

Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Name of council:	Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	Lynn Lavender	Date of report:	10-05-19
Year ending:	31 March 2019	Date audit carried out:	10-05-19

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the staff and management and not left for internal audit.

The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chairman of the Council:

I carried out the year-end audit review of Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council on 10th May 2019. I would take this opportunity to thank Linda Carter, the new Parish Clerk and Cllr Teague for their help and assistance.

Prior to the visit I reviewed the information available on www.stoweninechurches-pc.org.uk I was able to access documents and records. By examination of these documents & records plus further questioning during the visit, I tested aspects of the Council's internal controls as required for the Internal Audit section of the Annual Return Part 2 and notwithstanding the items noted below, I am satisfied that policies and procedures together with systems to manage, monitor and control the Council's business are in place. Accordingly, I was able to answer 'yes' to all relevant questions and have signed the Return as required.

Noted this visit

- Significant progress has been made on the issues noted last year.
- Policies and procedures, including GDPR, need to be reviewed and updated to ensure the most recent models are being used and are available on the website.

This report is based on the evidence made available to me. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. Consequently the report is limited to those matters set out above.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Lynn Lavender
Internal Auditor to the Council
Lynnlavender_5@hotmail.com

The figures submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are:

	Year ending 31 March 2018	Year ending 31 March 2019
1. Balances brought forward	1810	2113
2. Annual precept	3200	4500
3. Total other receipts	1394	104
4. Staff costs	2401	3390
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	-	-
6. Total other payments	1890	1986
7. Balances carried forward	2113	1341
8. Total cash and investments	2113	1341
9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	3463	3463
10. Total borrowings	-	-

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (2019)*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed. A copy of the guide is available for free download from:

<https://www.northantscalc.com/uploads/practitioners-guide-2019.pdf>