



CARSINGTON & HOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Job Purpose

1. To ensure that the Council's civic and administrative functions and services are performed professionally and in accordance with all relevant statutory obligations.
2. To carry out all the functions required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer in a timely manner and to issue all statutory notifications.
3. To ensure that the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are correctly observed and implemented.
4. To be the Council's principal adviser on all policy issues, to keep services and activities under continuous review and to identify, plan and implement improvements in quality, efficiency and effectiveness
5. To be responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the Council in connection with its function as a Local Council are carried out and to produce all the information required for making effective decisions and to implement constructively all decisions.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To ensure that statutory and other provisions and notices governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed and to advise the Councillors on all meeting procedures and regulations.
2. To keep up to date with changes in legislation and forthcoming changes and advise the Council accordingly ensuring that all Council policies and procedures meet statutory requirements.
3. To prepare and publish, in consultation with appropriate Members of the Council, agendas for meetings of the Council in accordance with all statutory requirements and prepare minutes for approval.
4. To ensure that all meetings of the Council and meetings of its Working Parties are clerked, attending personally other than where such duties have been delegated to another, and to maintain Councillor's attendance records.

5. To action all necessary and appropriate correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council as a result of the instructions, or the known policy of, the Council or, when appropriate, bring relevant items to the attention of the Council.
6. To sign, seal and deliver any agreements, contracts, conveyances, licences, consents, approvals etc on behalf of the Council. To ensure the Council's planning obligations are met.
7. To provide general advice to the Council on the budget preparation process and ensure that all Management Reports are presented to the Council and the statutory External Audit requirements are completed each year.
8. To ensure that Council's budget and Wind Farm budget, is prepared and balanced and accounts raised and invoices paid and prepare records for audit purposes and VAT.
9. To prepare and publish the Council's Annual Report.
10. To study reports and other data on activities of the Council and on matters bearing on those activities and where appropriate, to discuss such matters with consultants and specialists in particular fields and to produce reports for circulation and discussion by the Council.
11. To head the Council's paid service and keep up to date with the policies of the Council and employment law and to ensure they perform to expected standards.
12. To apply the principles of equality and equal opportunities as embodied in the Council's policies and practices in order to promote equality of opportunity and treatment and the appropriate attitude and behaviour for all employees.
13. To monitor the implemented policies of the Council to ensure they are achieving the desired result and where appropriate suggest modifications.
14. To be responsible for the management, maintenance and use of all the Council's properties and facilities, whether through direct management or through contracts, agreements or partnerships with other parties or providers.
15. To issue notices and prepare agendas and minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting, attend the Annual Parish Meeting and to implement the decisions made by the Council.
16. To take appropriate public relations action to enhance the profile and image of the Council and promote and protect the views/interest of the Council with all relevant external organisations or individuals.
17. To develop effective liaison and an effective working partnership with Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and other relevant, statutory and voluntary bodies and other agencies as the Council's representative, to ensure that the Council plays a full and effective role in issues affecting the area.

18. To work to up-date the Council's website and social media platforms.
19. To have an understanding of planning and development issues in the Local Development Plan and advise Councillors accordingly.
20. To ensure the casual vacancy process is followed when a Councillor vacancy arises. To explain the requirements of Ordinary Elections to all Councillors and undertake publicity for recruitment.
21. To ensure that the Council's obligations for financial risk assessment and insurance are properly met and that health and safety obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act and other related legislation are met.
22. To attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk and the Council's activities as required by the Council.
23. To obtain the Certificate in Local Council Administration (if not already gained) as a minimum requirement for effectiveness in the role.
24. To manage the arrangements to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General data Protection Regulations 2018.

Duties and Responsibilities: Responsible Financial Officer

1. As the Council's Responsible Financial Officer to be responsible for all financial procedures and records, and the careful administration of its finances, in compliance with all statutory obligations or other laws, provisions and notices governing or affecting the running of the Council including:
 - (a) being responsible as and carry out all the functions required by law of the Council's Responsible Financial Officer under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for all financial matters and records of the Council;
 - (b) acting as the Council's principal adviser on financial matters, and to be responsible for the careful administration of the Council's finances, and the proper application and maintenance of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations;
 - (c) ensuring that the Council's finances are effectively managed and monitored, and to advise the Council on its financial forward plan, strategy and policies;
 - (d) advising the Council on the annual budget estimates of income and expenditure for Council and Wind Farm monies and annual Precept requirements;
 - (e) monitoring and managing the Council's budget, including Wind Farm, expenditure and income, and to provide the Council with a regular statement of income and expenditure under each heading;
 - (f) ensuring that all Management Reports are reported to the Council, and the statutory internal and external audit requirements are undertaken and completed each year, and any consequential action taken;
 - (g) issuing and reporting on invoices for goods and services to be paid for by the Council, and to ensure such accounts are met and that: -
 - all necessary activities in connection with the management and payment of salaries and expenses are administered accurately and legally
 - all payments made to the Council are recorded, any necessary receipts issued,

- all cash and cheques received banked, all associated records kept and any queries are investigated
 - invoices are prepared and issued on behalf of the Council for goods and services to ensure payment is received
 - all necessary records in connection with the above are maintained
 - all necessary administration and banking procedures are arranged to ensure that staff wages are paid
 - all necessary HMRC, VAT, SSP and pension financial returns and/or payments are completed and dispatched on time
 - records, returns and public notices for the annual audit are prepared and the necessary public notices displayed
 - appropriate financial IT systems are in place and operated securely;
- (h) monitoring and ensuring that the Council's accounts are controlled, and the Council is informed of the ongoing financial situation;
- (i) ensuring all necessary records are prepared for audit and VAT purposes;
- (j) ensuring that the Council's obligations for financial risk management, including risk assessments, are properly met and where necessary risks are properly insured;
- (k) ensuring that adequate financial security, and internal financial and accounting controls, are in place and periodically reviewed, and the accounting records of the Council are maintained and kept up to date in accordance with proper practices;
- (l) ensuring that an annual equipment inventory and asset register are in place;
- (m) advising the Council on and assist in the raising of funds by way of grants by following the necessary consultations and processes.

General Duties

1. To continue to acquire the necessary professional knowledge required for the efficient management of the affairs of the Council and to attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer and the Council's activities as required by the Council.
2. To undertake such other duties commensurate with the level of the post and job purpose as required by the Council from time to time.