

LITTLE HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

This policy was approved by Council on 15th September 2025. It is to be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of any changes in legislation.

Prime objectives

Little Horwood Parish Council recognises that the efficient management of its records is necessary to comply with legal and regulatory obligations and to allow for its effective management. This policy has been created to detail how the records maintained by the parish council are kept and when they should be destroyed.

Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all records, in all formats that are created, received or maintained by the parish council. 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.

Responsibilities

Little Horwood Parish Council have a corporate responsibility to maintain its records in line with regulatory requirements. The person with overall responsibility for this maintenance is the Parish Clerk with assistance from other members of staff.

Relationship with existing policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the parish council's

- Freedom of Information policy
- General data protection regulation policies

Retention schedule

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the parish council is required to maintain a retention schedule which lays down the length of time certain record sets need to be retained. Little Horwood Parish Council have adopted a policy in line with the National Association of Local Council's legal topic note LTN40 (Local Councils' documents and records).

Document	Minimum retention period	Reason / Act
Minute books	Indefinite	Archive / historical record
Asset register	Indefinite	Management
Scales of fees and charges	6 years	Management
Receipt and payment accounts	Indefinite	Archive
Receipt books of all kinds	6 years	VAT
Bank statements including deposit / savings accounts	Last completed audit year	Audit
Bank paying in books	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
Quotations and tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Paid invoices	6 years	VAT
Paid cheques	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
VAT records	6 years	VAT
Petty cash books if relevant	6 years	VAT, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Insurance policies	While valid	Management
Certificate for Insurance against liability for employees	Indefinite	Future claims
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Title deeds, leases, agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Members' allowances register	6 years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Local Plans and similar documents	Until they are no longer in force	Management
External magazines, journals and the like	1 year or for as long as they are useful	Management
Routine correspondence and emails	6 months after relevant issue is completed	Management
Allotments register and plans	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Parish Councillors • applications for co-option • declarations of acceptance of office • members register of interests	Term of office + 1 year	Management
Employees' records	Employment period + 6 years	Management