

Council: Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

Year Ended: 31st March 2024

Internal Audit of Year End Accounts:

Audit Area	Comment	Action Required
Check all Opening Balances agree with prior year closing figures	All in order and checked.	The AGAR has been completed. Ensure it is signed off by Full Council before 30 th June 2024.
All Bank Accounts properly reconciled	All in order and checked.	
All loan accounts properly reconciled and agreed	N/A	
All Section 106 transactions properly accounted for.	N/A	
Any Long Term Loans made or Long Term Investments removed from accounts and included in Fixed Asset Register	N/A	
Vat due agreed to accounts	All in order.	
Earmarked Reserves movements	All in order.	
Useable Capital Receipts Reserves properly maintained	All in order.	
Trial Balance	Completed and correct.	
Balance Sheet	All completed and correct.	
Annual Return	Internal Audit and Section 2 completed.	
Asset Register updated	All completed and corresponds to amount stated on the AGAR.	

Date Internal Audit Completed: 8th April 2023

Internal Auditor: Paul Russell

INTERNAL AUDIT CHECKLIST

Council: Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

Date: 8th April 2024

Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the year AND Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure the correct roll forward figures of the prior year's cashbook balances to the new financial year.	The correct roll over figure from 2022/23 has been used. (£33,023.25)	Ensure that the correct roll over figure from 2022/23 is used. (£33,023.25)
Check a sample of financial transactions in cashbooks to bank statements, etc: the sample size dependent on the size of the authority and nature of accounting records maintained.	Sample checks undertaken onsite. Accounting records all in order and suitable processes for authorisation and payment of invoices in place.	
Ensure that bank reconciliations are prepared routinely, are subject to independent scrutiny and sign-off by members.	Bank reconciliations are completed on a monthly basis. Council uses Scribe accounting software. Quarterly reports submitted to Council for approval. Account information is posted on the website.	
Verify the accuracy of the year-end bank reconciliation detail and ensure accurate disclosure of the combined cash and bank balances in the AGAR, section 2, line 8.	The final reconciliation has been checked and is accurately reflected on the AGAR.	
Where the authority has bank balances in excess of £100,000 it has an appropriate investment strategy.	N/A	

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

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Review the procedures in place for acquisition of formal tenders and quotes, ensuring they are in line with the SOs and FRs which should be based on the latest version.	All in order. Outlined in Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and followed. Quotations are presented to Council for ratification and acceptance.	
Ensure that consistent values are in place for the acquisition of formal tenders between SOs and FRs (frequently different limits are recorded in the two documents)	Standing Orders and Financial Regulations cross reference correctly. Noted that Contracts Finder limits have increased to £30,000 inclusive of VAT.	Consider amending financial regulations to explicitly indicate that the £30,000 threshold is inclusive of VAT. Procurement Policy Note – update to legal and policy requirements to publish procurement information on Contracts Finder (HTML) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Review the procedures for receipt of invoices, agreement of invoice detail and confirmation of goods/services delivery and approval for payment: ideally, a suitably designed certification stamp should be in place providing for evidencing of these checks and payment authorisation.	Procedures are appropriate. All accounts for payment are considered and approved by Council prior to payment.	
Check that there is effective segregation between the writing of cheques or the setting up of online payments, and physical release of payments.	All banking and payments are now electronic. Payments are approved at Council and then paid online.	
Check that VAT reclaims are prepared and submitted in a timely manner in line with the underlying records and in accordance with current HMRC requirements	VAT claims are normally submitted annually. Annual claim has been made and checked.	
Where debit / credit cards are in use, establish the total monthly and individual transaction limits and ensure appropriate controls over physical security and usage of the cards are in place	N/A	

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

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure that authorities have prepared, and formally adopted, at least once annually, an appropriate and comprehensive register of assessed risks, both regular and ad hoc.	Risk Management Strategy in place and is reviewed regularly by the relevant committee.	Recommend this is published on the website. This has been actioned.
Ensure that appropriate levels of insurance cover are in place for land, buildings, public, employers' and hirers' (where applicable) liability, fidelity / employees (including councillors) liability, business interruption and cyber security.	Adequate insurance cover is in place. Insurance policy was reviewed.	
Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for monitoring play areas, open spaces and sports pitches: such reviews should be undertaken by appropriately qualified external inspectors or, if by officers or members, that they have received the appropriate training and accreditation.	Annual inspections of the playground are undertaken and referenced in the minutes. Monthly inspections are carried out and reported to Full Council with any actions listed. Regular agenda item on Full Council.	
Review the effectiveness of internal control carried out by the authority.	Internal controls adhere to the Financial Regulations and are robust.	

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

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure that the full Authority, not a committee, has considered, approved and adopted the annual precept for the coming year in accordance with the required parent Authority timetable.	All in order Minute 11.9.3.5 for 2024/25 precept Minute 11.8.7 for 2023/24 precept	
Ensure that current year budget reports are prepared and submitted to Authority/Committees periodically during the year with appropriate commentary on any	Budget reports are provided to Full Council quarterly and uploaded on to the website.	

The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.		
significant variances.		
Review the budget performance either during the year or at the financial year-end seeking explanations for any significant or unanticipated variances.	These are presented quarterly alongside the accounts.	
Ensure that the Authority has considered the establishment of specific earmarked reserves and, ideally, reviews them annually as part of the budget assessment process	Earmarked Reserves are reported quarterly and outlined within the accounts. These are published on the website.	
Ensure that the precept received in the accounts matches the prior year submission form to the relevant authority and the public record of precepted amounts .	Checked and correct.	

Expected income was fully received based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT appropriately accounted for.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Review "Aged debtor" listings to ensure appropriate follow up action is in place.	None identified.	
Allotments: ensure that appropriate signed tenancy agreements exist, that an appropriate register of tenants is maintained identifying, that debtors are monitored.	N/A	
Burials: ensure that a formal burial register is maintained that it is up-to-date and that a sample of interments and memorials are appropriately evidenced, that fees have been charged at the correct approved rate and been recovered within a reasonable time: (Authorities should also acquire and retain copies of Burial / Cremation certificates)	N/A	
Hall hire: ensure that an effective diary system for bookings is in place identifying the hirer, hire times and ideally cross-referenced to	N/A	

Expected income was fully received based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT appropriately accounted for.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
invoices raised.		
Leases: ensure that leases are reviewed in a timely manner in accordance with the terms of the lease and rents similarly reviewed appropriately at the due time.	No leases are in place.	
Other variable income streams: ensure that appropriate control procedures and documentation are in existence to provide a clear audit trail through to invoicing and recovery of all such income.	Income is received electronically. No cash income is collected. All income recorded and presented monthly as part of the agenda.	
Where amounts are receivable on set dates during the year, ensure that an appropriate control record is maintained duly identifying the date(s) on which income is due and actually received / banked.	All in order.	

Petty Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
A number of authorities are now running down and closing their petty cash accounts and using debit / credit cards for ad hoc purchases. Consequently, a "Not covered" response is frequently required in this area.	Council does not operate a petty cash account. Expenses are presented to Full Council and reimbursed accordingly.	
Review the systems in place for controlling any petty cash and also cash floats (used for bar, catering, etc).	N/A	
Check a sample of transactions during the financial year to ensure appropriate supporting documentation is held.	N/A	
Review the existence of evidenced periodic independent verification of the petty cash and any other cash floats held.	N/A	
Ensure that VAT is identified wherever	N/A	

Petty Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
incurred and appropriate.		
Physically check the petty cash and other cash floats held.	N/A	
Where bar or catering facilities are in place, ensure that appropriate cashing-up procedures are in place reconciling the physical cash takings to the till "Z" total readings.	N/A	

Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with the authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure that, for all staff, a formal employment contract is in place together with a confirmatory letter setting out any changes to the contract.	Contract for Clerk is in place and signed.	
Ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the payment of members allowances and deduction of any tax liability	No members allowances paid.	
Ensure that, for a sample of staff salaries, gross pay due is calculated in accordance with the approved spinal point on the NJC scale or hourly rate, if off-scale, and also with the contracted hours.	Only one member of staff employed. Salary payments are presented to Council and approved.	
Ensure that appropriate tax codes are being applied to each employee.	All in order.	
Where free or paid for software is used, ensure that it is up to date.	All in order.	
For the test sample of employees, ensure that tax is calculated appropriately.	All in order.	
Check the correct treatment of Pension contributions	No pension payments are made. Clerk is not a member of a pension fund.	
For NI, ensure that the correct deduction and	NI threshold not reached.	

Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with the authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.		
employer's contributions are applied: NB. The employers' allowance is not available to councils but may be used by other authorities		
Ensure that the correct employers' pension percentage contribution is being applied	N/A	
Ensure that for the test sample, the correct net pay is paid to the employee with tax, NI and pension contributions correctly paid to the respective agencies.	All is correct.	

Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained. This section/assurance includes loans to or by the authority		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Tangible Assets		
Ensure that the Authority is maintaining a formal asset register and updating it routinely to record new assets at historic cost price, net of VAT and removing any disposed of or no longer serviceable assets.	Asset register in place and updated annually. Revised asset register is published on the website.	
Physically verifying the existence and condition of high value, high risk assets may be appropriate.	Evidence of assets provided.	
The register should identify for each asset the purchase cost and, if practicable, the replacement/insured cost, the latter being updated annually and used to assist in forward planning for asset replacement.	Asset register records purchase cost which is rounded up for final AGAR value. Insurance cover provides replacement and insurance values.	
Additions and disposals records should allow tracking from the prior year to the current.	Disposals and write offs are minuted appropriately and the asset register updated accordingly.	
Ensure that the asset value to be reported in the AGAR at section 2, line 9 equates to the	All in order and checked.	

Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained. This section/assurance includes loans to or by the authority		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
prior year reported value, adjusted for the nominal value of any new acquisitions and / or disposals.		
Compare the asset register with the insurance schedule to ensure that all assets as recorded are appropriately insured or “self-insured” by the Authority.	Asset register has been checked. It is updated regularly and new assets are recorded with a copy of the relevant invoice kept for reference.	
Fixed asset investments:		
Ensure that all long-term investments (i.e., those for more than 12 month terms) are covered by the “Investment Strategy” and reported as Assets in the AGAR at section 2, line 9.	No long-term investments in place.	
Borrowing & Lending:		
Ensure that the authority has sought and obtained appropriate DMO approval for all loans acquired	Council currently has no loans.	
Ensured that the authority has accounted for the loan appropriately (i.e., recorded the full value of the loan. Any arrangement fee should be regarded as an admin expense) in the year of receipt.	N/A	
Ensure that the combined principal loan repayment and interest for the year is correctly recorded in the AGAR at section 2 line 5	N/A	
Ensure that the outstanding loan liability as at 31 st March each year is correctly recorded in the AGAR at section 2, line 10 (value should be verified via the DMO website)	N/A	
Where the Authority has issued loans to local bodies, they should ideally seek signed	N/A	

Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained. This section/assurance includes loans to or by the authority

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
indemnities from the recipient body, or their members, agreeing to underwrite the loan debt.		

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

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
To ensure that the financial detail reported at section 2 of the AGAR reflects the detail in the accounting records maintained for the financial year.	All in order.	
Ensure that, where annual turnover exceeds £200,000, appropriate records are maintained throughout the year on an Income and Expenditure basis to facilitate budget reporting in that vein.	N/A	
Ensure that appropriate accounting arrangements are in place to account for debtors and creditors during the year and at the financial year-end.	All in order. Council uses the Scribe Accounting system.	

If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in the prior year, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt.

REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure that, all relevant criteria are met (receipts and payments each totalled less than £25,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the correct exemption certificate was prepared and minuted in accordance with 	N/A	

If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in the prior year, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the statutory submission deadline that it has been published, together with all required information on the Authority's website and noticeboard 		

The authority publishes information on a free to access website / web page, up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Review the Authority's website ensuring that all required documentation is published in accordance with the relevant legislation.	All in order. Previous AGARs published from 2017/18 so meeting the 5 year historical requirement.	

The authority, during the previous year, correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Examine a copy of the required "Public Notice" ensuring that it clearly identifies the statutory 30 working day period when the Authority's records are available for public inspection.	Notices are minuted and the notices are placed on the village noticeboards.	
Check whether council has minuted the relevant dates at the same time as approving the AGAR	All in order.	

The authority complied with the publication requirements for the prior year AGAR.		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Ensure that the statutory disclosure/publication requirements in relation to the prior year's AGAR have been met as detailed on the front page of the current year's	All in order.	

AGAR.		
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Trust funds (including charitable) - the Council met its responsibilities as a trustee		
REVIEW	COMMENT	Action Required
Confirm that all charities of which the council is a Trustee are up to date with CC filing requirements	N/A	
That the council is the sole trustee on the Charity Commission register	N/A	
That the council is acting in accordance with the Trust deed	N/A	
That the Charity meetings and accounts recorded separately from those of the council.	N/A	
Review the level and activity of the charity and where a risk based approach suggests such, review the Independent Examiners report .	N/A	