CONFIRMATION OF THE DATES OF THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Name of smaller authority: Great Ness & Little Ness Parish Council

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only): Shropshire

On behalf of the smaller authority, I confirm that the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows:

Commencing on Monday 1st July 2019

and ending on Friday 9th August 2019

(Please enter the dates set by the smaller authority as appropriate which <u>must</u> be 30 working days inclusive and <u>must</u> include the first 10 working days of July 2019.

Signed: RTurner

Role: Clerk & RFO

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 Part 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
 - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19

- Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with Proper Practices.
- 2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:
 - The annual internal audit report is completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Sections 1 and 2 are to be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
- The authority must approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both must be approved and published before 1 July 2019.
- 4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both):
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2019
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - · notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/19

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the review and is able to give an opinion on the limited assurance review, the Annual Governance and Accountability Section1, Section 2 and Section 3 — External Auditor Report and Certificate will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on a publicly accessible website:

Before 1 July 2019 authorities must publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2018/19, approved and signed, page 4
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2018/19, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2019 authorities must publish:

- · Notice of conclusion of audit
- Section 3 External Auditor Report and Certificate
- Sections 1 & 2 of AGAR including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19

- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Annual Governance and Accountability Return. 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 Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Where amendments are made by the authority to the AGAR after it has been approved by the authority and before it has been reviewed by the external auditor, the Chairman and RFO should initial the amendments and if necessary republish the amended AGAR and recommence the period for the exercise of public rights. If the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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 if possible prior to approving the annual
 governance statement and before approving the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both).
- 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 email addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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 2018) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2019).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, must set the period for the exercise of public
 rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the approved accounts
 and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period the RFO sets it must include a common inspection
 period during which the accounts and accounting records of all smaller authorities must be available for public
 inspection of the first ten working days of July.
- The authority must publish 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 2019.

Completion checkl	ist – '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?	1	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation provided?	1	
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 provided?	√	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2019 been reconciled to Box 8?	√	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	1	
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.	√	

*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 2018/19

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation **during** the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

The internal audit for 2018/19 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.

nternal control objective		Agreed? Please one of the followi		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**	
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	V			
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, a expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	all 🗸			
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequof arrangements to manage these.	uacy			
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress age the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	ainst /			
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	y /			
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			√ Nono ho	
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authori approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	ity's			
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V			
Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	V		متنجينية إن	
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting ba (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors we properly recorded.	an /			
K. IF the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2017/18, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. ("Not Covered" should only be ticked where the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2017/18 AGAR)	ne		/	
During summer 2018 this authority has correctly provided the proper opportunity for the exercise of public rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.			Not applicab	
M. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicabl	

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

10/05/19

12/05/19

DD/MM/YY

ENTER SOHACKETTIAL AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

12/05/19

*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to 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 2018/19

We acknowledge as the members of:

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS 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 2019, that:

copositio in a / toroniana	Agre	eed		
	Yes	No*	'Yes' mea	ans that this authority:
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	/		with the A	its accounting statements in accordance Accounts and Audit Regulations.
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.			for safegi 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.			complied	done what it has the legal power to do and has I 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.	/		inspect a	ne year gave all persons interested the opportunity to 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.	V		considered and documented the financial and other risk faces and dealt with them properly.	
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 fin controls and procedures, to give an objective view on wh 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 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 during the year including events taking place after the 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	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
071108/19 04/06/19	MSAhmoulRED
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman
29/1920 b (ii)	Clerk

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)
Authority web address

www.greatnessandlittlenessparishcouncil.orgVEBSITE ADDRESS

^{*}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 should be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19 for

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

	Year end	dina	Notes and guidance				
	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2019 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.				
I. Balances brought forward	27299	40482	Box 7 of previous year.				
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	17230	20504	received.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	17256	6755	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	5984	6805	employment expenses.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	C	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).				
6. (-) All other payments	15319	20044	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	40482	40892	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must				
Total value of cash and short term investments	40482	40892	To agree with bank reconciliation.				
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	14039	1429	31 March.				
10. Total borrowings	0		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.				
		1	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.				

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2019 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

Rusumer

Date

07/05/19 04/6/19

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

04/6/19 107/05/49

as recorded in minute reference:

29/1920 b(iii)

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

MANN

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

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 2019; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor re	eport 2018/19	
our opinion the information in Sect	elow)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governions 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in acceptance attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory	cordance with Proper Practices and
(continue on a separate sheet if re	quired)	
Other matters not affecting our opi	nion which we draw to the attention of the authority:	
(continue on a separate sheet if re	quired)	
O. F. damed auditor o	atificate 2018/10	
3 External auditor of		511 A 1 O
We certify/do not certify* th	nat we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit ar	rthe Annual Governance and Accountability Act 2014, for
the year ended 31 March		107 too carnability 7 tot 2011, 101
*We do not certify completion bec		
External Auditor Name		
External Auditor Name		
	ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR	
	SIGNATURE REQUIRED	DD/MM/YY
External Auditor Signature	Date 1	
*Note: the NAO issued guidal Guidance Note AGN/02. The	nce applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance revi AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)	ews in Auditor

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

Variances explanation (for variances over 15% and greater than £200)

Year ending 31.03.19

Section 2	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 Precept or Rates and Levies	£17,230	£20,504	£3,274	19%	See following pages
Box 3 Total other receipts	£17,256	£6,755	-£10,501	-61%	See following pages
Box 4 Staff costs	£5,984	£6,805	£821	14%	No explanation needed
Box 5 Loan interest/ capital repayments	£0	£0	£0	n/a	No explanation needed
Box 6 All other payments	£15,319	£20,044	£4,724	31%	See following pages
Box 9 Total fixed assets & long term investments	£14,049	£14,299	£260	2%	No explanation needed
& assets Box 10 Total borrowings	£0	£0	£0	n/a	No explanation needed
Explanation for 'high' reserves	See follow	ing pages			

Box 2 - Precept

Increased due to rising costs and anticipated reduction in grant funding.

Box 3 - Other receipts

Box 3 - Other receipts					
Variance	31.03.18	31.03.19	Difference	Variance %	Explanation (if over 15% and £200)
Environmental Maintenance Grant	£2,263	£0	-£2,263	-100%	Grant not awarded
Transparency Grant	£412	£0	-£412	-100%	Grant scheme ceased
Youth Grants & donations from other parishes	£2,351	£1,451	-£900	-38%	2017/18 - grant £1701, donations £650, 2018/19 - grant £500 & donations £951
Neighbourhood Fund (parish share of CIL)	£8,699	£3,412	£5,286		Based on rate of development of housing
VAT refund	£1,464	£0	-£1,464	-100%	VAT claim pending
Youth club income (other than grants/donations)	£2,067	£1,873	-£194	-9%	
Other	£0	£18	£18		Donation for scanner from another PC
TOTALS	£17,256	£6,755	-£10,501		

Box 6 - All other payments

Variance	31.03.18	31.03.19	Difference	Variance %	Explanation (if over 15% and £200
Office expenses	£639	£228	-£411	-64%	
Training (Clerk/Councillors)	£183	£159	-£24	-13%	
Hire of Meeting Rooms	£0	£125	£125		Hire charge applied by Village Hall
Audit (Internal & External)	£225	£330	£105	47%	Increased audit fees
Insurance	£597	£604	£7	1%	
Professional Subscriptions (SALC/SLCC)	£391	£396	£5	1%	
ICO Registration	£35	£35	£0	0%	
Election Costs	£0	£200	£200		Recharge of 2017 elections
GDPR Compliance	£0	£280	£280		GDPR costs from May 2018
Play areas grounds maintenance	£1,098	£1,143	£45	4%	
ROSPA Inspections - Annual	£265	£240	-£25		
Interim play area inspections	£0	03	£0		
Other play area maintenance	£2,977	£3,389	£412	14%	
Cemetery grounds maintenance	£1,138	£0	-£1,138	-100%	PC no longer cuts the cemetery
Street lights electricity	£122	£0	-£122		Lights disconnected
Street lights maintenance / Inspections	£362	£0	-£362	-100%	Lights disconnected
Youth service contract	£3,500	£3,500	£0	0%	
Youth club running costs	£1,284	£1,276	-£7	-1%	
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£34	£284	£250		2017/18 - Wreaths £34, 2018/19 - wreaths £34 & Silent Soldier £250
Portacabin	£124	£157	£34	27%	Increased running costs
Village Hall Donations	£0	£2,000	£2,000		2017/18 & 2018/19 grants paid in 2018/19
GPC grants	£0	£0	£0		
Neighbourhood CIL projects	£0	£3,184	£3,184		Grant to Village Hall 2018/19
Bus shelter cleaning	£160	£185	£25	16%	Inc. in cost of materials
Noticeboards	£690	£60	-£630	-91%	2017/18 higher maintenance costs
War memorials	£0	£678	£678		2018/19 - clean of war memorial
Footpath maintenance	£165	£165	£0	0%	
VAT	£1,332	£1,425	£93	7%	
TOTALS	£15,319	£20,044	£4,724	St. In contract of	

Breakdown of reserves

31.03.19
£164
£521
£1,000
£400
£8,586
£400
£6,429
£6,061
£23,561
£17,331
£40,892

Prepared by Rebecca Turner, Clerk and RFO, 1st April 2019

GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

Bank reconciliation

Year ending 31.03.19

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31.3.19 CURRENT ACCOUNT

Balance b/fwd from 31st March 2018 less payments add receipts BALANCE AS PER CASHBOOK	£29,290.21 £25,572.38 £24,684.44 £28,402.27
Represented by bank balances	Current a/c <u>£28,402.27</u>
Less unpresented cheques & SO Add uncredited receipts	£0.00 £0.00
RECONCILED BALANCE CURRENT A/C 31.3.19	£28,402.27
BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31.3.19 PLAYING FIELDS A/C	
Balance b/fwd from 31st March 2018 less payments add receipts BALANCE AS PER CASHBOOK	£11,192.05 £1,276.45 £2,574.35 £12,489.95
Represented by bank balances	Playing field a/c £12,489.95
Less unpresented cheques & SO Add uncredited receipts RECONCILED BALANCE PLAYING FIELD A/C Q4	£0.00 £0.00 £12,489.95 <u>£12,489.95</u>
TOTAL RECONCILED BALANCES	£40,892.22

Prepared by Rebecca Turner, Clerk and RFO, 1st April 2019