

Hazlemere Parish Council

Notice of the audit and right to inspect the Annual Return

Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

<p>1. The audit of accounts for Hazlemere Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 has been carried out but cannot be completed for the reasons stated in the auditor's certificate. The accounts have been published.</p> <p>2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Hazlemere Parish Council on application to:</p> <p>(a) <u>THE CLERK</u> <u>CEDAR BARN</u> <u>BARN LANE</u> <u>HAZLEMERE HP15 7BQ</u></p> <p>(b) <u>10-00 → 14-00</u></p> <p>3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £ <u>1</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.</p> <p>Announcement made by: (d) <u>THE CLERK A BANHAM</u></p> <p>Date of announcement: (e) <u>1-10-18</u></p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website.</p> <p>(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR</p> <p>(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised</p> <p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p> <p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice</p> <p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice</p>
--	--

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of

Hazlemere Parish Council BU0094

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2017/18

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We are unable to complete our review work on the AGAR and supporting documentation as a result of challenge correspondence received. A final report detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters will be provided with the certificate of completion, following finalisation of the review work and any additional work required in relation to this correspondence.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

We are unable to complete our review work on the AGAR and supporting documentation as a result of challenge correspondence received. A final report detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters will be provided with the certificate of completion, following finalisation of the review work and any additional work required in relation to this correspondence.

3 External auditor certificate 2017/18

We do not certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018

We do not certify completion because:

We have received correspondence bringing information to our attention that we must consider before certifying the completion of our review and the discharging of our responsibilities.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

24/09/2018

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Mrs Ali Banham
Hazlemere Parish Council
Cedar Barn
Barn Lane
Hazlemere
HP15 7BQ

Our ref BU0094
Your ref SB04105

Email sba@pkf-littlejohn.com

26 September 2018

Dear Mrs Banham

Hazlemere Parish Council
Annual limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2018

We have commenced our review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Hazlemere Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 but cannot formally complete it. Please refer to our external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the AGAR Part 3) which is included for your attention as another attachment to the email containing this letter along with a copy of Sections 1 and 2.

The external auditor report details any matters arising from the review to date. The smaller authority must consider these matters and decide what, if any, action is required.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) set out what you must do at the conclusion of the review. In advance of the formal conclusion, we have provided the attached documents. The authority may wish to use this interim external auditor report and certificate and:

- Prepare a "Notice of audit" which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. We attach a pro forma notice you may use for this purpose. It also states that the audit has not yet been completed.
- Publish the "Notice" along with the uncertified AGAR (Sections 1, 2 & 3) before 30 September, which must include publication on the smaller authority's website.
- Keep copies of the AGAR available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication.

Fee

We enclose our fee note for the review, which is in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd.

If there are additional charges itemised on your fee note, these have arisen where either we were required to issue chaser letters and/or exercise our statutory powers due to a failure to provide an AGAR; or we had

Tel: +44 (0)20 7516 2200 • Fax: +44 (0)20 7516 2400 • DX 42660 Isle of Dogs • www.pkf-littlejohn.com
PKF Littlejohn LLP • 1 Westferry Circus • Canary Wharf • London E14 4HD

PKF Littlejohn LLP, Chartered Accountants. A list of members' names is available at the above address. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales No. 0C342572. Registered office as above. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a member firm of the PKF International Limited network of legally independent firms and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions on the part of any other individual member firm or firms.

to send the AGAR back for correction due to a mistake or omission by the smaller authority; or we had to seek clarification and/or correction to supporting documentation due to a mistake or omission by the smaller authority; or it was necessary for us to undertake additional work; or we had to send back documentation that was not requested.

Please return the remittance advice with your payment, which should be sent to: PKF Littlejohn LLP, Ref: Credit Control (SBA), 2nd Floor, 1 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HD. Please include the reference BU0094 or Hazlemere Parish Council as a reference when paying by BACS.

Please note that only those authorities with 'open' challenge correspondence (in respect of which we have yet to finish our additional work), may receive an additional invoice with the final report and certificate. Those authorities who have received this uncertified report for another reason will not receive a further invoice. Please settle the enclosed invoice on receipt of your final report and certificate.

Timetable for 2018/19

Next year we plan to set a submission deadline for the return of the completed AGAR Part 3 and associated documents (or Certificate of Exemption) in the usual way and this is expected to be no earlier than Monday 10 June 2019, i.e. 10 weeks after the year end.

It is anticipated that the instructions will be sent out during March 2019 in line with current practice, subject to arrangements for the 2018/19 AGARs and Certificates of Exemption being finalised by SAAA. Our instructions will cover any changes about which smaller authorities need to be aware.

In line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015:

- The smaller authority must inform the electorate of a single period of 30 working days during which public rights may be exercised. This information **must be published at least the day before** the inspection period commences;
- The inspection period **must** include the first 10 working days of July 2019, i.e. 1 to 12 July inclusive. In practice this means that public rights may be exercised:
 - at the earliest, between Monday 3 June and Friday 12 July 2019; and
 - at the latest, between Monday 1 July and Friday 9 August 2019.

If there are any changes to the above arising from updates to the statutory requirements, you will be notified in good time.

In order to assist you in this process, we plan to include a pro forma template notice with a suggested inspection period on our website, as in previous years. On submitting your AGAR and associated documentation, as was the case for this year, we will need you to either confirm that the suggested dates have been adopted or inform us of the alternative dates selected.

Yours sincerely



PKF Littlejohn LLP

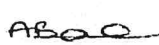
Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

HAZLEMEERE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1. Balances brought forward	201 849	202 662	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	247 485	272 580	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	78 265	78 546	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	81 719	86 409	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	46 092	50 362	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	197 126	211 445	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	202 662	205 572	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	211 786	197 878	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	3 203 182	3 237 312	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	286 582	258 250	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
		✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer


Date 05/06/18

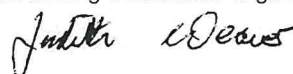
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

05/06/18

and recorded as minute reference:

FC 07/05/18 C

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given



Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

H A Z L E M E R E P A R I S H C O U N C I L

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 2018, 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
			✓

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:

FC07/06/18C

dated

05/06/18

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval is given:

Chairman

Rudith Waver

Clerk

A Barham

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)
Authority web address

www.hazlemereparishcouncil.org.uk