Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of smaller authority here: STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2017, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller 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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on 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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has 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 smaller 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:	NA: has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on: 12/06/2017

and recorded as minute reference: 97.2 (i)/2017

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given: [redacted]

Clerk: [redacted]

*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here: STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	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.
1. Balances brought forward	9437	12349	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	5000	5000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	810	249	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	2115	2086	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	783	789	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	12349	14723	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	12349	14723	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	7451	7451	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.
10. Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

	Yes	No	
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	✓		The Council 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 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer: [redacted]

Date 20/05/17

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

12/06/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

97.2(ii)/2017

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given: [redacted]

Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of smaller authority here: STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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. 2016/17 External auditor report

(~~Except for the matters reported below~~)* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative 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 smaller authority:

Please see enclosed report

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

BDO LLP Southampton
United Kingdom

3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify/~~do not certify~~* that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

* ~~We do not certify completion because~~:

External auditor signature [redacted]

External auditor name BDO LLP Southampton United Kingdom Date 3/6/17

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2016/17 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR
Stinsford Parish Council
Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017

BDO

Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Stinsford Parish Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017. This report must be presented to a full meeting of the smaller authority for review.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

- Internal Audit Checks

The following issues have been raised as we have detected issues with the governance arrangements of the smaller authority. It is recommended that the smaller authority consider these matters and decide what action to take to improve the governance arrangements as soon as possible.

Internal Audit Checks

What is the issue?

The Internal Auditor has put 'N/a', with no additional explanation, to the following tests on Section 4 which we consider relevant to your smaller authority.

The smaller authority has met its responsibilities as a trustee.

Why has this issue been raised?

Failure to undertake these tests result in an incomplete internal audit being undertaken and the smaller authority could be exposed to risks in these areas.

What do we recommend you do?

The above tests should be carried out in future years by the internal auditor. The smaller authority should ensure he/she provides a full report to the smaller authority to ensure all the activities are properly carried out and recorded.

If the above tests have been carried out the response should only be 'Yes' or 'No'. Further explanations are required where 'No' or 'Not covered' answers are given - please see notes on the bottom of section 4 of the annual return. 'N/a' should only be used if the test is not relevant for the smaller authority, for example, if the smaller authority has no fixed assets then it is acceptable to record N/a against that test.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners Guide, NALC/SLCC

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of
BDO LLP

Date: 31 August 2017