### Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities\*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
  - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
  - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

### Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

- 1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with Proper Practices.
- 2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:
  - The Annual Internal Audit Report must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
  - Sections 1 and 2 must be completed and approved by the authority.
  - Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
- 3. The authority must approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both must be approved and published on the authority website/webpage before 1 July 2023.
- 4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, must return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
  - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
  - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023
  - · an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
  - · notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
  - Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Section1, Section 2 and Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate will be returned to the authority by email or post.

### **Publication Requirements**

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2023 authorities must publish:

- · Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, approved and signed, page 4
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2023 authorities must publish:

- · Notice of conclusion of audit
- Section 3 External Auditor Report and Certificate
- Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

### Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23

- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. Proper
  Practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide\* which is updated from time to time and contains everything
  needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any
  amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external
  auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2023.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation must be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide\**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 5. Do not just send a copy of the detailed
  accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the
  reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- · If the bank reconciliation is incomplete or variances not fully explained then additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, must set the commencement date for the
  exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which must include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority must publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor before 1 July 2023.

	list – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No	
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	1		
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	1		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	1		
Section 1	ion 1 For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?			
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	1		
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	1		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	1		
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 been reconciled to Box 8?	1		
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	1		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? <b>NB</b> : do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		1	

\*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

### **Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23**

### Sherfield Park Parish Council

www.sherfieldparkparishcouncil.gov.uk

**During** the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	/		COVERCE
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	1		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	1		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			/
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	1		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	1		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	1		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	1		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")			1
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	1		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	1		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	1		
O. (For local councils only)	Ves		Not applicable

O. (For local councils only)

Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

30/01/2023

24/05/2023

Andy Beams - Mulberry & C0

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Deaup

Date

24/05/2023

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

NO PETTY CASH.

### Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

### Sherfield Park 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	No*	'Yes' m	neans that this authority:	
1		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		
1		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.		
<b>/</b>		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.		
1		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.		
1		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.		
1		arranged for a competent person, independent of the finance controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.		
1		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.		
1		disclosed everything it should have about its business active during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.		
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.	
	Yes	Yes No*  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V  V	Yes No* 'Yes' n prepara with the  made p for safe its chai  has on complie  during inspect  conside faces a  arrange control interna  respon externa discloss during end if n	

<sup>\*</sup>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:	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
14/06/2023	
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman
062309 MINUTE REFERENCE	Clerk XEX

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### Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

### Sherfield Park Parish Council

THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN	Year ending		Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	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.		
Balances brought forward	88,361	95,846	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	39,220	39,220	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,701	6,527	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	13,898	20,854	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.		
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	21,538	25,832	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	95,846	94,907	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
Total value of cash and short term investments	95,846	94,907	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.		
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	69,069	73,780	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	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			1	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 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

13/06/2023

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

14/06/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

062310

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting

Statements were approved

### Name of Smaller authority: Sherfield Park Parish Council

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

### **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.  Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2023, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:  (b) Jane Stewart – Clerk and RFO 30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302	which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below  (b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.  Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2023, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:  (b) Jane Stewart – Clerk and RFO 30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2023, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:  (b) Jane Stewart – Clerk and RFO 30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
(b) Jane Stewart – Clerk and RFO 30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
30 sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
RG27 0FP clerk@sherfieldparkparishcouncil.co.uk 07770655302  commencing on (c) 16th June 2023	
07770655302 commencing on (c) 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1
	day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below
	(d) The inspection period between (c)
	and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10
and ending on (d) 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	working days of July.
3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:	
The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and	
<ul> <li>The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.</li> </ul>	
The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.	
I. The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2015. The appointed auditor is:	
BDO LLP	
	(e) Insert name and position of person
Maritime Walk	placing the notice - this person must be
Ocean Village	the responsible financial officer for the
Southampton	smaller authority
SO14 3TL	
⊠ councilaudits@bdo.co.uk	

### LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including local councils, internal drainage boards and 'other' smaller authorities.

### The basic position

The <u>Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014</u> (the Act) governs the work of auditors appointed to smaller authorities. This summary explains the provisions contained in Sections 26 and 27 of the Act. The Act and the <u>Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015</u> also cover the duties, responsibilities and rights of smaller authorities, other organisations and the public concerning the accounts being audited.

As a local elector, or an interested person, you have certain legal rights in respect of the accounting records of smaller authorities. As an interested person you can inspect accounting records and related documents. If you are a local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate you can also ask questions about the accounts and object to them. You do not have to pay directly for exercising your rights. However, any resulting costs incurred by the smaller authority form part of its running costs. Therefore, indirectly, local residents pay for the cost of you exercising your rights through their council tax.

### The right to inspect the accounting records

Any interested person can inspect the accounting records, which includes but is not limited to local electors. You can inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records. You can copy all, or part, of these records or documents. Your inspection must be about the accounts, or relate to an item in the accounts. You cannot, for example, inspect or copy documents unrelated to the accounts, or that include personal information (Section 26(6) - (10)) of the Act explains what is meant by personal information). You cannot inspect information which is protected by commercial confidentiality. This is information which would prejudice commercial confidentiality if it was released to the public and there is not, set against this, a very strong reason in the public interest why it should nevertheless be disclosed.

When smaller authorities have finished preparing accounts for the financial year and approved them, they must publish them (including on a website). There must be a 30 working day period, called the 'period for the exercise of public rights', during which you can exercise your statutory right to inspect the accounting records. Smaller authorities must tell the public, including advertising this on their website, that the accounting records and related documents are available to inspect. By arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records. You may have to pay a copying charge. The 30 working day period must include a common period of inspection during which all smaller authorities' accounting records are available to inspect. This will be 3-14 July 2023 for 2022-23 accounts. The advertisement must set out the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights, how you can communicate to the smaller authority that you wish to inspect the accounting records and related documents, the name and address of the auditor, and the relevant legislation that governs the inspection of accounts and objections.

### The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records

You should first ask your smaller authority about the accounting records, since they hold all the details. If you are a local elector, your right to ask questions of the external auditor is enshrined in law. However, while the auditor will answer your questions where possible, they are not always obliged to do so. For example, the question might be better answered by another organisation, require investigation beyond the auditor's remit, or involve disproportionate cost (which is borne by the local taxpayer). Give your smaller authority the opportunity first to explain anything in the accounting records that you are unsure about. If you are not satisfied with their explanation, you can question the external auditor about the accounting records.

The law limits the time available for you formally to ask questions. This must be done in the period for the exercise of public rights, so let the external auditor know your concern as soon as possible. The advertisement or notice that tells you the accounting records are available to inspect will also give the period for the exercise of public rights during which you may ask the auditor questions, which here means formally asking questions under the Act. You can ask someone to represent you when asking the external auditor questions.

Before you ask the external auditor any questions, inspect the accounting records fully, so you know what they contain. Please remember that you cannot formally ask questions, under the Act, after the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. You may ask your smaller authority other questions about their accounts for any year, at any time. But these are not questions under the Act.

You can ask the external auditor questions about an item in the accounting records for the financial year being audited. However, your right to ask the external auditor questions is limited. The external auditor can only answer 'what' questions, not 'why' questions. The external auditor cannot answer questions about policies, finances, procedures or anything else unless it is directly relevant to an item in the accounting records. Remember that your questions must always be about facts, not opinions. To avoid misunderstanding, we recommend that you always put your questions in writing.

### The right to make objections at audit

You have inspected the accounting records and asked your questions of the smaller authority. Now you may wish to object to the accounts on the basis that an item in them is in your view unlawful or there are matters of wider concern arising from the smaller authority's finances. A local government elector can ask the external auditor to apply to the High Court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, or to issue a report on matters which are in the public interest. You must tell the external auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you think the item is unlawful, or why you think that a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide the external auditor with the evidence you have to support your objection. Disagreeing with income or spending does not make it unlawful. To object to the accounts you must write to the external auditor stating you want to make an objection, including the information and evidence below and you must send a copy to the smaller authority. The notice must include:

- confirmation that you are an elector in the smaller authority's area;
- · why you are objecting to the accounts and the facts on which you rely;
- · details of any item in the accounts that you think is unlawful; and
- details of any matter about which you think the external auditor should make a public interest report.

Other than it must be in writing, there is no set format for objecting. You can only ask the external auditor to act within the powers available under the <u>Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014</u>.

### A final word

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take such complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor. Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the cost that will be involved, they will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. They may also decide not to consider an objection if they think that it is frivolous or vexatious, or if it repeats an objection already considered. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision not to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on public rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication Local authority accounts: A guide to your rights are available from the NAO website.

If you wish to contact your authority's appointed external auditor please write to the address in paragraph 4 of the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

Date: 29/03/2023

### **Sherfield Park Parish Council**

Page 1

Time: 11:21

### Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2023 for Cashbook 2 - HSBC

User: JANE

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
SPPC HSBC	31/03/2003	70	76,787.82
		8 <del></del>	76,787.82
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)	<u></u>	Amount	
		0.00	
		·	0.00
			76,787.82
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
		0.00	
			0.00
			76,787.82
	Balance per	Cash Book is :-	76,787.82
		Difference is :-	0.00

Date: 03/04/2023

### Sherfield Park Parish Council

Time: 10:08

### Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2023 for Cashbook 1 - Current Bank A/c

Page 1

User: JANE

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
SPPC Lloyds	31/03/2023		18,118.92
		-	18,118.92
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)		Amount	
		0.00	
			0.00
			18,118.92
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
		0.00	
			0.00
			18,118.92
	Balance per	Cash Book is :-	18,118.92
		Difference is :-	0.00



### **MULBERRY & CO**

Chartered Certified Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisors

9 Pound Lane Godalming Surrey, GU7 1BX

t + 44(0)1483 423054 e office@mulberryandco.co.uk w www.mulberryandco.co.uk

Our Ref:

MARK/SHE007

Mrs J Stewart Sherfield Park Parish Council 30 Sunwood Drive Sherfield on Loddon Hampshire RG27 OFP

24 May 2023

Dear Jane

### Re: Sherfield Park Parish Council

Internal Audit Year Ended 31 March 2023 - Year-End Audit report

### **Executive summary**

Following completion of our year-end internal audit on 24 May 2023 we enclose our report for your kind attention and presentation to the council. This report should be considered alongside the interim audit report issued following our interim audit on 30 January 2023. The audits were conducted in accordance with current practices and guidelines and testing was risk based. Whilst we have not tested all transactions, our samples have where appropriate covered the entire year to date.

Our report is presented in the same order as the assertions on the internal auditor report within the published AGAR. The start of each section details the nature of the assertion to be verified. Testing requirements follow those detailed in the audit plan previously sent to the council, a copy of this is available on request. The report concludes with an opinion as to whether each assertion has been met or not. Where appropriate recommendations for action are shown in bold text and are summarised in the table at the end of the report.

Our sample testing did not uncover any errors or misstatements that require reporting to the external auditor at this time, nor did we identify any significant weaknesses in the internal controls such that public money would be put at risk.

It is clear the council takes governance, policies and procedures seriously and I am pleased to report that overall, the systems and procedures you have in place are fit for purpose and whilst my report may contain recommendations to change these are not indicative of any significant failings, but rather are pointers to improving upon an already well-ordered system.

It is therefore our opinion that the systems and internal procedures at Sherfield Park Parish Council are well established and followed.

### Regulation

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require smaller authorities, each financial year, to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an annual governance statement in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts. In addition to this, a smaller authority is required by Regulation 5(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to "undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance."

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance activity designed to improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The purpose of internal audit is to review and report to the authority on whether its systems of financial and other internal controls over its activities and operating procedures are effective.

Internal audit's function is to test and report to the authority on whether its specific system of internal control is adequate and working satisfactorily. The internal audit reports should therefore be made available to all Members to support and inform them when they considering the authority's approval of the annual governance statement.

### Independence and competence

Your audit was conducted by Andy Beams of Mulberry & Co, who has over 30 years' experience in the financial sector with the last 13 years specialising in local government.

Your auditor is independent from the management of the financial controls and procedures of the council and has no conflicts of interest with the audit client, nor do they provide any management or financial assistance to the client.

### **Engagement Letter**

An engagement letter was previously issued to the council covering the 2022/23 internal audit assignment. Copies of this document are available on request.

### Planning and inherent risk assessment

The scope and plan of works including fee structure was issued to the council under separate cover. Copies of this document are available on request. In summary, our work will address each of the internal control objectives as stated on the Annual Internal Audit Report of the AGAR. As part of the inherent risk assessment, we have concluded that:

- o There have been no reported instances of breaches of regulations in the past
- The client uses an industry approved financial reporting package
- The client regularly carries out reconciliations and documents these
- There is regular reporting to council
- o The management team are experienced and informed
- o Records are neatly maintained and referenced
- The client is aware of current regulations and practices
- There has been no instance of high staff turnover

It is our opinion that the inherent risk of error or misstatement is low, and the controls of the council can be relied upon and as such substantive testing of individual transactions is not required. Testing to be carried out will be "walk through testing" on sample data to encompass the period of the council year under review.

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C	RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	5
D	BUDGET, PRECEPT AND RESERVES	<b>✓</b>	1	5
G	PAYROLL	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	5
Н	ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	5
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### **Interim Audit - Points Carried Forward**

Audit Point	Audit Findings	Council comments on actions taken since interim visit
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I recommend reviewing the way the information is published on the website of West Chiltington Parish Council as a best practice example via this link <a href="https://www.wcpc.org.uk/transparency">www.wcpc.org.uk/transparency</a>	This has been updated for the year-end audit and now contains the information required by the code.
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I note that the date of publication is not included on the agenda, and I recommend this is added in future for greater clarity that the statutory notice period has been met.	Dates are now added to agendas to provide clarity of meeting the three clear days' notification requirement
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I remind council it is required to also post any supporting documentation with the agendas as outlined by the Information Commissioner's Office (page 3 of this link)  ico.org.uk/minutesandagendas.pdf	To be reviewed at next interim visit.
BUDGET, PRECEPT AND RESERVES	I have no concerns with the projected reserves levels, but the accounting package needs to be updated to reflect the actual position at the yearend.	Updated and checked at year-end audit.

### B. FINANCE REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS

### Internal audit requirement

This authority complied with its Finance Regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.

### **Audit findings**

### Confirm that the council is compliant with GDPR.

The council is fully aware of GDPR and has undergone training. It was noted the council has established common email addresses for all councillors, although these are not used by all councillors. This is recommended because it gives a natural segregation between work and personal lives, making it clear beyond doubt in what capacity a councillor is acting. In addition to this it gives control to the council, adds a degree of professionalism and in the event of a FOI request limits access to personal computers.

The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner's Guide (March 2023) contains updated guidance on the matter as below:

### The importance of secure email systems and GOV.UK

- 5.205. All authorities except parish meetings must now have an official website. To comply with GDPR, councils should provide official email accounts for their councillors as well as for their clerk and other officers.
- 5.206. When choosing a domain name for the council's website and emails, many local council websites are appropriately making use of the official GOV.UK domain (for example, our parish council.gov.uk), with email addresses being linked to that domain.
- 5.207. Using a GOV.UK domain for your council website and email accounts demonstrates the council's official local government status. Members of the public are increasingly cyber security awareness, so a GOV.UK domain can also help to build trust, and credibility and visibly demonstrates authenticity. Many people will now reasonably expect a local council to have a GOV.UK domain name.
- 5.208. For the purposes of user management, councils should ensure that the proper officer can add and remove member and staff email accounts. Commercial 'dashboard' email and web systems offer centralised searching of all data contained within the system for effective compliance with GDPR Subject Access Requests and Freedom of Information Requests.

I recommend the council follows the JPAG guidance on emails for councillors and that all councillors continue to use their official email accounts for all council business.

### Confirm that the council is compliant with the relevant transparency code.

At the interim audit, I noted that the council has established a Transparency Tab on the council website, although not all the information was published at that time. This has been updated since the interim visit and now meets the requirements of the code.

### Check that the council's Finance Regulations are being routinely followed.

Sample testing of invoices and payments was completed at the interim audit, and I am satisfied that the council continues to follow its adopted Financial Regulations.

Confirm all section 137 expenditure meets the guidelines and does not exceed the annual per elector limit of £8.82 per elector. The council has the section 137 expenditure within allowable thresholds for the year.

### Confirm that checks of the accounts are made by a councillor.

The system noted above, and the detailed testing conducted at the interim audit confirms internal review takes place and I am under no doubt that council properly approves expenditure.

### C. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

### Internal audit requirement

This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.

### **Audit findings**

We discussed assertion 8 on the Annual Governance Statement and whether this had any impact on the council.

"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."

The Clerk confirmed that they were not aware of any event having a financial impact that was not included in the accounting statements.

### D. BUDGET, PRECEPT AND RESERVES

### Internal audit requirement

The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.

### **Audit findings**

The accounting records show that the council ended the year with income reported as 110.1% of budget and expenditure reported as 81.5% of budget.

At the end of the financial year, the council held £80,500 in earmarked reserves (EMR), leaving circa £14,500 in the general reserve. I note that one of the EMRs is entitled '6 months running costs', and in essence this is also part of the general reserve. The council may wish to consider whether that amount would be more accurately reflected as being contained within the general reserve, thereby bringing the balance to approximately the precept level.

Council is reminded that the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner's guide states 'the generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure' (para 5.33).

### G. PAYROLL

### Internal audit requirement

Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.

### **Audit findings**

I reviewed the total figure being included within box 4 (staff costs) on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and confirmed that this includes only salary payments, HMRC payments and pension contributions.

### H. ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS

### Internal audit requirement

Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.

### **Audit findings**

I confirmed the asset register total matches that included in box 9 (total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets) on the AGAR and was able to trace the changes to the previous year's total against the asset register.

The council has no borrowing nor long-term investments.

### I. BANK AND CASH

### Internal audit requirement

Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.

### **Audit findings**

I reviewed the March 2023 bank reconciliation and was able to confirm the balances to the bank statements and found no errors.

Balances held are within the £85,000 protection limit offered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

### J. YEAR END ACCOUNTS

### Internal audit requirement

Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.

### **Audit findings**

The council, at its meeting to sign off the year-end accounts, must discuss Section 1 of the AGAR (Annual Governance Statement) and record this activity in the minutes of the meeting. **COUNCIL IS REMINDED THAT THIS MUST BE A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF SECTION 2 OF THE AGAR (ANNUAL ACCOUNTS).** 

### Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement

Based on the internal audit finding I recommend using the table below as the basis for that discussion.

	Annual Governance Statement	'Yes', means that this authority	Suggested response based on evidence
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.	YES – accounts follow latest Accounts and Audit Regulations and practitioners guide recommendations.
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.	YES – there is regular reporting of financial transactions and accounting summaries, offering the opportunity for scrutiny.
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.	YES – the Clerk advises the council in respect of its legal powers.
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.	YES – the requirements and timescales for 2021/22 year- end were followed.
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.	YES – the council has a risk management scheme and appropriate external insurance.

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.	YES – the council has appointed an independent and competent internal auditor.
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.	YES – matters raised in internal and external audit reports have been addressed.
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.	YES – no matters were raised during the internal audit visits.
9	Trust funds including charitable – In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/asset(s), including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	has met all its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	N/A – the council has no trusts

### Section 2 - Accounting Statements

AGA	R box number	2021/22	2022/23	Internal Auditor notes
1	Balances brought forward	88,361	95,846	Agrees to 2021/22 carry forward (box 7)
2	Precept or rates and levies	39,220	39,220	Figure confirmed to central records
3	Total other receipts	3,701	6,527	Agrees to underlying records
4	Staff costs	13,898	20,854	Agrees to underlying records
5	Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Council has no borrowing
6	All other payments	21,538	25,832	Agrees to underlying records
7	Balances carried forward	95,846	94,907	Casts correctly and agrees to balance sheet
8	Total value of cash and short- term investments	95,846	94,907	Agrees to bank reconciliation
9	Total fixed assets plus long- term investments and assets	69,069	73,780	Matches asset register
10	Total borrowings	0	0	Council has no borrowing
11a	Disclosure note re Trust Funds (including charitable)	N/A	NO	No – the council is not a sole trustee
11b	Disclosure note re Trust Funds (including charitable)		N/A	N/A – the council is not a sole trustee

### **Audit findings**

The year-end accounts have been correctly prepared on a receipts and payments basis with no requirement for the box 7 and 8 reconciliation.

The AGAR correctly casts and cross casts and last year's comparatives match the figures submitted for 2021/22.

The variance analysis has been completed to explain the variances exceeding 15% where required. This has been completed in detail, and in my opinion, contains sufficient narrative and quantitative information for the External Auditor.

### K. LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW

### Internal audit requirement

If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")

### **Audit findings**

The council did not certify itself exempt in 2021/22 due to exceeding the income and expenditure limits and this test does not apply.

### L: PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

### Internal audit requirement

The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation

### **Audit findings**

This internal control objective has changed since last year. Where previously it related to the relevant Transparency Codes, a council with annual turnover exceeding £25,000 was recommended to follow the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, but it was not a statutory requirement.

All councils are required to follow The Accounts and Audit Regulations which include the following requirements:

13(1) An authority must publish (which must include publication on that authority's website)

- (a) the Statement of Accounts together with any certificate or opinion entered by the local auditor in accordance with section 20(2) of the Act; and
- (b) the Annual Governance Statement approved in accordance with regulation 6(3)

13(2) Where documents are published under paragraph (1), the authority must

- (a) keep copies of those documents for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum; and
- (b) ensure that those documents remain available for public access for a period of not less than five years beginning with the date on which those documents were first published in accordance with that paragraph.

I was able to confirm that pages 4 (Annual Governance Statement), 5 (Accounting Statements) and 6 (External Auditor's Report and Certificate) of the AGAR are available for review on the council website for the last five years.

### M: EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS - INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

### Internal audit requirement

The authority has demonstrated that during summer 2022 it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

### **Audit findings**

Inspection – key dates	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Proposed
Date AGAR signed by council	11 May 2022	14 June 2023
Date inspection notice issued	16 May 2022	15 June 2023
Inspection period begins	13 June 2022	16 June 2023
Inspection period ends	22 July 2022	27 July 2023
Correct length (30 working days)	Yes	Yes
Common period included (first 10 working days of July)	Yes	Yes

I am satisfied the requirements of this control objective were met for 2021/22, and assertion 4 on the Annual Governance Statement can therefore be signed off by the council.

I was able to confirm that the proposed dates for 2022/23 meet the statutory requirements.

### Achievement of control assertions at year-end audit date

Based on the tests conducted during the year-end audit, our conclusions on the achievement of the internal control objectives are summarised in the table below and are reflected in the completion of the Annual Internal Audit Report within the AGAR.

	INTERNAL CONTROL OBJECTIVE	YES	NO	NOT COVERED
Α	Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year	٧		
В	This authority complied with its Finance Regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved, and VAT was appropriately accounted for	٧		
С	This authority assesses the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these	٧		
D	The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	٧		
Ε	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for	٧		
F	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved, and VAT appropriately accounted for			٧
G	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	٧.		
Н	Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	٧		
1	Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	٧		
J	Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	٧		
K	If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR tick "not covered")			<b>V</b>
L	The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation	V		
M	The authority, during the previous year (2021-22) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	٧		
N	The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR.	٧		
0	Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			√

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Andy Beams** 

Deary

For Mulberry & Co

### **Year-End Audit - Points Carried Forward**

Audit Point	Audit Findings	Council comments
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I remind council it is required to also post any supporting documentation with the agendas as outlined by the Information Commissioner's Office (page 3 of this link)  ico.org.uk/minutesandagendas.pdf	

### Accounting statements 2022-23

By completing this box, the figures will pull through to the relevant tabs of the workbook to assist you in reporting on the significant variances

	Year ending	nding			Notes and guidance	Explanation required
					Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil	
	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	Variance £	Variance %	balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.	
1. Balances brought forward	88,361.00	95,846.00			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	39,220.00	39,220.00	0	0%	and levies) received or receivable in the year.	No explanation required
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,701.00	6,527.00	2826	76%	ecorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received	See tab 3
					(line 2). Include any grants received.	
4. (-) Staff costs	13,898.00	20,854.00	6956	50%	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries	See tab 4
					and wages, employers NI contirbutions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and	
					severance payments.	
5. (-) Loan interest/capital	-	-	0	0%	Total expenditure of payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's	
repayments					borrowings (if any).	
6. (-) All other payments	21,538.00	25,832.00	4294	20%	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan	See tab 6
					interest/capital repayments (line 5).	
7. (=) Balances carried forward	95,846.00	94,907.00			Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	Please explain in the
	Bal c/f checker	Bal c/f checker				
8. Total value of cash and short	95,846.00	94,907.00			The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments	
term investments					held as at 31 March - to agree with bank reconciliation.	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term	69,069.00	73,780.00	4711	7%	ade up of all its fixed assets and long	No explanation required
investments and assets					term investments as at 31 March.	
10. Total borrowings	-	-	0	%0	as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including	No explanation required
					PWLB).	

2021/22

3701 2022/23

6527

Difference % Change **2826 76%** Yes explain

Use the table below to breakdown your explanation (consider any fixed assets that have been sold and ensure reflected in explanation in box 9 fixed assets)

Total																
3767											2317	1375	0	75	0	2021/22 £
6527											2470	2652	75	330	1000	£ 2022/23 £
2760	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						£ Difference
											153 Increase in grant for litter warden	1277 More VAT claimed on purchases than previous year	75 Bank compensation due to poor customer service not budgeted for	255 Bank interest higher than expected	1000 Grant received from Cllr Still for Sherfield 20 project	Explanation (Ensure each explanation is quantified)

1389
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22/23 20854

6956 **50%** Yes explain

Difference % Change

## Use the table below to breakdown your explanation

2021/22 £ 2	£ 2022/23 £	£ Difference	Explanation (Ensure each explanation is quantified)
			Litter Warden average salary per month rose from £185 to £198 nett a difference of £13. Salary costs for Clerk and RFO increased from £760 to £1190 nett a difference of £430 per month due to becoming CILCA qualified and increase in hours. June 2022 outgoing Clerk and new Clerk paid for the month of June for a handover. New Clerk and RFO recruited June 2022 with an increase in hours to enable training to be included in employed hours. Difference from previous Clerk to new Clerk salary £83 net per month
13909	20854	6056	ROSE These increases also came with increased contributions and pension costs
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
Total 13898	20854	6956	

1294 <b>20%</b> Yes explain	4294 <b>20%</b>	Difference Change	
	25832	21538 2022/23	021/22

# Use the table below to breakdown your explanation (consider any fixed assets that have been purchased and reflect in explanation in box 9 fixed assets)

	4821	17643	12822	Total
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
	0			
-4844 2021/22 bought traffic control equipment. 2022/23 purchased bands for mountings of equipment	-4844	129	4973	
1452 King Charles III	145	1452	0	
Jubilee costs covered items for the Queen's mourning/funeral and items for the Coronation of				
6001 Covid being fully lifted	6003	10161	4160	_
Grants - the Parish Council were able to award more grants in 2022/23 due to restrictions for				
2212 enable safe plug in for lights for the future	221:	5901	3689	
Repairs and Maintenance £2959 nett spent on an event pole and enabling works for Christmas lights to				
Explanation (Ensure each explanation is quantified)	£ Difference	£ 2022/23 £ Di	2021/22 £ 20	20

Box 7

94907 Precept

39220