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ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY

Introduction

Illogan Parish Council creates a wide range of records to fulfil its duties. Some of these are of long-term historical interest and should be preserved permanently after their administrative usefulness has been served. Many, however, should be disposed of after an appropriate time.

The guidelines included in this policy will help the Council to manage their records, meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and decide which records to keep and which ones to safely destroy.

Explanation

Preserve - Records to be preserved permanently

Records in this category, when no longer regularly consulted in the parish, should be stored safely with a view to depositing in the Cornwall Records Office.

Review – Records to be reviewed by the Cornwall Records Office for possible permanent preservation

Records in this category should be passed to the Cornwall Records Office for review, either when the prescribed minimum retention period is over, or when they are no longer required in the parish for administrative purposes.

Destroy – Records that may be destroyed by the Council

Many Parish Council records, mainly financial, may be safely disposed of by the Parish Clerk, usually after the minimum retention period prescribed for audit or other statutory purposes. Where no minimum period is given records in this category may be destroyed when they are no longer required in the parish council administrative purposes. These files will be reviewed every five years or when an office holder retires. All documents will be treated as confidential waste and shredded.

Schedule

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
Administration			
Minutes of Council/meeting (signed series)	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 5 years	
Reports and other documents circulated with agendas	Review Destroy if copies are included with the signed minutes	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 5 years	
Agendas	Preserve with copies of the minutes	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 5 years	
Councillors' declarations of office	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. Term of office + 7 years	Forward copies to the Monitoring Officer

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
Register of Interests	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	Forward copies to the monitoring officer.
Grouping orders	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Nominations forms parish council elections	Destroy	Destroy after end of term of election.	
Byelaws and orders	Preserve one copy of each	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Policy documents	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement or the policy has been superseded.	Include Members' information pack for future reference.
Title deeds	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an	

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
		administrative requirement.	
Property registers and terriers including register of allotments	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Records			
Maps, plans and surveys of property owned by the council or meeting	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Correspondence and papers on important local issues or activities	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	Consider the future social historic importance of documents.
Village/parish appraisals and plans	Review with a view to preserving	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Planning applications and related paperwork for major controversial developments; also planning appeal decisions	Review with the view to Destroying	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	These may be held by another authority, in which case Destroy. All planning applications will be retained in the

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
			office until the application has been approved or refused by Cornwall Council, they will then be destroyed. Planning applications that are withdrawn by the applicant will be retained for future reference if the application is re-submitted or amended and re-submitted.
Leases, agreements, contracts and wayleaves	Preserve/Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Quotations and tenders (successful)	Destroy	12 years	Statute of Limitation
Quotations and tenders (unsuccessful)	Destroy	2 years	
Routine correspondence and papers	Review with the view to Destroy	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 6 years	
Planning applications for minor works where permission is refused	Destroy	6 years	Statute of Limitation – but Destroy if records held by the Planning Authority.

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
Scale of fees and charges	Destroy	Once replaced by new charges	
Insurance policies and Risk assessments	Destroy	7 years after expired – unless asbestos involved then minimum 40 years.	
Playground assessments	Destroy	Once replaced by new assessments.	
Staff files	Destroy *unless ill health retirement may be Asbestos related. Then keep until the person is 100 years of age.	6 years after left employ unless through ill-health or industrial tribunal case (keep until person is 65).	
Finance			
Loan sanctions	Destroy	6 years after end of loan.	Statute of Limitation
Receipt and payment books	Preserve or Review	6 years for VAT purposes	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.
Vouchers before 1950	Destroy	6 years	VAT
Financial returns to district auditors	Destroy, but Preserve if the receipt and payment books have not survived.	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Cash and petty cash books and recent books	Destroy, but Preserve if the receipt and	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall	

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
	payments books have not survived.	Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Receipt books of all kinds	Destroy	6 years	VAT
Postage and telephone books	Destroy	6 years	Tax, VAT, Statute of Limitation
Bank statements including deposit/saving accounts	Destroy	7 years	Audit
Bank paying-in books	Destroy	Last completed Audit year.	Audit
Cheque book stubs	Destroy	Last completed Audit year	Audit
Paid invoices	Destroy	6 years	VAT
Paid cheques	Destroy	6 years	Statute of Limitations
VAT records	Destroy	6 years	VAT
Time sheets	Destroy	Last completed Audit year	Audit
Wage books	Destroy	12 years	Statute of Limitations
Members' allowances register	Destroy	6 years	Tax, Statute of Limitations
Records relating to parish halls, centres and recreation grounds, applications to hire, letting diaries, copies of bills to hirers and records of tickets issued	Destroy	6 years	VAT

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
Precept books and contribution orders	Destroy	6 years	VAT
Miscellaneous			
Maps created under the provision of the Rights of Way Act 1932	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Community magazines newsletter	Preserve one copy of each issue	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 5 years	
Press cuttings book	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement. 5 years	Web pages are not a permanent record
Photographs	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Any records dating from before 1894 not held by the	Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall	

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
council (e.g. poor law records, surveyors of highways accounts, enclosure awards)		Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Any records of the parish council dating to before 1920	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Records of other bodies such as burial boards, charities, fire brigades, home guard, local societies, ad hoc committees	Preserve, but Review ephemeral with view to Destroy	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	Archives, Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 204)
Burial ground records listed in Local Authorities Cemetery Order 1977 No 204 Section 12	Review	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Reports, guides, handbooks etc, received by the council from other outside bodies	Review/Destroy	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an administrative requirement.	
Allotments Registers & Plans	Review and Preserve	Store safely with a view to depositing with the Cornwall Records Office as soon as there is no longer an	Management/Audit

Records	Action	Minimum Retention Period	Notes
		administrative requirement. 5 years	
Halls/Centers/Recs. - Hire forms - Letting details - Invoices, Etc.	Destroy	6 years	VAT