

Smaller authority name: **PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement: 31 May 2024(a)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2024, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</p> <p>(b) Tracy Slator Clerk to the Parish Council, pitchcombepc@gmail.com</p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>Monday 3 June 2024</u></p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>Friday 12 July 2024</u></p> <p>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and• 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. <p>The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.</p> <p>4. 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:</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-l.com)</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (e) Tracy Slator RFO</p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.</p> <p>(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority</p>

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure **does not exceed** £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption **are able to declare themselves exempt** from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review **provided** the authority **completes**:
 - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2024**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2)** which is made up of:
 - c) **Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4)** must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - d) **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - e) **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** must be completed and approved by the authority.**NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.**
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 2024**.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3
- **Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24**, page 4
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24**, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2023/24 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be **£210 +VAT**.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

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 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2024**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. 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.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- 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.
- 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.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2023) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2024).
- 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 2024**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	✓	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (<i>Local Councils only</i>)	✓	

***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

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.

Pitchcombe Parish Council

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: **£4,400**

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2023/24: **£3,616**

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

Date

[Signature]

16/05/2024

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

16/05/2024

Signed by Chair

Date

Philippe James

16/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

12c

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

pitchcombepc@gmail.com

07963157133

*Published web address

www.pitchcombepc.org.uk

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.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

PITCALMIZE PARISH COUNCIL

ENTER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

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.	/		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	/		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	/		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	/		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	/		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for. NO PETTY CASH			/
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.	/		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	/		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	/		
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.	/		
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")			/
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.	/		
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).	/		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	/		
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: **DD/MM/YYYY 14 MAY 2024**

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: **MAIWA SELKIRK FCA AUDITOR**

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 

Date: **14 MAY 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).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

Pitchcombe 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 2024, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No		
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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:

16/05/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

12b

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

Philippa Dawes

Clerk

[Signature]

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.	Yes	No
	✓	

www.pitchcombepc.org.uk

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS


Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

Pitchcombe Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £		
1. Balances brought forward	2,103	2,897	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	3,640	4,400	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	0	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	1,986	2,652	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	860	964	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).	
7. (=) Balances carried forward	2,897	3,701	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	2,897	3,701	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	620	620	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


Date 16/05/2024


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

16/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

12c

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



Bank reconciliation

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 20xx" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis

Name of smaller authority: Pitchcombe Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): Gloucestershire

Financial year ending 31 March 20xx

Prepared by (Name and Role): T Slator Clerk/ RFO

Date: 16/05/2024

	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/2024		
Treasurers Account	3,700.99	
	<hr/>	3,700.99
Petty cash float (if applicable)		-
Unpresented cheques as at 31/3/24		
Cheque number 470	(20.00)	
	<hr/>	(20.00)
Un-banked cash as at 31/3/xx		-
	<hr/>	-
Net balances as at 31/3/24		<u><u>3,680.99</u></u>

**PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I have examined the books and records of the Council as at 31 March 2024
Whilst I have not performed an audit I can confirm that the attached statements are
in accordance therewith


Iain Selkirk FCA
Appointed Independent auditor

Malvern
May

Worcester
2024

**PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	£	2023
RECEIPTS		
Precept	4,440.00	3,640.00
	<u>4,440.00</u>	<u>3,640.00</u>
PAYMENTS		
Clark's Salary	2,339.59	1,985.88
Administration	416.44	400.20
Insurance	196.09	196.09
Hall Hire	150.00	
Audit	140.00	
Subscriptions	80.46	
Website	160.00	130.00
Payroll Costs	113.20	120.40
Village Maintenance	20.00	13.50
Unidentified difference	20.00	
	<u>3,635.78</u>	<u>2,846.07</u>
Surplus for the year	804.22	793.93
Balance Brought Forward	2,896.77	2,102.84
Balance Carried Forward	<u>£ 3,700.99</u>	<u>£ 2,896.77</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Lloyds Current account	3,700.99	2,896.77
	<u>£ 3,700.99</u>	<u>£ 2,896.77</u>

Chairman

RFO

Date

**APPENDIX TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
BANK RECONCILIATION**

2023-2024

Opening Balance	2,896.77
Receipts during the year	<u>4,440.00</u> 7,336.77
Payments during the year	3,635.78
Closing Balance	<u>£ 3,700.99</u>

Represented by the bank accounts as under:-

LLOYDS	Current	582	<u>3,700.99</u>
			£ <u>3,700.99</u>

Responsible Finance Officer.....

Date.....16/5/24.....

**INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

I have examined the Council's records in the areas delineated in the attached schedule and made enquiries as deemed appropriate.

In my opinion the systems of internal controls are adequate for the purpose intended and there are no matters to be brought to your attention



**Iain Selkirk FCA
Appointed Independent Internal Auditor**

May 2024

**AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF:-
PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

31.03.23

	Y/N	COMMENTS	
1 a	Y	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date	
b	Y	Is the cashbook arithmetic correct	
c	Y	Is the cashbook regularly balanced and reconciled to the bank	
2 a	Y	Have Standing Orders and Financial Regulations been formally adopted	Annually
b	Y	Are Standing Orders and Financial Regulations regularly reviewed	
c	Y	Has an RFO been appointed with specific duties	
d	Y	Have items or services above a de minimis amount been competitively purchased	
e	Y	Has the Clerk authority to spend in emergencies	
		From what level are quotes required	Up to £50
		From what level are tenders required	over £1,000
3 a	Y	Are payments in the cashbook supported by invoices, authorised and minuted	over £10,000
b	Y	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed	
c	N/A	Is S137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits	
d	N/A	Is S137 expenditure separately minuted as such	
e	Y	Is the signing authority two or more councillors	
f	N	Is the Clerk a signatory	
g	Y	Are the counterfoils initialed by the signatories	
h	Y	Are invoices vouched to payments	
4 a	N	Is there a procedure in place for the regular audit of internal controls	Chairman
b	N	Has a member of the Committee been appointed internal auditor	Half yearly
c	Y	Does he have a specific programme and does he report to meetings	
5 a	N	Does scanning of the minutes identify any unusual activity	
b	Y	Is the annual risk assessment minuted	
c	Y	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate	
d	Y	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed.	
6 a	Y	Has the Council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept	
b	Y	Is actual expenditure against budget regularly reported to the Council	
c	N	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget	

- 7 a Y Is income properly recorded and banked as promptly as possible
 b Y Does the precept recorded in the cash book agree to the District Councils notification
 c N/A Where income is raised by rental or lettings has the VAT position been clarified
 d N/A Are security controls over cash adequate and effective
- 8 a V Is petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts
 b N/A Is petty cash expenditure reported to each Council meeting
 c N/A Is petty cash expenditure reimbursed regularly
 d N/A Or does the Clerk present petty cash with her expenses supported by VAT invoices/receipts
- 9 a Y Do salaries paid agree to with those approved by the Council
 b Y Has PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the Council as employer
 c Y Are other payments to the Clerk and staff reasonable and approved by the Council
 d N/A Where PAYE/NIC is not operated due to the low salary level has HMRC been informed
- 10 a Y Does the Council maintain an Asset Register of all material assets owned
 b Y Is the Register up to date
 c Y Do the values agree to insurance valuations
 d N/A Are movements in Treasury Deposits accurately recorded
- 11 a Y Is each bank account reconciled on a regular basis
 b N Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation
- 12 a Y Are accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis
 b Y Do the accounts reflect the cashbook entries
 c Y Is there an audit trail from the underlying financial records to the accounts
 d N Where appropriate have debtors and creditors been properly recorded
- 13 a Y Are minutes signed, initialled and pages sequentially numbered
- 14 a N/A Do Burial receipts agree to the attendant Burial records
 b N/A Are rights or permissions properly recorded
- 15 a N/A Any evidence of fraudulent activity should be brought to the attention of the Chairman

No cash income

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS