

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY*

Withiel Parish Council recognises that the 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
- Responsibilities
- Relationships with existing policies
- Retention Schedule

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.

*Adopted by the Council on the meeting held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 under minute number 120/19. The policy will be reviewed two years from adoption or following a change in legislation/guidance.

Responsibilities

The Parish Council has a corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record management systems in accordance with the regulatory environment. The person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Clerk will give guidance for good records management practice and will promote compliance with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and timely.

The Clerk will ensure that records are accurate and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the Parish Council's records management guidelines.

Relationship with existing policies

This policy has been drawn up within the context of:

- Freedom of Information policy
- General Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice
- Publication Scheme

and with other legislation or regulations (including audit and Statute of Limitations) affecting the Parish Council.

Retention Schedule

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Parish Council is required to maintain a retention schedule listing the record 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 on behalf of the council is expected to manage it's current record keeping systems using the retention schedule and to take account of the different kinds of retention periods when creating new record keeping systems.

The retention schedule refers to record series regardless of the media in which they are stored.

Planning Applications

All planning applications and relevant decision notices are available from Cornwall 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. Correspondence received in connection with applications will be retained as stated below.

List of Documents

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Minutes and Correspondence				
Signed Minutes	Indefinite	Archive	Village Hall	NA
Agendas	Indefinite	Archive	Village Hall	NA
General emails and correspondence	Retained for as long as document is needed and to a maximum of 3 years	Management	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
Information from other bodies (ie. circulars from CALC)	Retained for as long as document is useful	Management	Parish Clerks office	Bin
Local/historical information	Indefinite	To be securely kept for the benefit of the Parish	Village Hall	NA
Magazines and journals	Retained for as long as document is useful	The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003	Parish Clerks office	Bin
Insurance				
Accident/incident reports	20 years	Potential claims	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste – a list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR requirements.
Insurance policies	While valid	Management	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste

Insurance claims	7 years after all obligations are concluded or child reaches age of 25	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
Insurance certificates	40 years	The Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI 2753)	Parish Clerks office	Bin
Health & safety inspection records	6 years	Management	Parish Clerks office	Bin
Finance and Payroll				
Receipt and payment accounts	Indefinite	Archive	Parish Clerks office or County Archives	NA
Receipts books of all kinds	6 years	VAT	Parish Clerks office	Bin
All bank statements	Last completed audit year	Audit	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
Quotations and tenders (successful)	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste – a list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR requirements
Paid invoices	6 years	VAT	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste
VAT records	6 years	VAT	Parish Clerks office	Confidential waste

