

POTTO PARISH COUNCIL

North Yorkshire

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY



2025

Retention of Documents Policy

1. General

This Retention of Documents Policy was adopted at the Parish Council meeting on 19th February 2020.

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
- 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.

2. Responsibilities

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 Clerk to the Parish Council, and she 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.

3. 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.

The Clerk 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 schedule refers to record series regardless of the media in which they are stored.

- Document Minimum Retention Reason
- Minute Books Indefinite Archive
- 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
- Booking policy 7 years Management
- Copies of bills to hirers 7 years Management/audit

4. Planning Applications

All planning applications and relevant decision notices are available at the Hambleton District Council Planning Portal. There is no requirement to retain duplicates locally. All Parish Council recommendations in connection with these applications are recorded in the Council minutes and are retained indefinitely. Correspondence received in connection with applications will be retained in accordance with the Routine Documents/Correspondence policy below:

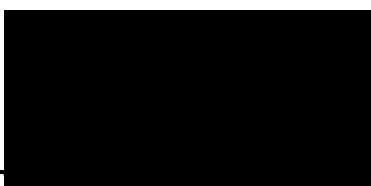
5. Routine Documents/Correspondence

- Declarations of acceptance: Term of Office + 1 year (Filing management)
- Complaints: 12 months (Filing management)
- General information: 3 months (Filing management)
- Routine (non-controversial) correspondence & e-mails: 6 months (Filing management)
- Council's own recording of meetings: 12 months (Filing management)

6. Disposal Procedures:

all documents that are no longer required for administrative reasons should be shredded and deleted entirely from the Council's computer system(s).

Signed:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature.

Date:

18/02/2025