

LIGHTATOUCH

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17 June, 2022

The Parish Clerk

South Wonston Parish Council

PO Box 324

South Wonston

Winchester

SO21 3WB

Dear Rachael

**Final Internal Audit Review:
South Wonston Parish Council – covering January 2022 to March 2022 and Year End procedures**

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended) require all Town and Parish Councils to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of their risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.

We confirm that we are independent of the Council.

The internal audit work we have carried out has been planned to enable us to give our opinion on the control objectives set out in the Annual Internal Auditor's Report on the 2021-22 Accountability and Governance Annual Return (AGAR).

We have complied with the legal requirements and proper practices set out in:

- 'Accountability and Governance for Smaller Authorities – A Practitioners' Guide (England)' 2021
- The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended).

This is the final audit in 2021/2022 to check that the Council adheres to the requirements set out in the Accountability and Governance for Smaller Authorities in England ensuring that compliance with proper practices is maintained.

The final internal audit visit was carried out on Thursday 09 June 2022. The Parish Clerk has also provided back-up information from RBS Omega Software for the period January 2022 to March 2022 and End of Year details to support the current governance and financial management position of the Council.

Further confirmation has been obtained of good practice and compliance with the Transparency Code Regulation 2015 from the Council's website.

As we have carried out an Interim Internal Audit review in 2021/2022, we are also using the information already recorded from these to support the completion of the internal control objectives on the (AGAR) Annual Internal Audit Report.

Where this is necessary, we will complete the AGAR Internal Audit Report on evidence already seen from the previous reviews. This is acceptable practice for the External Auditor.

As part of this final Internal Audit Review, we checked:

Bank Reconciliations

- the Bank Reconciliation at 31 March 2022 was re-performed and no errors were noted. *(Audit Note: We continue to recommend that in line with proper practices that bank reconciliations should be printed off from the RBS Omega software, signed and dated by the Clerk each month. The Chairman of the Council should sign and date the bank reconciliations monthly to confirm that bank reconciliations have been carried out accurately as part of Councillor scrutiny role. This practice should be introduced with immediate effect).*

Income and Expenditure

- all income and expenditure items as at 31 March 2022 were confirmed and details are accurate to the records held by Council.

VAT Reimbursement

- the Parish Clerk has submitted a VAT claim to HMRC for the period December 2021 to March 2022 in the sum of £1,410.55 which was submitted in June 2022.

Risk Assessment 2021/2022

- the risks of the Parish Council were reviewed and approved on 14 March 2022 to ensure that the requirements of the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (March 2021) is met.

Parish Council Minutes

- Minutes of the Council were checked on the website for approvals and decisions made and approval of payments was checked for January 2022 to March 2022. *(Audit Note: We recommend that in line with the requirements set out in the Practitioners Guide 2022 each page of the Minutes should be initialled by the Chairman of the Parish Council to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes approved by the parish Council).*

Asset Register

- The Asset Register at 31 March 2022 was reviewed and additions for 2021/22 were agreed.

End of Year Procedures 2020/2021

A full check was carried out on the End of Year documentation provided by the Parish Clerk to confirm the accuracy of the details to be submitted to the External Auditor. This also included the validation of any variances of totals over 15% between 2020/21 and 2021/2022 shown on Section 2 of the AGAR as required by the External Auditor.

The 2021/2022 AGAR Internal Audit Report requires the Internal Auditor to check the Council has correctly provided the proper opportunity for the Exercise of Public Rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations during 2020/2021.

This includes the Internal Auditor being shown evidence that the posting of the Notice on the website was done at least one clear day before the 30-working day period begins.

(Audit Note; We are pleased to report that the Parish Council have displayed the Notice correctly to comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015).

The Annual Internal Audit Report to be submitted to the External Auditor was completed and signed by Tim Light.

This report should be noted and taken to the next meeting of the Council to inform them of the Internal Audit work carried out. The details of this Internal Audit Letter Report should also be Minuted by the Council.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Light FMAAT
Internal Auditor.