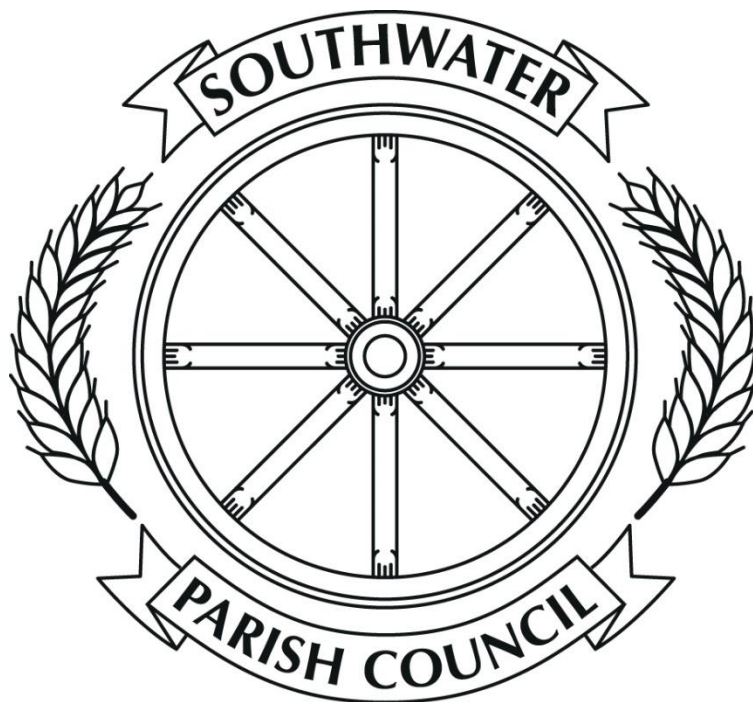


SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS POLICY



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 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.
- 1.2. This document provides the policy framework through which this effective management can be achieved and audited.

2. Scope of the Policy

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. A small percentage of the Parish Council's records will be kept as part of the Council's archives and for historical information as required by and at the discretion of the Executive Officer.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 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 the implementation of this policy is the Executive Officer to the Parish Council, who is required to manage the Council's records in such a way as to promote compliance with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and in a timely manner.

4. Retention Schedule

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Executive Officer is expected to manage the current record keeping systems using the retention schedule and to take account of the different retention periods when creating new record keeping systems. This retention of schedule refers to record series regardless of the media in which they are stored.

5. Retention of Documents

Document	Minimum Retention	Reason
Minutes of Meetings	Indefinite	Archive
Meeting Recording (<i>if recorded</i>)	Until minutes of meeting have been approved (<i>if recorded</i>)	To assist minute taker
Scales of fees and charges	6 years	Management
Receipt & Payment Accounts	Indefinite	Archive
Receipt books	6 years	VAT
Bank Statements, paying in books, cheque book stubs	Last completed year plus current year	Audit
Quotations & tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980
Paid invoices	6 years	VAT
VAT Records	6 years	VAT
Timesheets	Last completed year plus current year	Audit
Wages books	12 years	Superannuation
Insurance policies	While valid, with a spreadsheet with key details of policies to be kept indefinitely	Management
Certificates of employers Liability Insurance	40 Years	Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regs 1998
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, management
Title Deeds, leases, agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, management
Members Allowances Register	6 years	Tax Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Recreation Ground hire records	6 years	VAT
Allotment Register & Plans	Indefinite	Audit, management
Planning Applications	Until considered by committee	Held by HDC
Declarations of Acceptance of Office	Term of office + 1 year	management
Members' Register of Interests	Term of office + 1 year	management
Complaints	3 years	management
General information not required for historical purposes	1 year	management
Routine correspondence & emails	1 year	management
Project/topic-based information	Length of project + 1 year	management

6. Disposal Procedures

- 6.1 All documents that are no longer required for administrative reasons should be recycled where possible.
- 6.2 Any documents containing personal or confidential information should be shredded in office or disposed of using a secure document destruction (confidential waste disposal) company.