



West Monkton Parish Council

Document Retention Policy

1. Purpose:

West Monkton Parish Council (WMPC) requires a wide variety of documents for transacting its business and is committed to retaining these documents in a format and for periods of time that:

- Enables WMPC to meet its statutory obligations in respect of documents subject to legislation;
- Ensures security of documents;
- Protects employees' privacy;
- Facilitates access to information;
- Optimises the use of storage space;
- Is cost effective; and
- Facilitates destruction of redundant documents.

2. Scope:

This Policy applies to users of WMPC's information records, both paper and electronic, it includes Councillors and employees.

3. Statutory Requirements:

Documents subject to a statutory period of retention are identified by their associated legislation in Annex A. This meets our requirements under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

4. Security of Documents:

WMPC's records are held in paper and/or electronic format. Paper records are kept securely at the Clerk's homes and at Brittons Ash Community Hall. Electronic formats are kept on password protected WMPC devices. Councillors are required to keep any documents containing personal data that are shared with them securely, and not to access them in a public place.

5. Employees' Privacy:

The privacy of personnel records will be appropriately assured.

6. Availability & Access:

All records necessary for WMPC's business will be retained for a period of time that reasonably assures the availability of records when needed.

7. Storage and Destruction of Records:

Redundant records may be destroyed. Destruction of paper records will be by shredding or burning. Destruction of documents will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of this Policy to avoid any inference that a document was destroyed in anticipation of a problem.

8. Electronic Storage:

Records maintained on electronic data processing storage media will be subject to the same rules of retention and security as paper records.

9. Implementation of Policy:

The Clerk will be responsible for the implementation of the Policy.

10. Monitoring & Review of Policy:

The Parish Council will review the Policy periodically to monitor its effectiveness, taking account of users' comments.

Annex A:

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason
Signed minutes of Parish Council meetings (Hard copy)	Indefinite	Archive
Parish Council Finance Sheets and Records (Hard Copy)	Indefinite	Archive
Bank Statements	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque Book Stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
Paid invoices / cheques	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended) and VAT
VAT records	6 years	VAT
Planning Applications	Until development completed	Planning and Enforcement
BACH Finance Sheets and Records (Hard Copy)	6 years	VAT
Allotment Holders Details	Whilst active allotment holder	Management
Parish Councillor Member Interests	18 months after individual ceases to be a Member	Management
Employee Records	12 years	Superannuation
Insurance Policies	While valid	Management
Public consultation – survey and returns	5 years	Management
Correspondence	6 months	Management

Policy adopted by West Monkton Parish Council on 13th May 2025.