all projects and work plans.

Voluntary activities are tailored to the age and experience of the volunteers involved, and are usually supervised by experienced personnel. Training may be provided through external courses as appropriate.

Toddlers Play Area is inspected weekly in accordance with an inspection schedule, and a written record kept. Play inspection training courses were attended by Cllr Sarson and the Clerk in 2015, Cllr Vann in 2022 and the Chairman in 2024. The Area is also inspected annually by the Play Inspection Company.

The Council holds very little personal information, and this is kept in a locked filing cabinet in a locked outside store to which only the Clerk's family have access. The Council is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Serious illness or death of Clerk or Chairman. Would cause disruption, but established procedures and reports should enable new appointee to take over quickly. All significant documents are kept in written form in clearly identified filing cabinets. Arrangements have been made for the Clerk of Market Bosworth PC to act as a temporary locum. The Chairman holds access details and passwords for all PC accounts.

Election called to fill casual vacancy, or Parish Poll called by Parish Meeting. Costs covered by reserve funds.

Cyber crime. The Council does not use on-line banking or debit or credit cards. Invoices and accounts are carefully scrutinised before payment.

Website subversion or infiltration would be rectified by the host. The website could be shut down without any effect on the day to day operation of the PC.

Ransomware. Computer could be shut down and replaced without serious loss.

Computer malfunction. Real-time backup to cloud. All important documents stored as hard copy. Bank accounts are managed manually or by telephone so no security risk.

Total destruction of documents by (say) fire at Clerk's home. Financial records for current and previous financial year could be reconstituted from copies of minutes on website. Hard copies of signed minutes and account books deposited at County Record Office each year. Current account book scanned and uploaded to website at end of financial year. Important documents (title deeds etc) stored in safe by Flavell's Solicitors, Hinckley.

Register of Burials and Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial photocopied and copies stored in church safe.

Public litigation - complaints dealt with promptly in accordance with published procedure. Council business administered in accordance with current best practice.

Unauthorised occupation of Carlton Green (registered village green) would be an offence and would be dealt with through the Police and the County Court. Unauthorised occupation of other land would be dealt with through the Borough Council and the Police.

Monuments in closed churchyard and cemetery - annual safety inspection carried out by a suitably qualified person, and identified defects remedied.

Failure of grounds maintenance or other contractor – temporary management by volunteers and urgent appointment of new contractor by PC.

Carlton News - would be produced by Clerk until new volunteer editor was found. Copies are deposited at the British Library (Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003), the County Record Office, and Hinckley Library (Local History Collection).

d) Unmanaged risks

Bank deposits. Deposits of up to £120,000 made by small local councils (defined as having an annual budget of less than 500,000 euros) are now covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Deposits are split between two independent banks.

Consequential loss of income would not be a factor for Carlton PC.

Business interruption and terrorism are not insured.

e) Risk assessments

General risk assessments have been prepared for the usual activities carried out by members of the Carlton Footpath Group, Carlton Gardening Group and Keep Carlton Tidy Group.

Specific risk assessments are carried out before public events and project works, and identify the different activities and risks involved in each project.

Risks are evaluated using the RoSPA formula of probability multiplied by severity (each on a scale of 1-5), which yield the following ratings:

1-3	very low risk	monitor
4-7	low risk	monitor and reduce if possible
8-12	medium risk	reduce if possible
13-20	high risk	implement control measures asap
21+	unacceptable risk	stop activity, take immediate action

The Parish Council may allow a volunteer to use his or her own power tools at their own risk where appropriate, but will ensure that any such operator is briefed on the project and site conditions, and has a clear area in which to work. No volunteer may use a power tool belonging to another person.

f) Parish Council risk review calendar

The Register of Member's Interests is available for inspection at all meetings.

January

- Quarterly financial statement
- Annual Finance Meeting
- Review of risk management
- Review of internal financial control
- Donations and budgets of community groups
- Membership of societies
- Review of salaries
- Review of cemetery fees and regulations
- Review of tenancies
- Review of direct debit agreements
- Appointment of internal auditor
- Budget agreed
- Precept set

April

- Quarterly financial statement
- Receipt & Payments accounts made up for approval; checked by Chairman; compliance checked by Internal Auditor
- Summary financial statement prepared for previous financial year
- Review of insurance policy (renewal May)

May

- Annual Meeting
- Parish organisations report
 - Carlton Charity Lands
 - Carlton Footpath Group - Rights of Way
 - Carlton Gardening Group – management of Diamond Jubilee Orchard
 - Carlton Neighbourhood Watch Group
 - Keep Carlton Tidy Group - litter and fly tipping
- Parish Council
 - Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office
 - Inventory checked
 - Report on condition of all Council property
 - Statement of fixed assets
 - Statement of tenancies
 - Report on condition of memorials in the Churchyard and Cemetery
 - Annual summary of s137 expenditure and earmarked funds
 - Annual report prepared for Council approval
 - Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) approved and signed

July

- Quarterly financial statement

November/December

- Independent inspection and valuation of Toddlers Play Area

October

- Quarterly financial statement

Other reviews	Frequency	Last review	Next review
Risk management	Annually	January 2026	January 2027
Internal financial controls	Annually	January 2026	January 2027
Ground maintenance contracts	3 and 2-yearly	Oct 2025	Sept 2027
Pensions Review	3 yearly	Mar 2024	Jan 2027
Elections	4-yearly	May 2023	May 2027
Financial regulations	5-yearly	July 2024	July 2029
Cemetery fees	5-yearly	June 2023	June 2028
Cemetery regulations	5-yearly	Nov 2023	June 2028
Parish appraisal	10-yearly	Jan 2021	Jan 2031
Cemetery plan	When necessary	Sept 2022	
Emergency plan	When necessary	November 2025	

g) Parish Council business continuity plan

The PC has prepared an emergency plan and has made reasonable arrangements to ensure that its operations would not be compromised by a local or national disaster. In this context, the most important statutory function of the PC is the provision and management of the cemetery, and this is maintained by keeping a copy of the necessary records in a second secure location.

This Report was prepared for approval by Carlton Parish Council on 14th January 2026