

5 MAY 2020

**FORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An internal audit of the Parish Council's financial records for the year 2019/2020 has recently been completed. The audit included all financial transactions for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 inclusive.

The audit was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, and in accordance with the agreed and accepted Audit Plan.

Regulation 3 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations states that the Parish Council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which—

- (a) facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives;
- (b) ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective; and
- (c) includes effective arrangements for the management of risk

Regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations states that the Parish Council must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, and any officer or member of the Parish Council, if required to do so for the purposes of the internal audit shall -

- (a) make available such documents and records; and
- (b) supply such information and explanations;

The objective of the internal audit is to determine whether the accounting arrangements, procedural controls, records, and documentary evidence are adequate to ensure the accurate and timely recording of financial transactions, so as to comply with all relevant legislation and best practice.

## **SCOPE**

The audit included

- 1) examination of the receipts and payments account for the year
- 2) examination of payments and receipts spreadsheets
- 3) I carried out a detailed review of payments and receipts in the period. This included:-
  - a) Tracing purchase invoices to the payment approval sheets, matching to the bank statements, and agreeing the entries in the cash book
  - b) Agreeing bank deposits to the receipts summary
- 4) review of agendas and minutes of meetings,
- 5) review of budgets and confirmation that variances between actual and budgeted expenditure are regularly analysed and explained,
- 6) review of fixed asset register and insurance policy
- 7) confirmation that bank reconciliations and reports are prepared regularly and reviewed at frequent meetings of the Parish Council.

- 8) review of VAT returns, and confirmation that they are completed accurately and filed on a timely basis, and that the balance refundable at 31 March 2020 agreed to the accounts

## FINDINGS

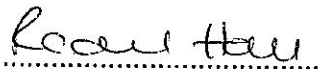
- 1) The fixed asset register was completed correctly, and included the additions in the year, but the annual return (AGAR) showed last year's value.
- 2) VAT had been incorrectly reclaimed on clerk's expenses of £2.61 (the correct formula to use to work out the VAT on the gross amount is multiply the gross by 20 and divide it by 120). Also VAT had been included on a duplicate payment to Moore Stephens which was subsequently refunded – VAT over claimed £8.00
- 3) I reviewed the Council website to ensure that the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 had been correctly implemented and adhered to.
- 4) The website has not been up dated to include the minutes since September 2019. These were subsequently emailed to me, but I could not see that the auditors re-appointment had been minuted, nor if standing orders/ financial regulations and risk assessments had been reviewed and updated as necessary

## SUMMARY AND OPINION

One of the functions of internal audit is to give assurance to members of the council that the financial systems are operating correctly, and can be relied upon.

In connection with my examination, and having regard to the items reported herewith, no matter has come to my attention that gives me reasonable cause to believe in any *material* respect that the regulatory requirements have not been complied with.

The accounting arrangements, procedural controls, records and documentary evidence are considered to be satisfactory, and accurately record the Council's financial position.

  
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RACHEL HALL (ACA)  
5 MAY 2020