

Clerk to Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council

Job Description and Person Specification

Overall Responsibilities

- The Clerk to the Council will be the Proper Officer of the Council and as such is under a statutory duty to carry out all the functions, and in particular to serve or issue all the notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer.
- The Clerk is expected to advise the Council on, and assist in the formation of, overall policies to be followed in respect of the Authority's activities and in particular to produce all the information required for making effective decisions and to implement constructively all decisions.
- The Clerk will be accountable to the Council for the effective management of all its resources and will report to them as and when required.
- The Clerk will be the Responsible Financial Officer and responsible for all financial records of the Council and the careful administration of its finances.

Specific Responsibilities

1. To ensure that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed.
2. To monitor and balance the Council's accounts and prepare records for audit purposes and VAT.
3. To ensure that the Council's obligations for Risk Assessment are properly met.
4. To prepare, in consultation with appropriate members, agendas for meetings of the Council and Committees. To issue notices on village noticeboards and the Parish Council website and circulate as appropriate. To attend such meetings and prepare minutes for approval.
5. To attend all meetings of the Council and all meetings of its committees and sub-committees other than where such duties have been delegated to another Officer.
6. To receive correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council and to deal with the correspondence or documents or bring such items to the attention of the Council. To issue correspondence as a result of instructions of, or the known policy of the Council.

7. To receive and report on invoices for goods and services to be paid for by the Council and to ensure such accounts are met. To issue invoices on behalf of the Council for goods and services and to ensure payment is received.
8. To study reports and other data on activities of the Council and on matters bearing on those activities. Where appropriate, to discuss such matters with administrators and specialists in particular fields and to produce reports for circulation and discussion by the Council.
9. To draw up both on his/her own initiative and as a result of suggestions by Councillors proposals for consideration by the Council and to advise on practicability and likely effects of specific courses of action.
10. As required, liaise with the Handyman and contractors appointed by the Council.
11. To monitor the implemented policies of the Council to ensure they are achieving the desired result and where appropriate suggest modifications.
12. To act as the representative of the Council as required.
13. To issue notices and prepare agendas and minutes for the Parish Meeting: to attend the assemblies of the Parish Meeting and to implement the decisions made at the assemblies that are agreed by the Council.
14. To prepare, in consultation with the Chairman, press releases about the activities of, or decisions of, the Council.
15. To attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk as required by the Council.
16. To work towards the achievement of the status of Qualified Clerk as a minimum requirement for effectiveness in the position of Clerk to the Council.
17. To continue to acquire the necessary professional knowledge required for the efficient management of the affairs of the Council: Suggested is membership of your professional body The Society of Local Council Clerks.
18. 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

Person Specification

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good general standard of education - Hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) or be prepared to work towards it
Knowledge and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience of financial management procedures - Experience in an administrative role - Understanding of committee processes and procedures
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer literate and experience of working with various computer software packages, for example, Microsoft Word and Excel, website updating, finance, cemetery management
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level of literacy skills (spoken and written) - Ability to analyse reports and summarise key points of discussions - Ability to communicate effectively with councillors, members of the community, contractors, external agencies and others
Personal Qualities and Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to manage time effectively, prioritising work and meeting deadlines - Excellent organisational skills - Ability to maintain confidentiality, as appropriate - Ability to work professionally on your own and in a team - Be able to respond effectively to changing situations and demonstrate initiative when meeting new challenges - Assertive, tactful and diplomatic!