

Hightown Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
1. The audit of accounts for Hightown Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been completed and the accounts have been published.	This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website.
2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Hightown Parish Council on application to:	
(a) <u>JENNY FARRAR, PARISH CLERK, C/O MARSHALL</u> <u>TOWN HALL, HALL LANE, MARSHALL, L31 7BB</u> <u>07421 354877</u> <u>07421 354877 HIGHTOWNPARISHCOUNCIL EMAIL.COM</u>	(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR
(b) <u>BY ARRANGEMENT</u>	(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised
3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of <u>£0.60</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.	(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs
Announcement made by: (d) <u>JENNY FARRAR</u>	(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice
Date of announcement: (e) <u>23/10/2019</u>	(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

We acknowledge as the members of:

HIGHTOWN 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:

	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
			has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts

*For any statement to which the response is ‘no’, an explanation should be published

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

30.7.19.

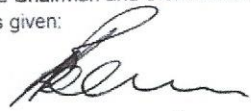
and recorded as minute reference:

9

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

Chairman

Clerk


J. Cwasall

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19 for

HIGHTOWN PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2019 £	
1. Balances brought forward	5111	15560	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	5460	5460	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	11965	24530	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	1000	1000	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	—	—	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	5976	27249	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	15560	17301	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	—	—	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	—	—	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	—	—	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 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

J. Ewardell

30.7.2019

Date

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

30.7.2019.

as recorded in minute reference:

9.

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

[Signature]

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of **Hightown Parish Council LA0106**

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 report 2018/19

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR 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.

The smaller authority has submitted its AGAR and supporting documentation prior to 30 September 2019; however, we have not been able to complete our review work in time to enable the smaller authority to publish the required documentation in line with statutory requirements. Once we have completed our review a final report will be provided with the certificate of completion detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters.

An invoice for the standard annual review fee (and chaser letter charges where they apply) has been issued with this interim certificate; however, this interim invoice does not fall due for payment until we certify completion and issue our final report and certificate. Should we receive challenge correspondence before we have certified completion, any additional fees arising from additional work required as a result of that correspondence will be invoiced with the certificate of completion; where no additional fees apply a zero invoice will be issued on completion. Both the interim and final invoices do not fall due for payment until we issue our final invoice with the certificate of completion.

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

Please see above.

3 External auditor certificate 2018/19

We 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 2019

We do not certify completion because:

We have received the AGAR and supporting documentation but we have not been able to complete our review work prior to 30 September 2019.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

29/09/2019

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2018/19 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19 in respect of Hightown Parish Council - LA0106

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.

External auditor report 2018/19

On 29 September 2019, we issued a report detailing the results of our limited assurance review of Sections 1 and 2 of this authority's Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2019. We explained that we were unable to certify completion of the review at that time. We are now in a position to certify completion of the review.

The external auditor report given in Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return requires amendments as follows:

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR 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.

The smaller authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 1 July 2019, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 1.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR. Box 8 has been left blank for both years. Information from the authority indicates Box 8 of the current year should read £17,301.

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

In the prior year, the smaller authority was exempt from our review, thus we have not reviewed any evidence to support the prior year comparatives on the AGAR.

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2019/20 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2020/21.

The Annual Internal Audit Report has been completed on an incorrect version of the form. Thus, the internal auditor has not given a conclusion on internal control objective M regarding trust funds.

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PKF Littlejohn LLP, Chartered Accountants. A list of members' names is available at the above address. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales No. OC342572. Registered office as above. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a member firm of the PKF International Limited family of legally independent firms and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions of any individual member or correspondent firm or firms.

External auditor certificate 2018/19

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2019.



PKF Littlejohn LLP

30/09/2019