

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

RISK	DOES IT APPLY TO MSPC?	HOW IT IS DEALT WITH ?	ANY ACTION NEEDED
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**TABLE 1 - AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE SCOPE TO USE INSURANCE TO HELP MANAGE RISK**

### **RISK IDENTIFICATION**

Protection of physical assets owned by the Council, buildings furniture, equipment etc	Yes	Insured with Hiscox via Insurance brokers on an annual basis	No
Risk of damage to third party property or individuals as a consequence of the Council providing services or amenities to the public	Yes	£10m public liability cover	No – included withn insurance schedule
The risk of consequential loss of income or the need to provide essential services following critical damage, loss or non-performance by a third party	Yes	All assets insured Contracts checked by solicitors	
Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty	Yes	Fidelity guarantee of £50,000 included in insurance cover	
Legal liability as a consequence of asset ownership	Yes	£10m public liability cover	

### **INTERNAL CONTROLS**

An up to date register of assets and investments	Yes	Included in year end accounts and reviewed by Internal Auditor	
Regular maintenance arrangements for physical assets	Yes	Annual service and maintenance arrangements in place	
Annual review of risk and adequacy of cover	Yes	Check carried out on an annual basis	
Ensuring robustness of insurance providers	Yes	Hiscox is a major specialist insurer for local councils	

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

### INTERNAL AUDIT ASSURANCE

Review of internal controls in place and their documentation	Yes	Contracts checked by solicitors and appointed internal auditor
Review of management arrangements regarding insurance cover	Yes	as above
Testing of specific internal controls and reporting findings to management	Yes	as above

**TABLE 2 - AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE SCOPE TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO HELP MANAGE RISK**

### RISK IDENTIFICATION

Security for vulnerable buildings, amenities or equipment	Yes	Regularly reviewed by clerk and councillors
Maintenance for vulnerable buildings, amenities or equipment	Yes	Outside contractors used as required
Provision of services being carried out under agency/partnership or community group use	Yes	Play area – weekly checks by BDBC
Banking arrangements including borrowing or lending	Yes	Savings & Current account with Unity Trust Bank
Ad hoc provision of amenities/facilities for events to local community groups	Yes	Play area
Markets Management	N/A	
Vehicle or equipment lease or hire	N/A	
Trading units (playing fields burial grounds etc)	Yes	Maintained by qualified Groundstaff where applicable

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

Professional services	Yes	Appropriately qualified professional services used	
<b>INTERNAL CONTROLS</b>			
Standing Orders and financial regulations dealing with the award of contracts for services and purchase of capital equipment	Yes	NALC model Standing Orders & Financial Regulations adopted accordingly	NALC Model Standing Orders adapted and adopted
Regular reporting on performance by suppliers/providers/contractors	Yes	Reports would be made if performance lacking	
Annual review of contracts	Yes	Negligible risk	
Clear statements of management responsibility for each service	Yes	Schedule of annual work, daily inspections of building equipment and areas managed independantly	
Regular scrutiny of performance against targets	Yes	Half yearly budget monitoring	
Adoption of and adherence to codes of practice for procurement and investment	Yes	In adopted Financial Regulations and Local Authority used for high interest investment	NALC Model Fiancial Regualtions adapted and adopted
Arrangements to detect and deter fraud and/or corruption	Yes	Two members to independantly authorise payments awaiting authorisation online following approval at the monthly meeting  All Councillors receive copy of income & expenditure & bank rec on a monthly basis  Expenditure approved at Council  I.A. checks all systems annually	Internet banking implemented
Regular bank reconciliation, independently reviewed	Yes	Chairman checks bank statement balance against balance on reconciliation and all Councillors receive monthly reconciliation	

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

including income & expenditure reviewed  
at end of year by IA

### INTERNAL AUDIT ASSURANCE

Review of internal controls in place and their documentation	Yes	Clean audit report
Review of minutes to ensure legal powers are available, and the basis of the powers recorded and correctly applied	Yes	Reviewed by Internal auditor and reported to Clerk and Council
Review and testing of arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and corruption	Yes	as above
Review of adequacy of insurance cover provided by suppliers	Yes	as above
Testing of specific internal controls and reporting findings to management	Yes	as above

### TABLE 3 - AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE A NEED TO SELF-MANAGE RISK

#### RISK IDENTIFICATION

To ensure risk assessments are carried out prior to any task, which may involve an element of risk, being undertaken by an employee	Yes	Clerk
Keeping proper financial records in accordance with statutory requirements	Yes	Proper financial records kept, confirmed by Internal Auditor
Ensuring all business activities are within legal powers applicable to local councils	Yes	Clerk attends ongoing training re new legislation Internal Auditor reviews systems annually
Complying with restrictions on borrowing	N/A	

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

Ensuring that all requirements are met under employment law, Health & Safety legislation and Inland Revenue regulations	Yes	All current requirements met : Checks undertaken by Internal auditor
Ensuring all requirements are met under Customs & Excise regulations (especially VAT)	Yes	All current requirements met
Ensuring the adequacy of the annual precept with sound budgeting arrangements	Yes	Forward & annual budget planning, half yearly budget reports and precept in line with requirements
Monitoring of performance against agreed standards under partnership agreements	N/A	
Ensuring the proper use of funds granted to local community bodies under specific powers or under S137	Yes	All such expenditure minuted
Proper, timely and accurate reporting of Council business in the minutes	Yes	Decisions and reasoning behind decisions minuted, minutes approved at next meeting
Responding to electors wishing to exercise their rights of inspection	Yes	Publication Scheme adopted, Parish Office open by appointment
Meeting the laid down timetables when responding to consultation invitation	Yes	Members informed of response dates
Meeting the requirements for Quality parish status or other accreditation		Council not wishing to pursue at present
Proper document control	Yes	Incoming correspondence dealt with either by clerk or through Council meeting and filed accordingly.
Register of Members' Interests and Gifts and Hospitality in place, complete, accurate and up to date	Yes	Council policy to remind Councillors annually of their obligations, alterations made on receipt and copied to Monitoring

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

Officer

### INTERNAL CONTROLS

Regular scrutiny of financial records and proper arrangements for the approval of expenditure	Yes	Expenditure approved bi-monthly at Council meetings & minuted  Appropriate accounts software used and control totals regularly checked and IA review
Recording in the minutes the precise powers under which expenditure is being approved	Yes	Clerk refers expenditure to CAB
Regular returns to Inland Revenue; contracts of employment for all staff, annually reviewed by Council, systems of updating records for any changes in relevant legislation	Yes	Monthly returns to IR, all staff have contracts, annual review of salaries/wages, updates carried out as necessary
Regular returns of VAT; training the responsible officer in matters of VAT and other taxation issues as necessary	Yes	Yearly VAT returns made or full year where amount negligible
Regular budget monitoring statements	Yes	Half yearly budget reports
Developing systems of performance measurement		
Procedures for dealing with and monitoring grants or loans made or received	Yes	All grant income is minuted, all grants made or under s.137 or the appropriate authority
Minutes properly numbered and paginated with master copy kept in safekeeping	Yes	Signed, paginated ledger minutes kept and archived when binder full
Documented procedures to deal with enquiries from the public	Yes	

## Monk Sherborne Parish Council - Risk Management – 2025/2026

Documented procedures to deal with responses to consultation requests	Yes	Council policy to respond to consultation
Monitoring arrangements regarding Quality Council status		N/A
Documented procedures for document receipt, circulation, response, handling and filing	Yes	Contained in policy document
Procedures in place for recording Members' interests and Gifts and Hospitality received	Yes	Written disclosures recorded
Adoption of Codes of Conduct for members and employees	Yes	Model Code adopted, Interest recorded in minutes

### INTERNAL AUDIT ASSURANCE

Review of internal controls in place and their documentation		IA full review of systems and clean DA reports	
Review of minutes to ensure legal powers in place, recorded and correctly applied		as above	
Testing of I&E from minutes to cashbook, from bank statements to cashbook, from minutes to statements etc including petty cash transactions		as above	
Review and testing of arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and corruption		as above	
Testing of disclosures		as above	
Testing of specific internal controls and reporting findings to management		as above	
Creation & maintenance of a fixed assets register		Done annually and reviewed by IA	Clerk