

9.a Risk Register

The Clerk reported that, at the time of the meeting, he had not received the final report from the 'external' auditors on the Final Accounts 2015/16. He has since received their report dated 21 September. They reported a single 'issue'; that for 2015/16 '*The risk assessment was reviewed during the year, however was not accepted during the year. This is contrary to Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015*'. The Parish Council, in earlier written communication with the auditors have disputed the auditor's interpretation of the relevant Parish Council Minute. Whilst the external auditor has not changed his conclusion, he has NOT followed through with a 'qualified audit opinion', as originally mooted.

ACTION: The Council MUST 'approve' the risk assessment ie Risk Register in each financial year.

The Clerk had circulated in advance of the meeting the latest version of the Risk Register. This version took into account the changes agreed in 2015/16, and other known and anticipated changes that had arisen since then eg risks following the resignation of the Clerk, provision of salt bins and the question of a Neighbourhood Plan (Agenda item 10).

The Council **AGREED** the Risk Register, without further amendment.

At the same time, the Council NOTED that risk related issues with regards the Village Green (agenda item 16) and Events/Village Fair (17.d) were dealt with elsewhere on the agenda, which might require changes to the Risk Register at a later date. These centred on:-

a. recommending the approval of a Health and Safety Policy 'on which subsequent and more detailed and related strategies and documentation eg risk assessments can be constructed'.(see agenda item 16).

b. Cllr Hertz had drafted a 'risk assessment for the village green', pending formal transfer of registration from Kingsclere PC to Hannington PC. The draft page of the risk register identified potential risks of:

- i) Trips, slips and falls (low),
- ii) Health hazard – disease; dog excrement (high),
- iii) Collision hazard (low),
- iv) Utilities (low), and,
- v) Events (medium).

Even though responsibility for the village green had not yet been transferred, the Council **AGREED:**

* in relation to (b.i above) Councillors would personally assess the potential severity of the broken concrete posts, flint stones and uneven grass,

* Clerk to publish a reminder to dog owners in the parish of their legal responsibilities with regards their dogs fouling public spaces, and,

* the Parish Council to require the production of an Event Management Safety Plan for the Village Fair 2017, and, once satisfied, would issue of a Licence for the village green's use (agenda item 17.d).