NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/2	34)
NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement 15 MA7 2024 (a) 2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below
those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2024, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:	
(b) Parish clerky udimorē. ORG PRANKLIM, ROGERS COTTAGE WILLINGFORD HANE TNIG 7HR.	(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Chair or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
commencing on (c)Monday 3 June 2024 and ending on (d)Friday 12 July 2024	(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
3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:	(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days
 The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and 	inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.
 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. 	
The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.	
4. The smaller authority's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed auditor is:	
PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-l.com)	
5. This announcement is made by (e)	(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the Chair of the parish meeting

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including parish meetings where there is no parish council.

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 1-12 July 2024 for 2023/24 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

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

UDIMORE PARISH COUNCIL

https://www.udimore.org/

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.	V		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	V		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	V		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			V
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.	V		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	V		
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.	V		
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")	V		
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	
MI. 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).	V		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).		V	
O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicabl
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

18/05/2023

Keith Robertson

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

2

Date

25/05/2023

*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).

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25.000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2024, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, provided that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2024 notifying the external auditor.

UDIMORE P.C.

certifies that during the financial year 2023/24, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

Total annual gross income for the authority 2023/24:

£7000

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2023/24:

£7.000

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt and it must submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £210 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this Certificate of Exemption you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2020
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2022/23), the external auditor has not:
 - · issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - · made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2024. Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this

authority on this date:

15/05/2024

Signed by Chair

as recorded in minute reference:

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

parisliclerho udimori. org

07802 771329

*Published web address

www. GOMBRE, ORG

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2024. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

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 2024, that:

Agreed					
	Yes	No	.'Yes' me	eans that this authority:	
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.		
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	/			roper arrangements and accepted responsibility guarding the public money and resources in ge.	
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.		
We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	1		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity 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.		
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.		
We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	\checkmark		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.		
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 must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
15/05/2024	
and recorded as minute reference:	Chair Munuel. Clerk P. D. Frontli
7 g ii sassanda	Clerk P.D. Front

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

UDIMORE

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance			
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	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	13,060	12,326	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	6,630	7,000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.			
3. (+) Total other receipts	2,514	2,035	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	3,592	3,975	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.			
5. (-) 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	6,286	3,938	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	12,326	13,448	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	12,326	13,448	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	17,409	17,409	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)				The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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

presented to the authority for approval

15/05/2024

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

15/MA7/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

7 g i

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

Advinces

Date

Keith Robertson Internal Audit Services

UDIMORE PARISH COUNCIL Internal Audit Report 2023-24

Introduction

In accordance with the Internal Audit Plan, Controls and Procedures have been tested, with Fraud and Risk Issues reviewed. The tests were to the standards and practices defined in the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities 2023 and meet the needs of the Council. I confirm that I do not have any role within the Council and have carried out my duties without bias.

The audit was completed on 22nd May 2024 at the Burwash Parish office. The report below highlights the findings of the audit with reference to the Internal Control Objectives and Governance Statements in the Annual Return.

Update on issued raised in the 2022-23 Internal Audit.

Appropriate Accounting Records.

Bank reconciliations. Recommend that a Councillor also initials the bank reconciliations and statement. Per financial reg 2.2. **Completed**

Expenditure Approval. Recommended that a Cllr also initials the approved invoice at the time of approval. **Completed**

Financial Regulations, documentation and approvals.

Bank Mandates. Mandates are now current with on line banking but Cllrs are not logging into the system. The Clerk is entering and approving on line payments. **Partly Completed** – On line payments with 2 signatories is now live but not yet being used.

Budgeting & Precept

Reporting. Actual expenditure is compared with the budget and any significant variances are explained. **Part completed**. Reserves are monitored during the year but not formally considered when setting the budget.

Internal Audit Report 2023-24

A. Appropriate Accounting Records.

- A.1 The financial records are maintained in an XL cash book. The format and financial data is adequate for the Council's needs.
- A.2 VAT is properly accounted for. Reclaims are up to date as at 31-3-24.
- A.3 Financial reports are presented to Council. The Year end reports agree to the financial records and to the 2023-24 AGAR. Noted that expenditure funded from reserves was not included on all spend vs budget reports during the year. This should be included.
- A.4 Bank reconciliations are prepared routinely and are subject to the scrutiny of members. This is registered in the minutes and the reconciliation signed by a Councillor..
- A.5 Expenditure Approval. A sample of payments confirmed the Financial regs were complied with, invoices approved by the Council with and audit trail through the financial records. A Cllr also initials the approved invoice at the time of approval.

B. Financial Regulations, documentation and approvals.

- B.1 Fin Regs & SO were re adopted May 2023 and May 2024.
- B.2 The Agendas & Minutes were posted on the Councils website.
- B.3 Bank Mandates. Mandates are now current with on line banking live but as at May 2024 Cllrs are not active on the system. The Clerk continues to enter and approve on line payments. The Clerk is aware and will rectify this as soon as possible but this process is not aligned with the financial regulations and does present a risk with the Clerk able input and approve on line payments.

J. Accounting Statements.

- J.1 The accounts are maintained on a Receipts and Payments basis and the reports agree to the cash book.
- J.2 Reserves Total reserves are £13.4K General reserves are £4.8K which the Council considers adequate. Higher general reserve levels would be acceptable using Governance and Accountability guides. Earmarked reserves total £8.6K.

K. Limited Assurance Review Exemption.

The Council did correctly exempt itself in 2022-23 and did post the exemption on its website but the values of receipts and payments on the form published did not agree to the financial records,

L. Transparency code.

The Council did publish the data required for 2022-23 in 2023-24 except for a list of payments over £100 which was not published.

M. Exercise of Public Rights 2022-23.

The Council did comply with the audit regulations for publication.

N. Publication of AGAR documents for 2022-23

The Council did publish the correct AGAR forms for 2022-23 on its website.

O. Trust Funds. The Council has confirmed that does not manage any trusts.

It is noted that the figures have been produced by the Clerk in accordance with the requirements and all supporting documents have been produced for the Internal Auditor. The Clerk's cooperation aided considerably the work of this internal audit. Thank you.

Keith Robertson FCMA Internal Auditor 25th May 2024

Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

UDIMORE PARISH COUNCIL

https://www.udimore.org/

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, 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 2023/24 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.	V	110	Covered
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	V		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	V		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			V
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.	V		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	V		
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.	V	(Majabaga) ing paggan ang gan	
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")	oli Sylvani Sarak Inde (1919) ili	V	
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. 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 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	V		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	V		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

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

22/05/2024

Keith Robertson

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

25/05/2024

*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).