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20th April 2018

The Chairman
Swainsthorpe Parish Council

Dear Madam,

Internal Audit for the year ended 31st March 2018

I thank the Council for appointing me to carry out the internal audit for the 2018 accounts. According to the Governance and Accountability for Local Councils, the purpose of internal audit is to review the effectiveness of a council's risk management, control and governance processes; neither the internal nor the external auditor can be expected to look for fraud. I do not give an opinion on the accounts, I am required to review controls and give recommendations.

I attended the Parish Clerk's home on 20th April 2018 and carried out the following work on the Council's books and records:

- 1. Proper Bookkeeping:**
 - checked payments from the cashbook to invoices, including all large amounts
 - checked receipts from cashbook to supporting documentation
 - reviewed VAT documentation
 - VAT has been reclaimed to 28.2.18 but was not received by year-end
- 2. Financial Regulations:**
 - Financial Regulations were updated by the Council in May 2017
 - Review of Internal Control was done in May 2017
 - Cheque signatories initial each invoice at the time of payment
- 3. Risk Arrangements:**
 - reviewed minutes for unusual items and for evidence of management of risk
- 4. Budgetary Controls:**
 - The precept is set after consideration of expected costs and future projects
 - The precept has been increased for 18/19 but is less than planned expenditure
- 5. Income Controls:**
 - reviewed receipt of precept
 - reviewed significant income during year

- 6. Petty Cash**
 - There is no use of petty cash
- 7. Payroll Controls:**
 - Checked the total in the accounts to the clerk's P60.
 - Tax has been paid to HMRC
- 8. Asset Controls:**
 - reviewed asset register
 - reviewed minutes for significant additions
- 9. Bank Reconciliation:**
 - ensured carried out regularly
- 10. Year-end Procedures:**
 - reviewed year-end bank reconciliation
 - reviewed accounts for unusual items
 - annual return is prepared using receipts and payments method

The above tests and review work showed the accounts are supported by invoices and receipts and agree to year end bank statements. Anne's bookkeeping is efficient. There is evidence to show that the Council is adequately involved in the financial management and governance of the Council.

I have therefore signed the internal auditor's part of the Annual Return.

The Council's receipts and payments are below £25,000 and the Council will therefore be taking advantage of the procedure to exempt itself from external audit. It will still be necessary to post on the Council's website the Annual Return, the variance analysis, bank reconciliation for 31st March and the notice of electors' rights.

The Council is aware of the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation which comes into force on 25th May 2018.

I should like to take the opportunity to thank Anne for her hospitality and for her assistance with the year-end paperwork, and the Council for appointing me.

Yours faithfully,

Pauline James

Pauline James BA
Cert of Higher Education in Community Engagement and Governance