

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

FLORE 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 2021, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>Yes</i> means that this authority: 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.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

19/04/21

and recorded as minute reference:

1478/6473

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

Chairman

Kathryn Barnes

Clerk

Sharon

www.florevillage.co.uk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL
RESTATED

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	29470	20544	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	33285	34785	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	15894	20670	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	8683	9122	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	NIL	1829	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	49422	36478 34678 KB	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	20544	28570	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	20544	28570	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	110203	124117	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	NIL	16465	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, as a body corporate, 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 2021 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

Sharon Sharon

Date

30/04/2021

19/7/21

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

17/05/21

19/7/21

as recorded in minute reference:

1481 / 663.0 B.

1488/6933

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

Katlyn Barnes

Katlyn Barnes

Flore Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2021

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

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
<p>1. The audit of accounts for Flore Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 has been completed and the accounts have been published.</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. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for, the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.</p>
<p>2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Flore Parish Council on application to:</p>	
<p>(a) <u>Sue Halkett</u> <u>16 ST MARY'S WAY</u> <u>WEGDON REC</u> <u>NN7 4GL</u></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) <u>10am - 3.30pm Mon-Fri</u></p>	<p>(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised</p>
<p>3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of £ <u>20p</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.</p>	<p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p>
<p>Announcement made by: (d) <u>S Halkett</u></p>	<p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice</p>
<p>Date of announcement: (e) <u>13/9/21</u></p>	<p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice</p>

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

Katlyn Barnes

Katlyn Barnes

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of

Flore Parish Council – NH0094

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 2021; 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 2020/21

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.

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

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The AGAR had to be sent back for amendment.

The authority has received £995 in respect of a refund against expenditure during the year and has accounted for it as a receipt in Section 2, Box 3 rather than netting it against the relevant expense from the same year. Whilst the Practitioners' Guide is silent on the matter, it is our view that the true cost to the authority should be shown on a net basis. Accounting on a gross basis inflates the gross income and gross expenditure of the authority and can push the authority into a higher fee band than it would otherwise be in.

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We 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 2021.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

04/09/2021

* 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)

Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Name of council:	Flore Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	John Marshall	Date of report:	22.04.2021
Year ending:	31 March 2021	Date audit carried out:	22.04.2021

*Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. It is important to note that managing the council's internal controls is a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and councillors and it would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of the council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to and seen by me. **The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.***

To the Chairman of the Council:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and as a consequence of the legal distancing restrictions imposed by the UK government I carried out the audit remotely, by e-mail and 'phone. I would thank Sue Halkett, Clerk and RFO for her co-operation and assistance in delivering the audit; having the year-end data available so promptly at the end of what has been a very difficult year for clerks and councils, together with her quick response to my queries has been very helpful to me.

I firstly examined the publicly available information displayed on the council's website including the council's policies, procedures, agendas, minutes, financial and other records. I sought evidence that the previous year's Internal and External Audit reports had been properly reported to and where necessary acted upon by the Council; they had although I noted the council's decision to continue using personal rather than corporate email addresses for members. I then examined the council's arrangements for the management and control of its business in the areas of bookkeeping, due process (ie compliance with the proper practices as set out in the Practitioners' Guide), risk management, budget setting and monitoring, payroll, asset register, bank reconciliations, internal control and year-end procedures and compliance with the display of information including the exercise of public rights.

I looked particularly at the arrangements that the council put in place in response to the C-19 restrictions, to manage the processes and procedures that would normally require documents including Minutes, invoices etc to be physically examined and / or signed. Where changes have been made, I am satisfied that the modified arrangements have been introduced without any significant diminution in the overall standard of internal controls.

Where necessary, I requested and was provided with supplementary evidence to enable me to reach a conclusion regarding the enquiries I am required to make as set out in the AIAR. This supplementary information was provided in the form of written answers to the questions raised together with scanned documents including the Accounting Statements (section 2 of the AGAR) and the bank reconciliation.

I am pleased to be able to report that having tested all the aspects of the council's internal controls that I am required to consider, based on the information made available to me I am satisfied that in all significant respects, the internal control objectives were achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the council's needs. Accordingly, I have completed and signed off the Annual Internal Audit Report as required.

John Marshall, CiLCA

Internal Auditor to the Council
07505 139832
wjm.marshall1@gmail.com

The figures submitted in the Annual Return are:

	Year ending 31 March 2020	Year ending 31 March 2021
1. Balances brought forward	29,470	20,544
2. Annual precept	33,285	34,785
3. Total other receipts	15,894	20,670
4. Staff costs	8,683	9,122
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	Nil	1,829
6. Total other payments	49,422	36,478
7. Balances carried forward	20,544	28,570
8. Total cash and investments	20,544	28,570
9. Total fixed assets and long term assets	110,203	124,117
10. Total borrowings	Nil	16,465

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, A Practitioners' Guide*. Please note that sections 1 & 2 constitute the 'proper practices' that smaller authorities must follow and sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting. A copy of the current version of the Guide and other useful information is available for free download from this page:

<https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/services-limited-assurance-regime-useful-documents-and-links>