

**Internal Audit Report
Fringford Parish Council
Oxfordshire.**

**Internal Audit Final Report
2015-16**

4th May 2016

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Introduction

An internal audit review of Fringford Parish Council's Financial controls for 2015/16 has been undertaken by Arrow Accounting. The work covered was a key control review of the systems in place for ensuring an adequate level of Governance and Financial control. Previous recommendations were followed-up.



Scope of the Internal Audit

The review included the following:-

- o Bookkeeping Arrangements.
- o Payments in relation to Financial Regulations.
- o Review of Internal Controls.
- o Budgetary Controls.
- o Expected Income fully received and properly recorded.
- o Petty Cash levels and payments supported and approved.
- o Payroll Controls, salaries & fees.
- o Asset Controls.
- o Bank Reconciliations.
- o Accounting Statements.
- o Trust Funds (If applicable).
- o Review and completeness of audit action plans.
- o Review of External Audit recommendations made in the previous year.
- o Review of Section 1 of the Annual Return and the Financial Statements.
- o Auditors Summary.



Findings, recommendations and action plan

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Bookkeeping Arrangements	A	Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year. Well maintained with sound audit trails.	None	N/A
Councils Financial Regulations have been met in regard to expenditure.	B	The Councils Financial Regulations have been met in that appropriate authorisations have been given for each level of expenditure.	None	N/A
		Payments were supported by Invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	None	N/A
Review of Internal Controls.	C	The Council has assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	None	N/A

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Budgetary Controls (Precept requirement)	D	The Annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process.	None	N/A
Budgetary Controls (Budget monitoring)		Progress against the Budget was regularly monitored.	None	N/A
The final Outturn is in line with expectations.		The final Outturn was materially in line with expectations.	None	N/A
Income controls	E	Expected Income was fully received and properly recorded.	None	N/A
Petty cash controls	F	Petty cash was not operated by the Council.	None	N/A

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Payroll controls	G	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals. PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	None	N/A
Asset Controls	H	The Asset register has correctly recorded all material Assets. The correct basis of valuation has been applied.	None	N/A
Asset Controls	H	Additions in the year have been correctly recorded within the Cash Book and Register	None	N/A
Asset Controls	H	All appropriate Deeds and Titles have been established and shown on the Register.	None	N/A

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Bank Reconciliations	I	Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	None	N/A
Accounting Statements	J	<p>Correct accounting basis used and reconciled to the Cash Book.</p> <p>Receipts & Payments</p>	<p>Recommend that The Statement of Balances and Notes pages are added to the Accounts for signing before the 30th June 2016 (A template has been forwarded to the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Agreed to Cash Book</p>	
Trust Funds (If applicable)	K	The Parish Council does not operate as a Trustee for any external body.	None	None

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Review of Internal audit action plan has been considered and actioned?	Good Practice	Recommendations were made in the previous year 2014/15 have been acted upon.	None	N/A

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
<p>External Audit recommendations have been considered and actioned.</p>	<p>Good Practice</p>	<p>No recommendations made in the previous year 2014/15.</p> <p>Gifted Assets should not be given a value.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None – Actioned this year.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Qualifications made, if any have been addressed in 2015/16.</p>		<p>There were no qualifications to address.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Accounting Statements agreed and reconciled to the Annual Return	Section 1 of the Annual Return Part 1 of the Annual return is complete and accurate and reconciles to the statement of accounts.	The accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.	None	N/A

Review of Critical Finance & Governance	Audit Verification	Recommendations	Action Planned
Proper Book-keeping	Sample Testing of the Accounting System carried out.	None	N/A
	Reconciliation of Cash Book/Accounting System to the Financial Statements at Year End.	None	N/A
Financial Regulations , Standing Orders and Payment Controls.	Reviewed to establish Annual Council reviews. Reviewed for correct content. Tested against payments. Section 137 level not exceeded and other LG Powers correctly applied.	None	N/A
Risk Management	Confirmed the Annual Review and adoption of the Risk Assessment.	None	N/A
	Reviewed the Council Insurance.	None	N/A
	Minutes reviewed for unusual activity.	None	N/A
	Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit completed	None	N/A

Review of Critical Finance & Governance	Audit Verification	Recommendations	Action Planned
Budgetary Controls	Reviewed the Budget for proper preparation and adoption. Regular reporting to the Council Actions on material variances Council Balances reviewed.	None	
Income Controls	Precept and Grants tested to ensure properly and promptly received. Other income sample tested Investments and Policy reviewed. Awareness of Risks has been accepted.	None	
Petty Cash procedures	System reviewed and tested.	None	

Payroll Controls

System delivers correct payments and that Tax/Ni deductions have been made and sent to HMRC.

All Employee's are registered with HMRC.

Contracts of Employments in place.

Wages & Salaries reconciled to the Financial Statements and the Annual Return.

None**N/A****Asset Controls**

Asset Register reviewed for completeness. Additions and Disposals correctly stated. Reviews completed by the Council.

Investments correctly stated and valued.

Investment Strategy in place

Council has obtained and read the DCLG guidance on Investments

None**N/A**

Bank Reconciliation

Regular reviews of the Bank Reconciliations completed.

Regularly Checked to the Cash Book

Includes a note of historic cost of any Investments.

Year End Bank Reconciliation completed accurately and agreed to the Financial Statements and Annual Return.

Bank Reconciliations signed by an appropriate councillor.

None

N/A

Year End Procedures

Financial Statements reviewed and that an audit trail exists. Balance sheet tested if appropriate.

Recommendation on the notes to the Financial Statements above.

Internal Auditors Summary Report

Fringford Parish Council has an electorate in the region of 497 and the precept for 2015/16 was set at £11,014.

Overall, the Council has sound arrangements in place to satisfy itself that its systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective. There are approval and authorisation controls and there is a clear audit and management trail for financial transactions.

Phil Hood
Arrow Accounting
(Internal Audit)
4th May 2016

