

Wath and Norton Conyers Parish Council

Records Management Policy

Adopted Date:September 2018.....

Review Date:

1 Introduction

1.1. The guidelines set out in this document supports the Wath and Norton Conyers Data Protection Policy and assists us in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR) and other associated legislation.

1.2. It is important that the Parish Council has in place arrangements for the retention and disposal of documents necessary for the adequate management of services in undertaking its responsibilities. This policy sets out the minimum requirements for the retention of documents and sets out the requirements for the disposal of documents. However, it is important to note that this is a live document and will be updated on a regular basis.

1.3. Wath and Norton Conyers Parish Council will ensure that information is not kept for longer than is necessary and will retain the minimum amount of information that it requires to carry out its functions and the provision of services, whilst adhering to any legal or statutory requirements.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. It is recognised that up to date, reliable and accurate information is a vital to support the work that the *Parish Council* does and the services that it provides to its residents. This document will help us to:

- Ensure the retention and availability of the minimum amount of relevant information that is necessary for the Council to operate and provide services to the public.
- Comply with legal and regulatory requirements, including the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the GDPR.
- Ensure archival records that are of historical value are appropriately retained for the benefit of future generations.

3. Scope

3.1. For the purpose of this policy, 'documents' includes electronic and paper records.

3.2. Where storage is by means of paper records, originals rather than photocopies should be retained where possible.

4. Standards of good practice

4.1. The *Parish Council* will make every effort to ensure that it meets the following standards of good practice:

- Adhere to legal requirements for the retention of information as specified in the Retention Schedule at Annex A.
- Personal information will be retained in locked filing cabinets and access to these documents will only be by authorised personnel.
- Appropriately dispose of information that is no longer required.
- Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that confidential and sensitive information is securely destroyed.
- Information about unidentifiable individuals is permitted to be held indefinitely for historical, statistical or research purposes eg. Equalities data.
- Wherever possible only one copy of any personal information will be retained and that will be held within the *locked filing cabinet*.

5. Breach of Policy and Standards

5.1. Any employee who knowingly or recklessly contravenes any instruction contained in, or following from, this Policy may, depending on the circumstances of the case, have disciplinary action, which could include dismissal, taken against them.

5.2. Where there is a breach of the policy, the Council may need to consider whether there is also a breach of the GDPR.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. The *Parish Council* Clerk has responsibility for implementation of the policy.

6.2. The Parish Clerk is responsible for the maintenance and operation of this policy including ad-hoc checks to ensure compliance.

7. Retention

7.1. Timeframes for retention of documents have been set using legislative requirements, guidance from the National Association of Local Councils and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Professional Development (CIPD).

7.2. Throughout retention the conditions regarding safe storage and controlled access will remain in place.

7.3. The attached 'Appendix' shows the minimum requirements for the retention of documents as determined by the *Parish Council* for the management of specific documentation types. Officers holding documents should exercise judgement as to whether they can be disposed of at the end of those periods detailed in the attached 'Appendix'

8. Disposal

8.1. Documents/data no longer required by the *Parish Council* for administrative purposes must be finely shredded/disposed of through specialist waste removal contractors and deleted entirely and securely from the *Parish Council* computer system.

APPENDIX A

Document Retention Timescales

Document	Retention Period
Finance	
Financial Published Final Accounts	Indefinitely
Annual Governance and Accountability Return	Indefinitely
Final Account working papers	6 years
Records of all accounting transactions held in the financial management system	At least 6 years
Cash Books (records of monies paid out and received)	12 years
Purchase Orders	6 years
Cheque Payment Listings (Invoices received)	6 years
Payment Vouchers Capital and Revenue (copy invoices)	12 years
Goods received notes, advice notes and delivery notes	3 years
Debtors and rechargeable works records	6 years
Expenses and travel allowance claims	6 years
Asset Register for statutory accounting purposes	10 years
Adopted annual budget	6 years
Financial Plan	6 years
Budget Estimates – Detailed Working Papers and summaries	3 years
Bank Statements (Hardcopy)	6 years
Refer to Drawer (RD) cheques	3 years
Cancelled Expenditure cheques	3 years
Bank Reconciliation	3 years
Cheques presented/drawn on the Council bank accounts	3 years
Grant/Funding Applications & Claims	3 years
Precept Forms	Indefinitely
Internal Audit Plans/Reports	3 years
Loans and Investment Records; temporary loan receipts	10 years (after redemption of loan)
Current and expired insurance contracts and policies indefinitely Insurance records and claims	10 years (or as long as it is possible for a claim to be made under then)
VAT records, input and output	10 years
Redundancy Records	6 years from date of redundancy

Personnel/employment	
Unsuccessful application forms	6 months to 1 year
Unsuccessful reference requests	1 year
Successful application forms and CVs	For duration of employment + 6 years
References received	For duration of employment + 6 years

Statutory sick records, pay, calculations, certificates etc.	For duration of employment + 6 years
Annual appraisal/assessment records	Current year and previous 2 years
Disclosure and Barring checks	6 months
Employee Personnel files, training records, discipline and grievance records and working time records	6 years after employment ceases
Disciplinary or grievance investigations - unproven	Destroy immediately after investigation or appeal
Time sheets and overtime claims	6 years
Statutory end of year returns to Inland Revenue and Pensions records	Indefinitely
Income Tax and National Insurance Records	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate
Wages/salary records, overtime, bonuses, expenses etc	6 years
Redundancy records	6 years from the date of redundancy

Corporate	
All <i>Parish Council</i> minutes	Indefinitely and archived after two years
Policies and procedures	Until updated or reviewed
Asset management records	Indefinitely
Internal audit fraud investigation	7 years from date of final outcome of investigation
Pre-tender qualification document, summary list of expression of interest received, a summary of any financial or technical evaluation supplied with the expressions of interest Initial application	1 year
Successful tender documentation Life of contract	6 years from date of final payment
Unsuccessful tender documentation	Until final payment of contract let is made
Documentation referring to externally funded projects	6 years

Other	
Hard copy routine correspondence	File management – retain until matter dealt with; maximum period 6 months. Where <i>Parish Council</i> believes that it is necessary to keep correspondence for an increased length of time, it will redact personal data from the correspondence.
Electronic routine correspondence	File management – retain until matter dealt with; maximum period 6 months. Where the <i>Parish Council</i> believes that it is necessary to keep correspondence for an increased length of time, it will redact personal data from the correspondence.
Requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	File management – retain until matter dealt with plus 6 months. Where the <i>Parish Council</i> believes that it is necessary to keep correspondence for an increased length of time, it will redact personal data from the correspondence.
Planning Applications	Recommendations in connection with relevant planning applications are recorded in the minutes which are retained indefinitely. Correspondence (both hard copy and electronic) received in connection with planning applications will be retained in accordance with the routine documents/correspondence policy noted above. Where an application is refused by the local planning authority, the application will be retained until the period within which an appeal can be made has expired.