

STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL

APPRAISAL AND TRAINING POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1	Stoke Golding Parish Council currently has one employee; the Parish Clerk, who also performs the role of Responsible Financial Officer. This appraisal relates to both roles.
1.2	The Council recognizes our employee is our most valuable asset. Regularly communicating job expectations and supporting staff development is critical for achieving a motivated and capable workforce.
1.3	The Council is committed to the principle of encouraging staff and councillors to enhance their role and qualifications by further training.

2. Purpose of the Appraisal

2.1	The appraisal provides an opportunity for the Council's employee to discuss performance against set objectives and examine their personal development within the organisation.
2.2	Furthermore, by auditing the strengths and weaknesses of both roles, suggestions for improvement can be made to the Council.
2.3	This appraisal policy is designed to be a developmental tool and should not be judgmental. Any comments made by the appraiser or employee are to be constructive to improve performance and should not be seen as a personal criticism. Performance appraisal is intended to be kept apart from any salary review process.

3. The Appraisal Cycle

3.1	The appraisal cycle will include one formal annual performance review but should also include a half yearly informal review together with ongoing feedback throughout the year. Appraisals will normally be held in June, to coincide with the employee's start of employment anniversary.
3.2	Where it is known that an employee is due to commence a long period of absence, e.g. maternity leave, this will be factored into the objective timescales and where appropriate an appraisal will be held before the absence starts.

4. The Appraiser

4.1	The Chair and Vice Chair will conduct the appraisal process. In the absence of one of these people, the employee will be invited to select another Parish Councillor to take part in the appraisal.
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5. Preparing the Appraisal

5.1	The Chair is responsible for setting the dates for the formal appraisal meeting. To assist the process, the appraisee should complete the "Preparation for Appraisal: Appraisee" form (see Appendix 1). This form is intended to support the process and will not necessarily form part of the finished appraisal documentation. The appraiser(s) will prepare for the appraisal by completing the "Preparation for Appraisal: Appraiser" form to which other Councillors can have an input before the appraisal meeting (see Appendix 2). This form is also intended to support the process and will not necessarily form part of the finished appraisal documentation.
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6. Conducting the Appraisal Meeting

6.1	The appraisal discussion will allow an opportunity to reflect and comment on the previous year's objectives and delivery of the workplan (linked to job descriptions and Council aims). It will praise achievement, identify areas where further support or development is required and encourage the employee in their role. Where possible or applicable, targets set from the previous year should be reviewed at this meeting.
6.2	The meeting should be held in a confidential environment that is free from interruption.
6.3	Councillors and employees are asked to support any comments and opinions with factual examples and evidence, if necessary.
6.4	The following will be key features of the appraisal: <ul data-bbox="284 1522 1380 1932" style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement of the purpose of the process;• Joint review of performance evidence- which should include what outcomes have been achieved and how they have impacted the Community and the Council;• Discussion of achievements and concerns;• Identification of areas for development and improvement;• Review of job description (if applicable);• Setting objectives for the forthcoming year (no limit on number but must be SMART);• Training and development needs.

6.5	Objectives should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-limited).
6.6	The results of the appraisal process will be recorded on the Performance Appraisal form (see Appendix 3). Copies of the forms will be kept securely by both appraiser and Clerk.

7. After the Appraisal Meeting

7.1	Following the meeting one of the appraisers will type up the appraisal form. The form will be given to the employee for them to complete with their comments (it is important for the employee to express their views on the appraisal).
7.2	The final version of the appraisal form (marked confidential) will be copied to the employee and another copy will be held on the employee's personal file.
7.3	The Chair (or one of the appraisers) will make other Councillors aware of the outcome of the appraisal, in particular any outstanding achievements, or training needs.
7.4	The Chair, in liaison with the employee, will ensure any training, development and support requirements identified in the appraisal are considered.

8. Appeal

8.1	Should an employee believe that they have not received a fair appraisal and/or performance rating they should make this comment on the form and discuss the issue with the Councillor(s), who conducted the appraisal.
8.2	Should they still remain dissatisfied, they have the right of appeal to Full Council, within 10 working days of the final appraisal form being returned. Their grounds for appeal should be fully outlined in writing to the Chair.

9. Training

9.1	All training must relate to the needs of the Council, be relevant to an individual's job role, be subject to Council approval and is dependent on the availability of Council funds.
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Appendix 1: Preparation for Appraisal Appraisee Form

Name:

Role:

Appraisal Date:

1. What have you achieved this year?

2. What aspects of the role do you feel you do well?

3. Are there any aspects of the role you find difficult / problematic?

4. How might any such difficulties / problems be overcome?

5. What training (if any) do you feel you need?

6. What further support (if any) do you feel you need?

7. What areas do you feel will be your main objectives in the next 6 – 12 months?

Appendix 2: Preparation for Appraisal

Appraiser Form

Name:

Appraisal Date:

1. What are the Council's main requirements of the role (needs to align with the Job Description) and objectives for the year being reviewed?
2. What are the employee's strengths/accomplishments in relation to this role? And performance this year?
3. Are there any problems/difficulties (be prepared to cite examples and evaluate performance against objectives)?
4. What are the main objectives/workplan of the Council for the next year?
5. How do you think the employee can help the Council to achieve these objectives?

Appendix 3: Performance Appraisal Form

Appraisee:

Signature:

Appraiser 1:

Signature

Appraiser 2:

Signature

Appraisal Meeting Date:

1. Identify the key areas of the role:
2. Review performance against objectives, achievements and concerns during the appraisal review period:
3. In light of this appraisal, identify any changes to the key areas of the role and make recommendations for any appropriate amendments:
4. Identify the main objectives for the next 12 months including future development and training:
5. Summary: