

**TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DATA AND RECORDS RETENTION POLICY**

Adopted 2024-03-12

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**1 General**

- 1.1 Tostock Parish Council recognises that the efficient management of its data and records is necessary to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective management and governance of the Council.
- 1.2 This policy, and accompanying schedule, sets the framework through which this effective management can be achieved by detailing the requirements for the retention of data and records (electronic files and hard copy documents). It derives from the need to retain such data for reasons including audit purposes, staff management, tax liabilities and the possibility of legal disputes and proceedings. It also encompasses Council obligations for the holding (and processing) of data under the Data Protection Act 2018, UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- 1.3 This policy applies to all data and records created, received and/or maintained by the Council in delivering services and carrying out its functions. Data and records include all documents which facilitate Council business and which are thereafter retained (for a given period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities.
- 1.4 Some records may be selected for permanent preservation. If so, they will be moved, when appropriate, to the Suffolk Archives (Bury St Edmunds) for retention as part of the county archive for historical research and interest.
- 1.5 Once any data and/or record falls outside the minimum retention period and is not being offered for permanent preservation then, as appropriate, it will be deleted, disposed of safely or shredded.

**2 Retention Schedule**

- 2.1 Data and records will be kept according to the retention schedule below which will be updated as legislation changes. In any event, it will be reviewed regularly (at least annually) by the Council as part of its governance process.
- 2.2 At the end of the minimum retention period the Clerk will review any data/record and dispose of the same if no longer required, referring any matters to the Council as appropriate.

**3 Councillors**

Councillors must, in their individual roles, ensure that they shred/destroy/delete any electronic and hard copies of Council data and records according to the same retention schedule below.

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**4 Schedule**

<b>Data/Record</b>	<b>Minimum Retention Period</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Council Administration</b>		
Agendas	Indefinite	Archive
Signed Minutes of Council Meetings	Indefinite	Archive
Draft Minutes of Council Meetings	Destroy when approved	Management
Clerk's Notes of Council Meetings	Destroy when draft minutes issued	Management
Agenda Reports and Documents (circulated with agendas and not attached to signed minutes).	Indefinite	Archive
<b>Councillor Records</b>		
Councillors' Declarations of Office	Term of office plus one year	Management
Councillors' Registers of Interest	Current term of office plus one year	
<b>Supplies and Services</b>		
Quotations and Tenders - Successful	12 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Quotations and Tenders - Unsuccessful	Two years	Management
Supplier Contracts	Six years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Title Deeds, Leases, Agreements and Contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management
<b>Insurance</b>		
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 1998/2753), Management
Insurance Policies	Two years after lapse	Management
Claims and Correspondence	Two years after lapse	Management
<b>Finance</b>		
Receipts and Payments Accounts	Indefinite	Archive
Audits	Six years	Audit
Asset Register	Destroy when superseded	Management
Scales of Fees and Charges	Six years	Management
Bank Statements	Last completed audit year	Audit
Bank Paying-In Books	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque Book Stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
Paid Invoices	Six years	VAT

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VAT Records	Six years	VAT
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Reports, Guides, Handbooks etc. received from other bodies	Retain as long as useful	Management
Photographs	Retain as long as useful	
General Correspondence	Retain as long as useful	
Freedom of Information Requests - Responses	Retain for six months; and a further six months after any internal review (review requests should be made within 40 working days of the initial response).	
Policies and Procedures	Destroy when superseded	
<b>Health and Safety</b>		
Inspection Records	25 years	Management
Risk Assessments	Three years from last assessment	
General Health and Safety Data/Records	Three years	
<b>Planning</b>		
Planning Applications (and related papers) Refused	Retain until appeal period has expired	Management
Planning Applications (and related papers) Granted	Retain until development has been completed	Management
Village Design Statement	Indefinite	Management, Archive
Village Plan	Indefinite	Management, Archive
<b>Personnel</b>		
Application Forms	Six months	Management
Disciplinary Records	Period of employment	
Personnel Records	Six years after employment ceased	