**Shipbourne Parish Council: Risk Assessment – March 2017**

## Context

Shipbourne is a village of some 450 inhabitants. The key road running through it is A227. There is a Village Hall, Open Common, Tennis Courts, a Pub, a Church and a Primary School.

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|  | Description | **Risk (High, Medium Low)** | **Aim** | **Action** |
|  | **Land** |  |  |  |
|  | Dunks Green Common, Whitwicks & Budds Green | Personal Injury (L)  Damage to the common (L)  Falling Trees/Branches (L-M) | Safety of users and availability for all Parishioners to use without exclusion to others. To preserve the conservation areas at Budds Green and “Shipbourne Village” | Carry out regular tree safety inspections, next one due in 2017. Ensure that service providers regularly maintain equipment on Dunks Green Common |
|  | **Fixed Assets** |  |  |  |
|  | Defibrillator | Theft (L)  Malfunction (L) | To maintain the defibrillator and cabinet which is situated on the back wall of The Chaser Inn. Its leased from CHT | Regular checks by Parish Clerk via Webnos. Registered with SECAMB. The Chaser Inn also has the access code.  *Include on Insurance -. Sign up to VETS scheme* |
|  | Fountain | Damage (L) | To keep in good state of repair | Insured. Carry out necessary repairs as and when required. |
|  | Village Seating | Personal Injury and damage (L) | To keep in good state of repair | Insured. Carry out necessary repairs as and when required. |
|  | Bus shelters | Personal Injury and damage (L) | To keep in good state of repair | Insured. Carry out necessary repairs as and when required. |
|  | Village Sign | Personal Injury and damage (L) | To keep in good state of repair | Maintained by Parish Council. Insured. The Parish Council has recently carried out repairs to the sign and has had it secured (Dec 2016) |
|  | Waste bins & dog bins | Personal Injury and damage (L) | To keep in good state of repair and maintain hygiene | Owned by and emptied by TMBC. Parish Council reports on excess litter. Parish Councillors monitor. Parishioners encouraged to litter pick. |
|  | **Highways & Paths** |  |  |  |
|  | Rights of way | Personal Injury (L)  Falling trees/overgrown vegetation (L). | Protecting public rights of way | Report problems to PROW. Shipbourne Parish has been active in publicising proposed changes to village footpaths/discussions with residents and also has frequent dialogue with KCC PROW |
|  | Traffic Calming | Personal Injury (M-H)  Road traffic accidents (M-H) | To ensure road safety by considering traffic calming measures within the general village context. | Highways is a standing agenda item at Parish Council meetings. Representations made to Highways, as necessary. Parish is looking into an additional speed indication device on Tonbridge Road in the location of the schooland has recently secured part funding (March 2017) for a new speed indication device. |
|  | Road surfaces & markings | Personal Injury (L)  Road traffic accidents (L) | Safety | Problems reported to KCC Highways. |
|  | Car parking | Personal Injury (L)  Road traffic accidents (L) | Safety | Considered at Parish Council meetings.  Article in Village News Letter/school newsletter to encourage considerate parking. Parish designed signs available to put in areas where there are persistent offenders. Parish has been in contact with local PCSO to discuss measures to discourage inconsiderate parking. |
|  | Drains | Flooding (L) | Hygiene and safety | Problems reported to KCC. Articles published in Parish Magazine to encourage residents to clear drains outside their properties**.** |
|  | Footpaths | Personal injury (L) | To maintain safety | Concerns reported to KCC |
|  | Verges | Overhanging vegetation (L) | To maintain safety | Responsibility of KCC |
|  | **Environment** |  |  |  |
|  | Litter and animal droppings | Personal injury/disease (L) | Keep Parish clean of litter and dog faeces | Monitored regularly by TMBC; swept as necessary. Litter bins provided; occasional litter-picks; poop-scoop bin for dogs (emptied by TMBC) |
|  | **Planning** |  |  |  |
|  | Major developments | Inappropriate over-development (L) | To maintain the aesthetics of the village and comply with planning regulations | Review of applications at every Parish Council meeting; submissions prepared, as necessary, to promote village policy. Unauthorised developments challenged. |
|  | **Crime** |  |  |  |
|  | Attention to crime prevention | Crime in general (L) | Being aware of Parish Council obligations and powers | Regular review by Council; occasional attendance of police at Parish Council meetings. |
|  | **Finance & Purchasing** |  |  |  |
|  | Annual Budget /Precept | Inadequate funding to provide core services (L) | To maintain and provide services for parishioners | Assessed annually by all Councillors. Budget recently prepared and agreed with all councillors. Regular reporting of expenditure against budget, at least once a quarter. |
|  | Purchases | Inappropriate expenditure (L) | To comply with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations | Generally obtain separate quotes for services. Review statement of Accounts each meeting. Annual Audit undertaken. |
|  | **Accounts & Audit** |  |  |  |
|  | Book keeping Financial records | Incorrect records (L)  Misappropriation of Parish Council funds | To keep accurate records and update monthly. Keep bank statements and financial transactions | Review financial regulations annually. Statement of accounts available with agenda each meeting.  Annual audit by PKF Litteljohn (and, separately, by Parish Councillors – see below). Reporting of accounts recently updated and will be implemented from April 2017 |
|  | Bank reconciliation | Inconsistent record of Council’s transactions & banks statements | Statements checked regularly and reconciled monthly with bank statements. | Statements checked regularly Internal audit |
|  | Sign-off | Fraud, over payment, theft of funds | Timely payment of Parish Council bills, to prevent fraud. | Cheques signed by two councillors |
|  | Year end accounts | Investigation by External Auditors/non compliance | To provide accurate statement of the Parish Council’s financial transactions for year | Consider recommendations by internal auditor in preparation of accounts. Statement of financial activity of the Parish Council for the year provided and signed off. Independent audit undertaken. |
|  | Income | Lack of control could result in loss of income misappropriation of cash (L) | To pay in cheques in a timely manner | Fidelity insurance £250,000. Precept and other income received by TMBC paid direct into Parish Council bank account |
|  | Parish Clerk’s salary | Failure to adhere to existing contract; adequacy of salary; Inland Revenue procedures (L) | Clerk’s salary in line with NALC pay structure**.** | PAYE in place. Report on NALC payment increases. Review of salary in line with contract |
|  | Asset control | Undervaluing of assets (L) | To keep insurance and initial value record of Council’s Assets and investments | Review asset register at least annually. *(To be carried out)* |
|  | **Insurance** |  |  |  |
|  | Overall cover | Financial loss and legal claims against council. Under/Over-stated assets and risks (L) | To provide adequate cover | Review insurance schedule annually and obtain quotes. |
|  | Public liability cover | Claim(L) | To ensure adequate cover | Considered annually, *policy due for renewal June 2017 and will be reviewed*.  Currently £10million |
|  | **General** |  |  |  |
|  | Code of Conduct | Breach of code (L) | To ensure proper adherence to requirements of the code issued by the Standards Board for England. | Registers of Interest are maintained and conduct required to be within the Code. Declarations completed and sent to TMBC following the elections in 2015. Publication on TMBC website. Acceptance of Office completed.  Dispensations sought from the Monitoring Officer, as necessary. |
|  | Parish records | Loss or damage (L) | Ensure safety of valuable documents e.g. deeds.  Computer files / data | Valuable documents kept in safe at Village Hall.  Clerk adheres to computer security measures, including media-duplication of critical files/data. Back ups and antivirus software in place. |
|  | Web Site /Publication of information | Quality of information (L) | To ensure availability and accessibility of information.  To maintain a Parish Council Web Site  . | Web Site maintained by Clerk. Regular updates. Details of meetings and minutes published. Old information pruned. The Parish Council focuses upon the Village News Letter and its Web Site as its “official” outlets and does not encourage other media avenues. This assists quality and regular provision. ICO’s regulations are reviewed from time-to-time and adhered to. |
|  | Village Hall | Risks associated with being leaseholder (L) | Maintain Village Hall as a local amenity | Activities of Village Hall reported at Parish Meetings.. Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee |
|  | Trained Parish Clerk/Councillors | Non-compliance with regulations | To ensure proper actions/decisions by Parish Councillors; keeping abreast of legislation and regulations | Regular review by Council.  Clerk is actively engaged in training.  Training recommended to Councillors. |

March 2017