

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

INTERNAL CONTROL - 2018

The Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2015 aims to strengthen governance and accountability through requirements related to internal control and internal audit.

Whilst the Parish Council has reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit (independence, competence, proportionate and scope), it has a requirement levied on it to ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control:-

‘The regulations require active participation by members in providing positive assurance to the electors of their stewardship of public money. The framework of accountability is risk-based ie level of control and management must be appropriate to the risk involved. The Council must determine the most appropriate method of internal control.... care should be taken to ensure that internal control tests are proportionate and relevant and that they are neither seen as, nor intended as, undue interference in the RFO’s day to day management of financial affairs.’

As part of it’s internal control, the Parish Council has appointed a Councillor to conduct a review of the system of internal control via the following tests on a quarterly basis with a written report of any findings to be submitted to the Council and minuted as received.

CONTROL TEST	TEST DONE	COMMENTS – check documents & initial
	Yes or No	
Ensuring an up to date Register of Assets	Yes	
Regular maintenance arrangement for physical assets	Yes	Monthly Inspection Reported at each PC Meeting
Annual review of risk and the adequacy of Insurance cover	Yes	Fidelity Guarantee raised to £150,000.00 in April As suggested by Internal Auditor
Annual review of financial risk	Yes	In Order reviewed March 2018
Awareness of Standing Orders and Financial regulations	Yes	In place no material change
Adoption of Financial & Standing Orders	Yes	
Regular reporting on performance by contractors	Yes	Reported Monthly
Annual review of contracts (where appropriate)	Yes	
Regular bank reconciliation, independently reviewed	Yes	Reported at each PC Meeting
Regular scrutiny of financial records and proper arrangements for the approval of expenditure	Yes	At each PC Meeting
Recording in the minutes or appendices of the minutes the precise powers under which expenditure is being approved	No	Not Required
Payments supported by invoices, authorised and minuted	Yes	
Regular scrutiny of income records to ensure income is correctly received, recorded and banked	Yes	Credit Card check Monthly Bank Reconciled Quarterly
Scrutiny to ensure precept recorded in the cashbook agrees to MSDC notification	Yes	Payment 01 received April 18 Payment 02 due September 18
Contracts of employment for staff	Yes	Clerk. Village Litter Picker
Contract annually reviewed	Yes	June. November

Updating records to record changes in relevant legislation	Yes	
PAYE/NIC/Pension properly operated by the Council as an employer	Yes	Q1 Paid 28 June 18 Q2 Due October 18
VAT correctly accounted for VAT payments identified, recorded and reclaimed in the cashbook	Yes	
Regular financial reporting to Parish Council	Yes	At each PC Meeting
Quarterly budget monitoring statements as reported to Parish Council	Yes	
CIL reporting to Council in accordance with legislation	Yes	Payment £1,629.00 received 12 April 18
CIL reporting to District in accordance with legislation	Yes	Form to 31 March 18 to be signed & returned by 31 December 18
CIL expenditure in accordance with legislation	Yes	Nil year ending 31 March 18
Compliance with 2014 Regulations: Officer Decision Reports	Yes	
Compliance with Local Transparency Code 2015: Items of expenditure incurred over £500	Yes	Q1 to be submitted at September PC Meeting Q2 due October 18
Compliance with Data Protection Legislation – Council registered as a Data Controller	Yes	Not Required
Compliance with General Data Protection Requirements – what progress has Council made towards meeting such requirements	Yes	Impact & Risk Assessments complete Suite of Policies in place
Minutes properly numbered and paginated with a master copy kept in for safekeeping	Yes	Monthly PC Meetings
Procedures in place for recording and monitoring Members' Interests and Gifts of Hospitality	Yes	Monthly PC Meetings
Adoption of Codes of Conduct for Members	Yes	In 2014
Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Yes	Kevin Bradley July 2018

Date of review of system of Internal Controls: 28 August 2018

Review of system of Internal Controls carried out by: B L Rainbow

Report submitted to Council (date) – meeting of 05.09.2018; agenda item 12(F).

Next review of system of Internal Controls due: November 2018

Additional comments by reviewer: None