

Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of

Earnley Parish Council

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 2020; 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 and Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

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Except for the matter reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with the 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.

The JPAG Practitioners' Guide sets out at paragraph 2.9 that where an error has been identified in the prior year's accounts after the external auditor's review, the figure may be amended and the column marked 'Restated'. The only other reason the guide identifies for an adjustment to the prior year's figures is set out at paragraph 2.10 and relates to where the accounts for the current year are prepared on a different basis.

The Council had a cheque returned which it re-issued in the year. As a result, the prior year figures have been restated to decrease payments and increase balances carried forward by £100 but did not mark the 2019 column as restated to draw attention to the amendment. A cancelled and re-issued cheque does not fit the reasons provided to amend the prior year and so these transactions should have been fully recorded through the current year as either a receipt and payment or an adjustment through the bank reconciliation.

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

NONE

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We certify/ ~~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 2020.

~~*We do not certify completion because:~~

External Auditor Name



External Auditor Signature

Date

21/11/2020

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