



Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils

ASHWELL PARISH COUNCIL

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer
Responsible to:	Full Council
Responsible for:	All Council staff, property and financial resources
Employment	18 Hours part-time including some evening work
Status:	
Salary scale:	NALC Scale 24

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 manage the Council's employees effectively and to be the Council's principal adviser on policy matters, to be responsible for all aspects of Health and Safety, manage the provision of Council services, buildings, land and resources and to promote the Council.
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 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.

3. 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.
4. To prepare and publish, in consultation with appropriate Members of the Council, agendas for meetings of the Council and Committees in accordance with all statutory requirements and prepare minutes for approval, other than where such duties have been delegated to another Officer.
5. To ensure that all meetings of the Council and all meetings of its Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties are clerked, attending personally other than where such duties have been delegated to another Officer, and to maintain Councillor's attendance records.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. To ensure that Council's budget is prepared and balanced and accounts raised and invoices paid and prepare records for audit purposes and VAT.
10. To prepare and publish the Council's Annual Report.
11. 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.
12. To head the Council's paid service and manage all other members of staff in keeping with the policies of the Council and employment law and to ensure they perform to expected standards.
13. To arrange and/or undertake staff annual performance appraisals or reviews and deal with any redundancy, disciplinary, capability or grievance issues in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.
14. To undertake all necessary activities in connection with the management of salaries, conditions of employment and work of other staff.
15. 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.

16. To monitor the implemented policies of the Council to ensure they are achieving the desired result and where appropriate suggest modifications.
17. 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.
18. To act as the official representative of the Council at meetings of other relevant organisations as required.
19. 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.
20. To maintain effective and positive press and public relations and prepare, in consultation with key Councillors, press releases about the activities of, or decisions of, the Council.
21. 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.
22. To develop effective liaison and an effective working partnership with other relevant City/District/Borough/County Councils/Unitary Authorities, other public authorities, 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.
23. To work to improve, develop and up-date the Council's website.
24. To lead the development and publication of the Parish Plan and produce a rolling business plan, as required.
25. To have an understanding of planning and development issues as they affect the Council area, in particular Neighbourhood Plans, the Local Development Plan, the Local Strategic Partnership, economic strategies and the Emergency and Resilience Plan and advise Councillors accordingly.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. To be the principal adviser to the Council on matters of ceremony, civic protocol, and develop relevant cultural, community and commercial links.
29. To make appropriate arrangements for civic functions and occasions and attend the Council on any ceremonial occasions.

30. To attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk and the Council's activities as required by the Council.
31. To obtain the Certificate in Local Council Administration (if not already gained) as a minimum requirement for effectiveness in the role.
32. 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 and its Committees on and prepare the annual budget estimates of income and expenditure for revenue services, the capital budget programme and annual Precept requirements;
 - (e) monitoring and managing the Council's budget expenditure and income, and to provide the Council and Committees with a regular statement of income and expenditure under each heading in the approved annual revenue and capital budgets;
 - (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 all full- and part-time staff wages and salaries are paid
 - petty cash accounts are operated properly, and all associated records of purchases are maintained
 - all relevant rents or charges are collected for relevant Council services and facilities

- all necessary Revenue and Customs, 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 and sponsorship etc by following the necessary consultations and processes.
- (n) ensuring that all surplus Council funds are invested securely and income maximized;
- (o) to ensure that the Bribery Action requirements are complied with.

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 attend the Conference of the National Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks, and other relevant bodies, as a representative of the Council as required.
3. To undertake such other duties commensurate with the level of the post and job purpose as required by the Council from time to time.