

Additional information to be submitted with Part 3 AGAR

Basic and Intermediate levels

| Item required. | Included Y/N or response |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. State the basis of accounts – Income and Expenditure (I&E) or Receipts and Payments (R&P) | R&P |
| 2. Bank reconciliation (N.B. a pro-forma document is available online). | ✓ |
| 3. Explanations of significant variances: For boxes 2 – 10 in the Accounting Statements, where the 2020 figure is 15% greater than, or 15% less than, the 2019 figure unless the variance is less than £500 | ✓ |
| 4. A reconciliation between boxes 7 and 8 – this must be quantified. | ✓ |
| 5. An explanation of any 'No' answers in Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) | N/A |
| 6. An explanation of any 'No' answers in the Annual Internal Audit Report. | N/A |
| 7. An explanation of the level of reserves held if more than twice the precept of the Authority. | ✓ |
| 8. Whether you use the general power of competence. | NO |
| 9. The dates for the period for the exercise of public rights (N.B. a pro-forma document is available online). | ✓ |
| 10. This sheet, duly completed | ✓ |

Birdham Parish Council

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. If the AGAR contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2021.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, **you must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2, page 5**). An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2021).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2021**.

| Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements | | Yes | No |
|--|--|-----|----|
| All sections | Have all highlighted boxes have been completed? | ✓ | |
| | Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , been provided for the external auditor? | ✓ | |
| Internal Audit Report | Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided? | ✓ | |
| Section 1 | For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published? | n/a | |
| Section 2 | Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting? | ✓ | |
| | Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published? | ✓ | |
| | Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2021 been reconciled to Box 8? | ✓ | |
| | Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided? | n/a | |
| Sections 1 and 2 | Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested. | n/a | |

**Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

BIRDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

WWW.BIRDHAM.ORG.UK

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

| Internal control objective | Yes | No* | Not covered** |
|--|-----|-----|----------------|
| A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year. | ✓ | | |
| B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for. | ✓ | | |
| C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these. | ✓ | | |
| D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate. | ✓ | | |
| E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for. | ✓ | | |
| F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for. | | | ✓ |
| G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied. | ✓ | | |
| H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained. | ✓ | | |
| I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year. | ✓ | | |
| J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded. | ✓ | | |
| K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered") | ✓ | | |
| L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities. | | | ✓ |
| M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set). | ✓ | | |
| N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes). | ✓ | | |
| O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee. | Yes | No | Not applicable |
| | | | ✓ |

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

06 05 2021 MUSE O'FLANAGHAN
Date 12 05 2021

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

Birdham Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

| | Agreed | | 'Yes' means that this authority: |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| | Yes | No* | |
| 1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. | ✓ | | prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. |
| 2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | ✓ | | made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge. |
| 3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. | ✓ | | has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so. |
| 4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. | ✓ | | during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts. |
| 5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. | ✓ | | considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly. |
| 6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. | ✓ | | arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority. |
| 7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | ✓ | | responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. |
| 8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements. | ✓ | | disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant. |
| 9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. | Yes | No | N/A |
| | | | ✓ |

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

19/04/21

and recorded as minute reference:

146m 11(i)

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

T. J. Firminson

Clerk

146m 11(i)

www.birdham.org.uk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

Bircham Parish Council

| | Year ending | | Notes and guidance |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| | 31 March 2020 £ | 31 March 2021 £ | |
| 1. Balances brought forward | 96487 | 136413 | Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year. |
| 2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies | 48792 | 50608 | Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received. |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts | 72282 | 55718 | Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received. |
| 4. (-) Staff costs | 10526 | 9673 | Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments. |
| 5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments | 17182 | 17182 | Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any). |
| 6. (-) All other payments | 53440 | 66933 | Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5). |
| 7. (=) Balances carried forward | 136413 | 148951 | Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6). |
| 8. Total value of cash and short term investments | 136413 | 148951 | The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation. |
| 9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets | 132354 | RESTATE 136732 | The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March. |
| 10. Total borrowings | 142175 | 131340 | The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB). |
| 11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) | Yes | No | The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. |
| | | ✓ | N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions. |

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

[Signature]
Date 12th May 2021

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

8th JUNE 2021

as recorded in minute reference:

Item 4

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

T.J. Firmston, 8th June 2021

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2020/21

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

External Auditor Signature

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

DD/MM/YY



Bank Reconciliation

31st March 2021

| | |
|---|------------|
| Balance per bank statement 31 st March 2021 | £148950.69 |
| Add: Outstanding receipts: | - |
| Less: Outstanding payments: | - |
| Balance per cashbook at 31 st March 2021 | £148950.69 |

Outstanding receipts;

This should include any amounts received which have been recorded in the cashbook as being received in the period to 31st March 2021 but which appear on the bank statement after 31st March 2021.

Outstanding payments:

This should include any amounts paid which have been recorded in the cashbook as being paid in the period to 31st March 2021 but which appear on the bank statement after 31st March 2021



Explanation of variances

The "Practitioners' Guide" provides guidance on explaining significant variances. Please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following:

- Variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £500);
- If the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept value (Box 2).

| Section 2 | 2019 - 20 | 2020 - 21 | Variance £ | Variance % | Detailed Explanation of variance (with amounts £) |
|---|---|-----------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Box 2 Precept or rates and Levies | | | | | |
| Box 3 Total other receipts | 72282 | 55718 | £16564 | -23% | A CIL payment of £15117 was received in 2020 but not in 2021 bringing us within 15% |
| Box 4 Staff costs | | | | | |
| Box 5 Loan interest/capital repayments | | | | | |
| Box 6 All other payments | 53440 | 66933 | £13493 | 25% | New play equipment £6149 and Consultancy bill (Genesis) of £7303 |
| Box 9 Total fixed assets and longterm investments and assets | | | | | |
| Box 10 Total borrowings | | | | | |
| Explanation for "high" reserves | Birdham Parish Council is currently holding the following grant monies over and above its precept of £50608: £83991 CIL £1270 Locality (Neighbourhood Plan) £10595 New Homes Bonus £2400 Watershed funds | | | | |



Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

NOTICE

1. Date of announcement: 1st June 2021
2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Return needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities Audits Appointments (SAAA). The unaudited annual return has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.
Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31st March 2021 these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:

The Parish Clerk (details below).

Commencing on: Monday 7th June 2021

And ending on: Friday 16th July 2021

3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:
 - The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and
 - The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to Boxgrove Parish Council

The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in Paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.

4. Birdham Parish Council's Annual Return is subject to a review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Practice 2015. The appointed auditor is:

Moore, (Ref RD/HD), Rutland House, Minerva Business Park, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE6 2PZ

5. This announcement is made by I. Whitaker, Clerk and RFO to Birdham Parish Council