

# **BECKERMET WITH THORNHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY**

Adopted by Full Council on 18 October 2023

Revision date: October 2024

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### **Introduction**

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.

This document provides the policy framework through which this effective management can be achieved and audited. It covers:

#### **Scope**

#### **Responsibilities**

#### **Retention Schedule**

#### **Disposal of records**

### **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.

### **Responsibilities**

The Parish Council has a 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 Clerk, and she/he is required to manage the Council's records in such a way as to ensure compliance.

### **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.

### **Disposal procedures**

All documents that are no longer required for administrative reasons should be disposed of appropriately

### **Retention of Documents Schedule**

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

| <b>Document</b> | <b>Minimum Retention</b> | <b>Reason</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Minute Books    | Indefinite               | Archive       |

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|                                  |                         |                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Annual Accounts                  | Indefinite              | Archive          |
| Annual Return                    | Indefinite              | Archive          |
| Bank statements                  | 7 years                 | Audit/management |
| Cheque book stubs                | Last completed          | Audit Management |
| Paying in books                  | Last completed          | Audit Management |
| Quotations                       | 7 years                 | Audit            |
| Paid invoices                    | 7 years                 | Audit/VAT        |
| VAT records                      | 7 years                 | Audit/VAT        |
| Salary records                   | 7 years                 | Audit            |
| Tax & NI records                 | 7 years                 | Audit            |
| Insurance policies               | Whilst valid            | Audit            |
| Cert of Employers Liability      | 40 years                | Audit/legal      |
| Cert of public liability         | 40 years                | Audit/legal      |
| Assets register                  | Indefinite              | Audit            |
| Deeds, leases                    | Indefinite              | Audit            |
| Declarations of acceptance       | Term of Office + 1 year | Management       |
| Members register of interests'   | Term of office + 1      | Management       |
| Complaints                       | 1 year                  | Management       |
| General information              | 3 months                | Management       |
| Routine correspondence & e-mails | 6 months                | Management       |

Planning Applications

All planning applications, and relevant decision notices, are available at the appropriate Council. All Parish Council recommendations in connection with these applications are recorded in the Council minutes.