

## **DRAFT**

### **EDITH WESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Minutes of the meeting of the Edith Weston Parish Council (EWPC) held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Attendance: H. Wood (HW), N. Farmer (NF), Peter Coe (PC) Paul Boggust (PB) – Chair, Capt. K. Masson (CKM), Julie Gray (JG), Juliet Stuttard (JS) and the Clerk, C. Gwilliam (CG)

Visitors: 7 members of the public including County Councillors Bool and Waller

#### 47/20. Apologies

None

#### 48/20. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None

#### 49/20. Public Open Forum

None

#### 50/20. Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 April 2020. See **Appendix A**

**Resolved.** To accept and sign as a true record.

#### 51/20. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

- Following speeding concerns raised during the Army Update at the last meeting a letter has been submitted to Rutland County Council (RCC) and a resulting Highways & Transport Request for service has been submitted.
- Rutland Police have carried out speed checks and will do more in the next few weeks. CG detailed an informal conversation she had with the PC Icke regarding future speed check work they would be carrying out.
- New notice Board has been ordered and delivery expected in 6 to 8 weeks to CG home address. A possible change of location was discussed but dismissed.

#### 52/20. Update from the Army

KM expressed concerns that comments he had made may have been repeated out of context. CG agreed to let KM see draft minutes before they are published.

#### 53/20 Neighbourhood Planning Committee update.

Nothing to report.

#### 54/20 Future of St George's Barracks PCLG update

Councillor Gale Waller (GW) reported that RCC will be holding a Cabinet meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June and will be discussing changes to the Statement of Community Involvement to facilitate Government Covid-19 conditions with an emphasis to concentrate on the hard to reach groups who in Rutland are those who are not internet connected. Once

the changes to the statement are agreed then the Regulation 19 consultation can go ahead.

JG gave an update from PCLG. They will be organising Deputations and lobbying the Scrutiny Committee to reemphasise the risks associated with the potential lack of consultation.

PC gave an update on the report from specialists planning consultant that is due on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The report is to be broken down into relevant areas of action and some confidential parts and will be discussed in an exempt session.

JG expressed concern that as it is not possible to hold a village meeting regarding the Regulation 19 consultation, the Parish Council should start to draft a letter to go out to ALL parishioners to explain what is happening and why and offer some assistance in accordance with social distancing to assist parishioners on consultation responses.

JG confirmed that Legal representation would follow on from the Planning Consultants report. SGB Committee members PC, JG, PB, JS will meet TBA to agree the terms of reference.

#### 55/20 To discuss planning applications received

- The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012. PROPOSAL: No 1. Sycamore (Red) – Fell. 24 King Edward's Way Edith Weston Rutland LE15 8EZ. Response by 9 June 2020

**Resolved.** PC to draft a response asking for more information from the applicant as no reason has been given in the application.

#### 56/20 Update on environmental issues in the Parish:

- Removal of Street Lamp causing problems due to location close to 1<sup>st</sup> floor window. The Parish Council have some concerns about the removal of the light on health and safety grounds however the Parish Council do wish to support the resident as best we can.

**Resolved.** Councillor Ken Bool (KB) will highlight with RCC the need to do a survey of the street lighting in that area to see if the light in question can be moved once the Covid-19 guidance allows site visits.

- Complaints of Dog barking in Well Cross area.

**Resolved.** Residents are to be encouraged to write to RCC as this is an Environmental Health issue. This can be done on line at <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/environment/report-an-environmental-issue/>

#### 57/20 Finance:

To note the current bank balance on the Parish Council's Accounts. See **Appendix B** presented at the meeting.

- Closing accounts for 2018/19. See **Appendix C**

**Resolved.** All Councillors have approved the closing accounts documentation circulated.

- Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20. See **Appendix C**

**Resolved.** All Parish Councillors agreed to each statement on the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement as read out at the meeting.

58/20 To agree payment of invoices:

- Zurich Municipal – Parish Council Insurance - £167.44

**Resolved.** To pay

- Norman Milne EWPC printing Jan – March 2020 - £742.39

**Resolved.** To pay

59/20 To discuss correspondence received by the Clerk

- Covid – 19. EWPC response

CG gave a report from the confidential conference calls between RCC and all Parish Councils.

46/20. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 26 May 2020, 7.15pm via virtual conference if restrictions are still in place.

Appendix A

### **EDITH WESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Minutes of the meeting of the Edith Weston Parish Council (EWPC) held on Monday 27 April 2020**

Attendance: E, Jarron (EJ), H. Wood (HW), N. Farmer (NF), Peter Coe (PC) Paul Boggust (PB) - Chair and the Clerk, C. Gwilliam (CG) Capt. K, Masson (CKM)

Visitors: 4 members of the public including County Councillors Bool and Waller

32/20. Apologies

None

33/20. Election of new Parish Councillor.

The casual vacancy following Norman Milnes resignation was advertised in March. RCC confirmed we could co-opt someone to fill the vacancy via email dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Resolution** Juliet Stuttard was proposed by HW, seconded by and agreed by all.

34/20. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

CG declared a personal interest in item 44/20 as she has submitted an invoice for payment.

35/20. Public Open Forum

None

36/20. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 February 2020.

**Resolved.** To accept and sign as a true record.

37/20. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

None

38/20. Update from the Army

CKM detailed two concerns raised in relation to base personnel as follows:

- 1) Increased number of speeding traffic along Pennine Drive including lorries causing a health and safety issues for residents of that area.

**Resolved.** CKM to approach Rutland County Council (RCC) Helen Briggs from a base personnel standpoint and County Councillor Waller also to approach RCC Helen Briggs on this issue separately.

Wider traffic calming measures were also discussed. Please see item 42/20.

- 2) Closure of the Airfield from public use. CKM detailed why the decision had to be taken to restrict public access for their own safety because the Covid-19 situation has restricted the training location for the working dogs, they are having to carry out all their training and exercise on the airfield. Some of these dogs can be dangerous and for safety reason the airfield has been closed to the public while the Covid-19 restrictions are in place. However, there are still a number of public continuing to use the airfield and CKM has asked that the parish publicise the closure and the reasons for it as widely as possible throughout the parish.

**Resolution.** County Councillor Waller agreed to add to her next Covid-19 newsletter to the surrounding parishes. CG will also put on the parish website and notice boards.

39/20 Neighbourhood Planning Committee update.

Nothing to report.

40/20 Future of St George's Barracks

PCLG update

Marrons have been instructed to provide advice on the Local Plan on behalf of EWPC.

CKM confirmed RCC had invited him to take part in the consultation and acknowledged that the consultation was currently on hold due to the Covid-19.

41/20 To discuss planning applications received

- 2020/0006/APPEAL Old Pump House, Manton Road, Edith Weston, Rutland. Representation by 5<sup>th</sup> May.

PC reported that having read the letter, reviewed the guidelines and spoken to RCC

Planning Department the situation is as follows.

As this is a householder appeal and is being dealt with by written representations, third parties (including EWPC) cannot make any further representations. RCC send their information along with third party representations (our original objection) to the Inspector. He can then ask the appellant or RCC for further information, but we can make no further comment either to the Inspector or RCC.

Basically, it is out of our hands and the Inspector will make a decision based on the information provided during the original application procedure (application, accompanying information, non-objections and objections and RCC decision).

- 2019/0736/FUL Change of use of hardstanding from an airfield to B8 vehicle storage (retrospective) - Land At St George's Barracks, Welland Road, Edith Weston Rutland. Comments by 9<sup>th</sup> May

Please see PC report contained in

**Resolution.** PC to work with resident Tim Collins who has completed several wildlife studies on the site, to put together a detailed response to RCC.

#### 42/20 Update on environmental issues in the Parish:

- Response to Yellow Lines letter

Number of responses – 5

In Favour – 2

Against – 3

Additional residents suggestions – Including the Spinney in proposed yellow lines.

Including 43-19 Normanton Road.

Including a Pelican or Zebra Crossing.

- Traffic calming and speeding issues.

NF reported that following the above resident's feedback regarding yellow lines this proposal has been dropped. The proposal from RCC now consists of:

40mph buffer zone along Normanton Road.

Red high friction markings on Manton Road

Red high friction roundels on Gibbet Lane

County Councillor Bool explained that as the current RCC had made reduction of speeding in the county one of their objectives there is finance available for hard constructions such as pinch points available.

**Resolution.** CG to draft a letter in conjunction with PB and NF to request a in depth traffic survey be completed to further support the need for traffic and speed calming measure throughout the village as a hole on health and safety grounds. This should also pick up the speeding issues on Pennine Drive as detailed in item 38/20. CKM and County Councillor Bool and Waller to be copied in on correspondence.

- Replacement noticeboard

Please see quotes contained in

**Resolution.** NF to go with his recommended option 2 in the quotes.

43/20 Finance:

To note the current bank balance on the Parish Council's Accounts. presented at the meeting.

44/20 To agree payment of invoices:

- 2commune – website - £522  
**Resolved.** To be paid.
- RCC – Street Lighting - £359.18  
**Resolved.** To be paid.
- Hills Monthly payroll and HMRC return - £55.20  
**Resolved.** To be paid.
- LRALC/NALC membership 2020/21 - £258.34  
**Resolved.** To be paid.
- Zoom virtual Conferencing Monthly subscription - £14.39. Request to set up standing order to reimburse Clerk as expenses for the duration of the subscription only.  
**Resolved.** To be paid.
- Discus Clerk overtime following advice from LRALC.  
**Resolved.** CG to approach Hills accountants to discuss processing time sheets as a process in which to add clerks' overtime to the wages. CG to report back to the next meeting.

45/20 To discuss correspondence received by the Clerk

- Grass Cutting  
Confirmed that Biffa have done the first cut, so no action required.
- Covid – 19. EWPC response  
CG gave a report from the confidential conference calls between RCC and all Parish Councils.  
**Resolved.** To keep open the offer of support to the Village Hall committee should a prolonged closer result in financial difficulty in meeting their running costs.
- Emails received concerning parked vehicles restricting the road adjacent to 17 King Edwards way, the footpath entrance to Tommy's Close and the public defib.  
**Resolved.** EJ to talk to the resident believed to own some of the vehicles in question.
- Sheep in Tommy's close field.  
It was agreed that there is very little that can be done as the land is owned and run by the Tommy's Close Trustees, not the Parish Council and they rely upon the grazing income to cover running costs and replacement play equipment.

46/20. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 26 May 2020, 7.15pm via virtual conference if restrictions are still in place.

**Edith Weston Parish Council****28 April 2020 to 22 May 2020****PAYMENTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	VAT	Total
10	Telecoms	04/05/2020	44/21	Village Hall broadband	Zen Internet	3.42	20.52
11	Telecoms	11/05/2020	44/21	Village Hall broadband	Zen Internet	3.40	20.40
12	Clerks Wages	15/05/2020	30/4/2019 12B	Salary	Edith Weston PC	0.00	195.43
13	Software	22/05/2020	44/20	Stationery, licences	C E Gwilliam	2.40	14.39
14	Software	22/05/2020	44/20	Stationery, licences	C E Gwilliam	2.40	14.39
<b>Total</b>						<b>11.62</b>	<b>265.13</b>

**RECEIPTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	VAT	Total
		27/04/2020		Grass Cutting	RCC	0.00	4,923.53
3	Bank Interest	01/05/2020		Bank Interest	HSBC	0.00	5.21
<b>Total</b>						<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,928.74</b>

**ACCOUNT BALANCES on 22 May 2020**

Savings = £49,684.69

Current = 5,479.19

**Clerk Hours 27 April 2020 to 22 May 2020****27/04 - 03/05**

EWPC 10hrs30mins

**04/05 - 10/05**

EWPC 3hrs

PCLG 1hr Unpaid

**11/05 - 17/05**

EWPC 7hrs30mins

**18/05 - 22/05**

EWPC 7hrs

**Total**

EWPC 28hrs

Paid 30hrs

Overtime None

**Bank reconciliation – pro forma**

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It is the column headed “Year ending 31 March 20xx” in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority:

Edith Weston Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Rutland

**Financial year ending 31 March 2020**

Prepared by (Name and Role):

Cathie Gwilliam, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Date:

20/06/2020

	£	£
<b>Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/20:</b>		
Community Account	685.7	
Business Money Manager Account	29,954.3	
	-	30,639.9
Petty cash float (if applicable)		-
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/xx ( <b>enter these as negative numbers</b> )		
[add more lines if necessary]		
		-
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/20		
		-
<b>Net balances as at 31/3/xx (Box 8)</b>		<b><u>30,639.9</u></b>



Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: Edith Weston Parish Council  
County area (local councils and parishes): Rutland  
Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all blue highlighted boxes  
Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:  
• variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);  
• a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES
1 Balances Brought Forward	20,094	23,503.29	3,409	16.97%	YES	Reserve held for additional costs relating to St Georges Barracks development and Local Plan
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	18,296	21,550	3,254	17.79%	YES	To cover costs of entrance street furniture, village improvements, and village response to projected development on MOD N Luffenham site.
3 Total Other Receipts	1,270	1,194	-76	5.97%	NO	
4 Staff Costs	1,676	1,871	195	11.62%	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	
6 All Other Payments	14,480	15,618	1,138	7.86%	NO	
7 Balances Carried Forward	23,504	30,640			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	23,504	30,640				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and As	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

## WHAT SMALLER AUTHORITIES NEED TO DO TO ADVERTISE THE PERIOD DURING WHICH ELECTORS AND INTERESTED PERSONS MAY EXERCISE RIGHTS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#), the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) and the [Accounts and Audit \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) require that:

1. The accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested, during a period of 30 working days set by the smaller authority that starts on or before 1 September 2020.
2. The period referred to in paragraph (1) starts with the day on which the period for the exercise of public rights is treated as having been commenced i.e. the day following the day on which all of the obligations in paragraph (3) below have been fulfilled.
3. The responsible financial officer for a relevant authority must, on behalf of that authority, publish **(which must include publication on the authority's website)**:
  - (a) the Accounting Statements (i.e. Section 2 of either Part 2 or 3, whichever is relevant, of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)), accompanied by:
    - (i) a declaration, signed by that officer to the effect that the status of the Accounting Statements are unaudited and that the Accounting Statements as published may be subject to change;
    - (ii) the Annual Governance Statement (i.e. Section 1 of either Part 2 or Part 3, whichever is relevant, of the AGAR); and
  - (b) a statement that sets out—
    - (i) the period for the exercise of public rights;
    - (ii) details of the manner in which notice should be given of an intention to inspect the accounting records and other documents;
    - (iii) the name and address of the local auditor;
    - (iv) the provisions contained in section 26 (inspection of documents etc.) and section 27 (right to make objections at audit) of the Act, as they have effect in relation to the authority in question;

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

1. You will meet statutory requirements if you fully and accurately complete the notice of public rights pro forma in this document, and
2. Publish **(including publication on the smaller authority's website)** the following documents, the day before the public rights period commences:
  - a. the approved Sections 1 and 2 of either Part 2 or 3, whichever is relevant to your smaller authority, of the AGAR; and
  - b. the completed Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Please note that we have pre-completed it with the following **suggested** dates: Monday 15 June – Friday 24 July 2020. (The latest possible dates that comply with the statutory requirements are Tuesday 1 September – Monday 12 October 2020); and
  - c. the notes which accompany the Notice (Local authority accounts: a summary of your rights).

Smaller authority name: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF  
UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE &  
ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

**Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27**

**The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)**

**The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/404)**

NOTICE	NOTES
<p><b>1. Date of announcement</b> _____ <b>26 May 2020</b> _____ (a)</p> <p><b>2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.</b></p> <p><b>Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2020, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</b></p> <p>(b) Cathie Gwilliam, Clerk &amp; Responsible Financial Officer: <a href="mailto:ewpcclerk@gmail.com">ewpcclerk@gmail.com</a>, 01780460128</p> <p>commencing on (c) <b>Wednesday 1 July 2020</b> _____</p> <p>and ending on (d) <b>Friday 31 July 2020</b> _____</p> <p><b>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and</li><li>• The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.</li></ul> <p>The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.</p> <p><b>4. The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2015. The appointed auditor is:</b></p> <p><b>PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team)</b> <b>15 Westferry Circus</b> <b>Canary Wharf</b> <b>London E14 4HD</b> (<a href="mailto:sba@pkf-littlejohn.com">sba@pkf-littlejohn.com</a>)</p> <p><b>5. This announcement is made by (e)</b> Cathie Gwilliam, Clerk &amp; Responsible Financial Officer, Edith Weston Parish Council _____</p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below</p> <p>(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts</p> <p>(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must start on or before 1 September 2020.</p> <p>(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority</p>

**LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS**

**Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including local councils, internal drainage boards and 'other' smaller authorities.**

**The basic position**

The [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (the Act) governs the work of auditors appointed to smaller authorities. This summary explains the provisions contained in Sections 26 and 27 of the Act. The Act, the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) and the [Accounts and Audit \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) also cover the duties, responsibilities and rights of smaller authorities, other organisations and the public concerning the accounts being audited.

As a local elector, or an interested person, you have certain legal rights in respect of the accounting records of smaller authorities. As an interested person you can inspect accounting records and related documents. If you are a local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate you can also ask questions about the accounts and object to them. You do not have to pay directly for exercising your rights. However, any resulting costs incurred by the smaller authority form part of its running costs. Therefore, indirectly, local residents pay for the cost of you exercising your rights through their council tax.

### **The right to inspect the accounting records**

Any interested person can inspect the accounting records, which includes but is not limited to local electors. You can inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records. You can copy all, or part, of these records or documents. Your inspection must be about the accounts, or relate to an item in the accounts. You cannot, for example, inspect or copy documents unrelated to the accounts, or that include personal information (Section 26 (6) – (10) of the Act explains what is meant by personal information). You cannot inspect information which is protected by commercial confidentiality. This is information which would prejudice commercial confidentiality if it was released to the public and there is not, set against this, a very strong reason in the public interest why it should nevertheless be disclosed.

When smaller authorities have finished preparing accounts for the financial year and approved them, they must publish them (including on a website). There must be a 30 working day period, called the ‘period for the exercise of public rights’, during which you can exercise your statutory right to inspect the accounting records. Smaller authorities must tell the public, including advertising this on their website, that the accounting records and related documents are available to inspect. By arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records. You may have to pay a copying charge. **Legislative changes have been made as a result of the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus for the 2019/20 reporting year which mean that there is no requirement for a common period for public rights. The period for the exercise of public rights must however commence on or before 1 September 2020.** The advertisement must set out the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights, how you can communicate to the smaller authority that you wish to inspect the accounting records and related documents, the name and address of the auditor, and the relevant legislation that governs the inspection of accounts and objections.

### **The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records**

**You should first ask your smaller authority** about the accounting records, since they hold all the details. If you are a local elector, your right to ask questions of the external auditor is enshrined in law. However, while the auditor will answer your questions where possible, they are not always obliged to do so. For example, the question might be better answered by another organisation, require investigation beyond the auditor’s remit, or involve disproportionate cost (which is borne by the local taxpayer). Give your smaller authority the opportunity first to explain anything in the accounting records that you are unsure about. If you are not satisfied with their explanation, you can question the external auditor about the accounting records.

The law limits the time available for you formally to ask questions. This must be done in the period for the exercise of public rights, so let the external auditor know your concern as soon as possible. The advertisement or notice that tells you the accounting records are available to inspect will also give the period for the exercise of public rights during which you may ask the auditor questions, which here means formally asking questions under the Act. You can ask someone to represent you when asking the external auditor questions.

Before you ask the external auditor any questions, inspect the accounting records fully, so you know what they contain. Please remember that you cannot formally ask questions, under the Act, after the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. You may ask your smaller authority other questions about their accounts for any year, at any time. But these are not questions under the Act.

You can ask the external auditor questions about an item in the accounting records for the financial year being audited. However, your right to ask the external auditor questions is limited. The external auditor can only answer ‘what’ questions, not ‘why’ questions. The external auditor cannot answer questions about policies, finances, procedures or anything else unless it is directly relevant to an item in the accounting records. Remember that your questions must always be about facts, not opinions. To avoid misunderstanding, we recommend that you always put your questions in writing.

### **The right to make objections at audit**

You have inspected the accounting records and asked your questions of the smaller authority. Now you may wish to object to the accounts on the basis that an item in them is in your view unlawful or there are matters of wider concern arising from the smaller authority’s finances. A local government elector can ask the external auditor to apply to the High Court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, or to issue a report on matters which are in the public interest. You must tell the external auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you think the item

is unlawful, or why you think that a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide the external auditor with the evidence you have to support your objection. Disagreeing with income or spending does not make it unlawful. To object to the accounts you must write to the external auditor stating you want to make an objection, including the information and evidence below and you must send a copy to the smaller authority. The notice must include:

- confirmation that you are an elector in the smaller authority's area;
- why you are objecting to the accounts and the facts on which you rely;
- details of any item in the accounts that you think is unlawful; and
- details of any matter about which you think the external auditor should make a public interest report.

Other than it must be in writing, there is no set format for objecting. You can only ask the external auditor to act within the powers available under the [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#).

### **A final word**

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take such complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor. Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the cost that will be involved, they will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. They may also decide not to consider an objection if they think that it is frivolous or vexatious, or if it repeats an objection already considered. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision not to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on public rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication <a href="#">Local authority accounts: A guide to your rights</a> are available from the NAO website.	If you wish to contact your authority's appointed external auditor please write to the address in paragraph 4 of the <i>Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return</i> .
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## Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities\* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review

### Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, following the end of each financial year, complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
  - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
  - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure **does not exceed** £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption **are able to declare themselves exempt** from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review **provided** the authority **completes**:
  - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2020**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
  - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Part 2)** which is made up of:
    - **Annual Internal Audit Report** (page 4) to be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
    - **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement** (page 5) to be completed and approved by the authority.
    - **Section 2 – Accounting Statements** (page 6) to be completed and approved by the authority.

**NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.**
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on a website **before 1 July 2020**.

### Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a public website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3
- **Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20**, page 4
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20**, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

### Limited Assurance Review

Providing the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, there is **no** requirement for the authority to have a limited assurance review.

Any smaller authority may, however, request a limited assurance review. In these circumstances the authority should **not certify itself as exempt, and not complete the** Certificate of Exemption, but complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 and return it to the external auditor for review together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor.

The cost to the smaller authority for the review will be **£200 +VAT**.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

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

## Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2020. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than 30 June 2020. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority **should** receive and note the annual internal audit report if possible before approving the annual governance statement and the accounts.
- Make sure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed annual return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You should inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2019) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2020).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the approved accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period the RFO sets **must** include a common inspection period – during which the accounts and accounting records of all smaller authorities must be available for public inspection – of the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2020**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	✓	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?		
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published?		
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? ( <i>Local Councils only</i> )		

*\*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)



## Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2019/20 Part 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2020, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2020 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2020 notifying the external auditor.

Edith Weston Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2019/20, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2019/20:

£22,744-00

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2019/20:

£17,489-00

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is **unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£200 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2016
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2018/19), the external auditor **has not**:
  - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
  - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
  - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
  - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
  - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and that the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on a public website\* before 1 July 2020. **By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.**

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

*E. E. Gillman*

26/05/2020

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

26/05/2020

Signed by Chairman

Date

*[Signature]*

26/05/2020

as recorded in minute reference:

57/20

Email of Authority

ewpcclerk@gmail.com

Telephone number

01780 460128

\*Published web address

www.edithweston.com

**ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2020. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT**



## Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation **during** the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The internal audit for 2019/20 has been carried out in accordance with this 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 authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2018/19, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2018/19 AGAR tick "not covered")	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. The authority has demonstrated that during summer 2019 it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>M. (For local councils only)</b> Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

DD/MM/YYYY

DD/MM/YYYY

DD/MM/YYYY

ENTER NAME OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

DD/MM/YYYY

\*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).

\*\*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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

## Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

We acknowledge as the members of:

Edith Weston 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 2020, 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

\*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

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

26/05/2020

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE 57/20

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

Chairman

Clerk



## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 for

Edith Weston Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2020 £	
1. Balances brought forward	20,094	23,503.29	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	18,296	21,550	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	1,270	1,194	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	1,676	1,871	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	Nil	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	14,480	15,618	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	23,504	30,640	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	23,504	30,640	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 reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	Nil	Nil	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	Nil	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.
		X	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2020 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

C. E. Williams

Date

26/05/2020

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

26/05/2020

as recorded in minute reference:

57/20

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

[Signature]