

GOWDALL PARISH COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

TEST		RESULT
<p>A Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year</p>		<p>Subject to any matters arising below all receipts and payments were found to be properly recorded and a balanced set of records provided to audit.</p>
<p>B The Council's Financial Regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was properly accounted for</p>		<p>All payments in the test sample were authorised by the council and cheques signed by authorised signatories. A satisfactory control mechanism is in place in respect payments made when: a. Responsibility for checking of invoices lies with the clerk. b. Expenditure account analysis is clear. c. Payment is authorised by council and cheques are signed by authorised signatories. d. VAT is properly accounted for.</p>
<p>C The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of these.</p>		<p>The council is expected to have taken steps to identify and mitigate risks associated with users of the Council's services, members of the public or employees. Risks associated with service provision have been identified and basic assessments are in place. The revised risk assessment adopted at the July 2020 council meeting and submitted to audit appeared satisfactory. The document will be subject to annual review.</p>
<p>D The Annual Precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.</p>	<p>Insurance Fidelity Guarantee</p>	<p>Evaluation of Insurance cover confirmed that the council has adequate cover for statutory risk. Fidelity Guarantee is adequate and cover extended to include members. A detailed budget/recommendation was prepared by the clerk and submitted to Council for review and determination. Reports on progress against budget were submitted to council periodically. Reserves, held at 31st March 2021, totalling £9,330 equated to about 139% of the annual precept and appeared satisfactory having regard to the size and activity of the</p>

		council.
E	Expected Income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and banked; and VAT was appropriately account for.	Satisfactory checks have been completed in respect of all income received. Checks carried out on the banking process proved satisfactory when all Income due to the council has been correctly banked with no undue delay. Subject to minor adjustment VAT was properly accounted for during the year. Reconciliation is included in the working papers.
	Petty Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT accounted for.	No petty cash imprest is held. Minor purchases made by the clerk were subsequently reimbursed by council.
G	Salaries to employees and allowances were paid in accordance with council approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements properly applied.	Audit checks confirmed that the clerk's pay was that approved by the council, verified the accuracy of payments made and confirmed payment of statutory deductions.
H	Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate and properly carried out.	A copy of the council's completed asset register as at 31st March 2021 was submitted to audit and found to be satisfactory. The total of the register submitted to audit was £18,090, reflecting no acquisitions or disposals in the year under review. The total has been agreed to the Annual Return
I	Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	Reconciliation is carried out regularly and an independent year- end reconciliation accompanies this report. Review established that reconciliation was properly completed and balanced to bank statements.
J	Year-end accounts were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts & payments/income & expenditure, agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and, where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. Adequate audit trail exists to underlying records. The recording of Debtors and Creditors is not appropriate to this form of accounting.

K The council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.		Not applicable
L Annual Return		The entries in the Return accurately summarise the financial activity of the council for the year under review.
M Council Minutes		The general review of council minutes was satisfactory.
N The authority, during the previous year correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations		Notice placed on website giving notice of availability of records for inspection from 16th July to 26th August 2020.
O The Authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR		The external audit report and Annual governance and Accountability Return were as required published on the council's website.
N Audit Independence		The internal auditor has no relationship, financial or otherwise with any member or officer of the council and the audit has been carried out with integrity, objectivity and independence.
O Summary		The accounts of the council continue to be well maintained. I am satisfied that the accounts as now presented are free from material error and there are no matters that need be drawn to the attention of the council.

Alan Johnson CPFA
28th May, 2021.