

BUXTED PARISH COUNCIL

DOCUMENT AND RETENTION POLICY

Purpose

- The policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by the Parish Council in carrying out its functions. Records are defined as all documents which facilitate the business carried out by Buxted Parish Council to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act.
- To ensure that documents are retained for a sufficient period to comply with legal, financial and other statutory requirements.
- To ensure that there is a consistent policy for the destruction of documents and records.

TYPE OF RECORD	MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD	REASON
GENERAL AND FINANCE		
Approved Parish Council Minutes	Indefinite	Archive - 7 years in Reading Room
Hand written minutes and meeting notes for transcription to typed documents	Destroyed once typed and documents are formally approved	Only typed, approved version retained
Draft documents	Destroy once the final version is produced	Management
Correspondence and general files	If associated with any other area as per this table, otherwise review annually. Records of a short term values should be destroyed in the normal course of business	Management/archive
Emails	To be dealt with in the same way as other correspondence	Management
Register of Members' Interests	Retain whilst a member	Publication Scheme
Scales of fees and charges	7 years	Management
Freedom of Information Log	5 years after record is opened	Management
Details of requests made under Data Protection Act or Freedom of Information Act	5 years after request is received	Management
Complaints	3 years unless legal or insurance claim is pending	Management
Information from other bodies i.e. National Association of Local Councils	As long as useful and relevant	Management
Magazine and journals	Retain as long as useful and relevant.	Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 Management
Personal Data	To be kept no longer than is necessary for the purpose for which it is held	Data Protection Act
Allowances and expenses records	7 years	Tax Limitation Act 1980
Policies and procedures	Indefinite - superseded policies to be marked as such	Management/Reference
TYPE OF RECORD	MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD	REASON
FINANCIAL		
Receipts and payments spread sheets	Indefinitely	Archive - 7 years in Reading Room

Adopted 11th October 2016 – Reviewed 8th October 2024

Receipt books	7 years	VAT
Paid invoices	7 years	VAT
Bank Reconciliation	Quarterly statements kept with minutes	Archive/Minute Record
Bank Statements	Last completed audit year	Audit
Bank paying in books	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
Payment of Account record	Indefinitely	Minute record
Quotations and tenders	7 years	Limitation Act 1980
Paid invoices	7 years	VAT
Paid cheques	7 years	Limitation Act 1980
VAT records	7 years	VAT
Wages and salary records	7 years	Management/Tax/Audit
Tax and National Insurance records including tax code notifications, P11, P35	7 years	Tax/Audit
Payslips/Expenses	7 years	Tax/Audit
Employee letters of employment, contracts and associated personnel records	7 years from termination of employment	Management
Budget	7 years/minute record	Reference
Asset Register	Current and last completed audit version	Management/Reference
Title Deeds, leases, Agreements, contracts	Indefinitely	Audit, Management/Limitation Act 1980. Deeds to be lodged with solicitors
Trust Deeds	Indefinitely	Audit, Management/Limitation Act 1980. Deeds to be lodged with solicitors
Investments	Indefinitely	Audit/Management
Audited Annual Return	Indefinitely	Archive
Any other Audit documentation and correspondence	7 years	Audit/Management
INSURANCE		
Insurance documentation including policies	7 years	To cover any claims under insurance policies. A permanent record of insurance companies to be retained.
Certificate of Employers Liability Insurance	40 years from date of the commencement of the policy	The Employer's Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998
Safety Inspections and Maintenance	12 years	Limitation Act 1980
PLANNING		
Planning applications granted - non contentious	Until completion	Reference
Planning applications refused/appealed/contentious granted/on-going	2 years minimum but as long as required	Reference
Planning applications	Minutes	Reference
Local Plans/Structure Plans etc	As long as valid	Reference