

Amended Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 – explanation regarding Assertion 1.

The local elections in May resulted in nine new members for the Council. The first meeting of the new Council was the AGM where the first business of the published agenda was to elect a Chairman; the previous Chairman had stood unsuccessfully for re-election to the Parish Council but was present as the outgoing Chairman to take that first agenda item before handing over to the new Chairman. As discussed prior to the meeting, the outgoing Chairman agreed to alter the order of the scheduled agenda to allow audit items to be taken first and for them to be signed before electing a new Chairman. The Council took a vote on this proposal and it was agreed to proceed accordingly; the outgoing Chairman did not participate in this vote. This is recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Legal advice has since been sought which states that the Council should have followed the following procedure on the night, which all present were not aware of: The Chairman is not personally taking responsibility for the contents of the form or the previous year's financial management, they are merely providing the 'stamp of approval' on behalf of the corporate body as a whole.

In light of this the Auditor has now instructed the Council to answer "No" to Assertion 1 of Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2022/23; this amendment has therefore been initialled accordingly by the new Chairman and the Clerk.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

Balderton 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 2023, 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.	J.P.P. L.C.L.	✓	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
			✓
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*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:

24/05/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

L493

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

Chairman

Clerk

Lydia Hurst
Cherry

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