

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

THIS COUNCIL CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT WHICH INCORPORATES ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ALL OR SOME OF IT'S RECORDS.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Any such system or policies relating to record management will include a review of council documentation on an annual basis
- 1.2 Anything that is no longer of use or value can be destroyed but if the council is in any doubt it will seek advice from SALC and retain that document until that advice has been received.
- 1.3 Documents of historical importance, if not retained by the council, will be offered first to the county record office.

2. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 Attached is an Annex which indicates the appropriate retention period for audit and other purposes and the reasons for retention. In respect of the retention of documents in case of a legal dispute, Council's policy is set out under Section 3.
- 2.2 Other documents not mentioned in the Annex will be treated as follows:

Planning Papers

- Where planning permission is granted, the planning application, any plans and the decision letter will be retained until the development has been completed, so that, if necessary, the Clerk can check that the development proceeds in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permission.
- Where planning permission is granted on appeal, a copy of the appeal decision will also be retained likewise
- Where planning permission is refused, the papers will be retained until the period within which an appeal can be made has expired. If an appeal is made, and dismissed, the decision letter will be retained against further applications relating to that site.
- Copies of Structure Plans, Local Plans and similar documents will be retained as long as they are in force.

Insurance Policies

- Insurance policies and significant correspondence will be kept for as long as it is possible to make a claim under the policy.
- Article 4 of the Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI 2753) requires that local councils, as employers, retain certificates of insurance against liability for injury or disease to their employees arising out of their employment for a period of 40 years from the date on which the insurance is commenced or renewed.

Information from other bodies

- Circulars and legal topic notes from SALC, NALC and other bodies such as principal authorities will be retained for as long as the information contained therein is useful and relevant.

Correspondence

- If related to audit matters, correspondence will be kept for the appropriate period specified to the Annex thereto.
- In planning matters correspondence will be retained for the same period as suggested for other planning papers.
- All other correspondence will be kept for as long as the matter contained therein is still of interest or use to the council and or the parish.

Personnel matters

- Documentation relating to staff will be kept securely and for as long as it would be possible for a claim to be made against the council.

3. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS FOR LEGAL PURPOSES

3.1 Most legal proceedings are governed by 'the Limitation Acts' which state that legal claims may not be commenced after a specified period. The specified period varies, depending on the type of claim in question.

3.2 The table below sets out the limitation periods for the different categories of claim.

Claims under category	Limitation period
Negligence (and other Torts)	6 years
Defamation	1 year
Contract	6 years
Leases	12 years
Sums recoverable by statute	6 years
Personal injury	3 years
To recover land	12 years
Rent	6 years
Breach of Trust	None

3.3 If a type of legal proceeding falls into two or more categories, the documentation will be kept for the longer of the limitation period.

3.4 As there is no limitation period in respect of trust, the council will retain all trust deeds and schemes and other similar documentation.

ANNEX TO POLICY

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCILS

DOCUMENT	MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD	REASON
• Minutes Books	Indefinite	Archive
• Receipt and payment Accounts	Indefinite	Archive
• Receipt books	6 years	VAT
• Bank Statements	Last completed audit year	Audit
• Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit
• Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
• Quotations/tenders	12 years / indefinite	Statute of limitations
• Paid invoices	6 years	VAT
• Paid cheques	6 years	Statute of limitations
• VAT records	6 years	VAT
• Petty cash, postage	6 years	Tax, VAT. Statute of limitations
• Timesheets	Last completed audit year	Audit
• Insurance policies	While valid	Management
• Certificates for insurance against liability for employees	40 years from date on which insurance commenced or was renewed	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI 2753) Management
• Title deeds, leases, Agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management
• Members Allowances Registers	6 years	Tax, Statute of Limitations
• For Recreation Grounds: 1. application to hire 2. lettings diaries 3. copies of bills to hires	6 years	VAT
• For Allotments: 1. Register and plans	Indefinite	Audit, Management