# Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017

Every smaller authority in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return at the end of each financial year in accordance with proper practices summarising its activities. In this annual return the term 'smaller authority'\* includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council, a Town Council and an Internal Drainage Board.

#### The annual return on pages 2 to 4 is made up of three sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the smaller authority. Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 before Section 2.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor.

In addition, the internal audit report is completed by the smaller authority's internal audit provider.

Each smaller authority must approve Section 1 and Section 2 in order and in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

#### Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all highlighted sections. Do not leave any highlighted box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external auditor work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2017, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements, **your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights** and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed for their work. Unless requested, do not send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Once the external auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the smaller authority for publication and public display of Sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish and display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2017.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guide that can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.slcc.co.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

## Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of smaller authority here:

## PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2017, that:

		Agreed		'Yes'
		Yes	No*	means that this smaller authority:
1.	We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	Y		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.	Y		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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	Y		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.	X	NG	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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Y		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has 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.	Y		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.	Y		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 smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	Y	•	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 NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

18/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference

05.17.11.2

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

MO BOO Anges

Clerk:

Sun Wale-

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

Please see attached sheet For explanation.

## Section 2 - Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

# PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

		Year e	ending	Notes and guidance		
		31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
1.	Balances brought forward	26,008	33.165	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	13,231	13,900	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3.	(+) Total other receipts	4,268	3,312	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	922	4,126	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	/	/	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).		
6.	(-) All other payments	9,422	25, 339	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	33,165	20,912	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	33,165	20,912	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank</b> reconciliation.		
9.	Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	18,513	26,685	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.		
10.	Total borrowings	1	1	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 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

Date 18/05/2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

18/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

05 17 11 2

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

M.O. Brothere

## Section 3 - External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of smaller authority here:

PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

### 1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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. 2016/17 External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opin return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention givin legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).	
(continue on a separate sheet if required)	
Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the smaller authority:	
Please see enclosed report LLP Southampton United Kingdom	

### 3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify/do not certify\* that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

* We do not certify completion	because:	
		-
External auditor signature	820 mg	
External auditor name	BDO LLP Southampton	Date 14/9/17
	United Kingdom	accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The
Note: The NAO issued guidant AGN is available from the NAC		accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The

### Annual internal audit report 2016/17 to

Enter name of						
smaller authority here:						

## PALGRAVE PARISH CONCIL

This smaller authority's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this smaller authority.

Internal control objective		Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
		Yes	No*	Not covered**
Α.	Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	YES		
В.	This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES		
C.	This smaller authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	YES		
D.	The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	YES		
E.	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES		
F.	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			PETTY CAS
G.	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this smaller authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	YES		
Н.	Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	YES		
1.	Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	YES		
J.	Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	YES		
K.	(For local councils only)			Not
	Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.		No	applicable
	any other risk areas identified by this smaller authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk its if needed)	areas be	low or d	on separate

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

TREVOR

BROWN

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR Palgrave Parish Council Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017



#### Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Palgrave Parish Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017. This report must be presented to a full meeting of the smaller authority for review.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

Section 1

The following issues have been raised as we have detected issues with the governance arrangements of the smaller authority. It is recommended that the smaller authority consider these matters and decide what action to take to improve the governance arrangements as soon as possible.

#### Section 1

What is the issue?

The annual return was amended by the smaller authority as it changed an answer in the annual governance statement.

Why has this issue been raised?

The annual return form as originally presented for audit was not prepared correctly.

What do we recommend you do?

In future the smaller authority must ensure that they prepare the annual goverance statement correctly and confirm the answers at a meeting of the smaller authority.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners' Guide, NALC/SLCC

#### Introduction

The following items are being brought to the attention of the clerk of Palgrave Parish Council. These items came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017 but are not required to be reported to the smaller authority. These items are not considered to be either a breach of legislation or proper practices or other matters to report.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

 Smaller Authority incorrectly stated 'No' to Trust Funds disclosure in Section 1 of the Annual return The following matters are being brought to your attention as we have detected administrative matters aimed at improving the review process in the future or items that have changed that we wish you to just note. These matters are not raised as formal matters and do not require reporting to the council.

Smaller Authority incorrectly stated 'No' to Trust Funds disclosure in Section 1 of the Annual return

What is the issue?

The Smaller Authority has answered box 9 'No' in error in Section 1 of the annual return

Why has this issue been raised?

The disclosure on the annual return is incorrect, as the Smaller Authority is not the sole trustee of any charities.

What do we recommend you do?

The Smaller Authority should ensure in future years that it answers 'N/a', that the Smaller Authority does not have any responsibilities to discharge in relation to a charity.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Not applicable

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of BDO LLP

Date: 14 September 2017