

# The Parish of Alfrick and Lulsley

## Annual Report of the Parish Council

2020-21

### Contents

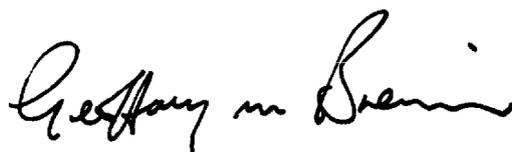
Chair's Report

Government's requirements for smaller councils

Details required by the Government.

Approved by the Council at its meeting on 24/6/2021

Responsible Financial Officer



Chair



### ***The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014***

*The Act sets out a new audit framework for local public authorities which are currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. Under this new framework, smaller authorities with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, including parish councils, will be exempt from routine external audit. Instead, these parish councils will be subject to the new transparency requirements laid out in the Code.*

*This Code will act as an audit substitute, enabling local electors to access the information they need about the authority's accounts and governance in order to hold the authority to account. It is issued to meet the government's desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability.*

### ***Public data that parish councils should publish***

***All items of expenditure*** Annual publication no later than 1 July.

*Publish details of each individual item of expenditure.*

*Copies of cash books, vouchers and receipts, etc. do not need to be published but should remain available for inspection.*

***End of year accounts*** Annual publication no later than 1 July.

*Publish signed statement of accounts according to the format included in the Annual Return audit form. It should be accompanied by:*

- a) a copy of the bank reconciliation for the relevant financial year;*
- b) an explanation of any significant variances (e.g. more than 10-15 percent) in the statement of accounts for the relevant year and previous year; and*
- c) an explanation of any differences between 'balances carried forward' and 'total cash and short term investments', if applicable.*

***Annual governance statement*** Annual publication no later than 1 July.

*Publish signed annual governance statement according to the format included in the Annual Return audit form. Explain any negative responses to governance statements, including how any weaknesses will be addressed.*

***Internal audit report*** Annual publication no later than 1 July.

*Publish internal audit report according to the format included in the Annual Return audit form. It should be signed by the person who carried out the internal audit.*

*Explain any negative response to the internal controls objectives, including how any weaknesses will be addressed.*

*Explain any 'not covered' responses to internal controls objectives.*

*Publish any additional internal audit report, where available.*

***Location of public land and building assets*** Annual publication no later than 1 July.

*Publish details of all public land and building assets – either in the authority's full asset and liabilities register or as an edited version. Information should include:*

- a) description (what it is, including size/acreage);*
- b) location (address or description of location);*
- c) owner / custodian, e.g. the authority manages the land or asset on behalf of a local charity;*

***This council meets all these obligations.***



***Clerk to the Council 1/5/2021***

## **Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council - Annual Report for 2021.**

*Given at the Annual Parish Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

Welcome everyone to our first face to face meeting for more than one year.

This has been an extraordinary year during which we have endured a pandemic which has dominated every aspect of our lives.

Firstly I want to take the opportunity to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, and especially our Parish Clerk, Geoffrey Brewin, all of which have contributed outstanding service to our Parish during the year. All of our meetings have been by Zoom during the period, a learning experience for us all.

The overall Parish coordinated support during the year has demonstrated what can be achieved when circumstances demand.

Usually providers of village activity groups present short reports of their performance during the year, but this has been a year during which little of normal activity has been possible. Special mention must however be recognised concerning the Alfrick & Lulsley Community Shop and Post Office which has provided an invaluable social service as well as keeping essential supplies available. Our parish is very fortunate to have so many active residents willing to volunteer, often at some personal risk to help others.

The majority of the Parish Council's work concerns ongoing maintenance within the village, such as the war memorial, the playing field, the Jubilee Spinney, and local footpaths. To do this effectively we rely on the Parish lengthsmen, Derek Bradley the tree warden and Garth Lowe the footpath warden

The development at Chapel Meadow has been completed and the much delayed development at Clay Green is about to commence. This will add 21 new properties to the village.

Arising from the Chapel Meadow project the Parish has been allocated £68.5K to be used to enhance village facilities within strict guidelines. Much debate is ongoing relating to the best use of this grant having in mind the future expected demands within the Parish.

The Parish Council expects now to have its future meetings away from Zoom, hopefully enabling residents to have greater involvement. Currently a group of residents are actively engaged in changing unwelcome 4 x 4 vehicle use of Sandy Lane supported by the Council.

Efforts to improve communication with residents will continue with our Facebook page operational and continued use of our newsletter to all addresses by mail.

Brian W. Martin

Chair Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council.

**Details of Council Members, Appointment to external bodies, and officers.**

**The Council was elected on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019.**

**(All 8\*\*\*\*\* tel. Nos. + 01886)**

**Chair:**

Brian W Martin	833180	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Represents the Council - Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop Management Committee			
Andrew Cooper ( <i>to 25/2/21</i> )	833903	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Nathan S Catlow ( <i>From 22/4/21</i> )		Co-opted	Alfrick Ward
Richard Ashton	821340	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Anthony J Crockford	833594	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Thomas Clarke	831228	Elected	Lulsley Ward
Barbra Brown ( <i>To 23/7/20</i> )	832902	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Graham Messervy-Whiting ( <i>From 24/9/20</i> )	07759 090 429	Co-opted	Alfrick Ward
Garth Lowe	833362	Elected	Alfrick Ward
Parish Footpaths Warden			
Edward G Mutter	822238	Elected	Lulsley Ward
Carol Bradley	884372	Elected	Alfrick Ward

**Clerk to the Council**

Geoffrey M Brewin, C Eng, CiLCA.  
Whistlewood House, Lulsley, Knightwick,  
Worcester. WR6 5QT 821386  
email, [geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com](mailto:geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com)

**Not a member of the council but supported by it:**

Parish Tree Warden - Derek Bradley, 884372

**Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council**  
**Receipts and Payments for yr. 2020-21**

*For comparison*

<b>Account</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
MHDC Precept	13000.00	12840.00
Parish Lengthsman Income from WCC	1713.00	2171.35
Sundry Income	683.75	626.94
VAT Refund	743.38	1159.19
Old Storridge Charity income	164.97	1070.23
Old Storridge Charity donations	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16305.10</b>	<b>17867.71</b>

<b>Account</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	
Audit	41.67	50.00
Clerk Expenses	100.00	100.00
Office Costs	1019.80	1146.38
Clerk Salary	4215.42	4102.80
Donations	535.00	200.00
Election Fees	0.00	72.00
Footpaths	0.00	0.00
Insurance	578.46	563.07
Jubilee Plantation	1450.00	0.00
Meeting Expenses	143.88	268.00
Education/Training & Other Expenses	1351.64	121.20
Parish Lengthsman	1713.00	2220.00
Parish Tree Warden	0.00	448.35
Playing Field Maintenance	1700.00	865.00
Subscriptions	392.04	378.89
VAT	1193.92	743.38
War Memorial Mtce	276.25	298.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>14711.08</b>	<b>11577.07</b>
<b>Surplus +/-Deficit -</b>	<b>1594.02</b>	<b>6290.64</b>

<b><u>Balance brought fwd</u></b>	<b>27738.58</b>	<b>21447.94</b>
<b><u>Balance at Yr-End</u></b>	<b>29332.60</b>	<b>27738.58</b>

**Outstanding Cheques at Yr-end**

Nil	0.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Outstanding Invoices at Yr-end**

18/11/20 WCC Lengthsman	132.00
02/03/21 WCC Lengthsman	288.00
08/03/21 WCC Lengthsman	357.00
08/03/21 WCC Lengthsman	96.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>873.00</b>

<b><u>Bank account at Yr-end</u></b>	<b>28459.60</b>
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01/04/21 Clerk & RFO



22/04/21 Chair

<b>Note; this includes OS Charity funds of</b>	<b>2331.16</b>
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## Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council Expenditure 2020-21

Date	Description	Category	Amount	Cat Total
31/03/21	VAT Total Paid	VAT	-903.92	-903.92
08/06/20	Duffy Regan	Audit	-41.67	-41.67
30/04/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-341.90	
29/05/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-341.90	
30/06/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-341.90	
31/07/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-341.90	
01/09/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-341.90	
30/09/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-391.82	
30/10/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-350.22	
30/11/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-358.24	
31/12/20	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-351.26	
29/01/21	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-351.26	
26/02/21	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-351.26	
31/03/21	Clerk - Salary	Clerk - Salary	-351.86	-4215.42
31/03/21	Clerk – Expenses Oct – March	Clerk Expenses	-544.74	
01/10/20	Clerk – Expenses April – Sept	Clerk Expenses	-575.06	-1119.8
27/11/20	Suckley School	Donation	-535.00	-535.00
27/04/20	Came & Co	Insurance	-578.46	-578.46
26/10/20	Knightwick Fencing	Jubilee Plantation	-1440.00	
18/11/20	B J Unwin Tree Survey	Jubilee Plantation	-300.00	-1740
20/07/20	Zoom Subscription (G M Brewin)	Meeting Expenses	-143.88	-143.88
20/07/20	Severn-Trent Survey (G M Brewin)	Other Expenses	-131.00	
25/11/20	Grimshaw Kinnear	Other Expenses	-415.00	
11/01/21	WESTCOTEC LTD (VAS Batteries)	Other Expenses	-167.5	
01/02/21	J Cliff Lulsley Charities	Other Expenses *	-400.00	
01/02/21	G M Brewin Lulsley Charities	Other Expenses *	-160.00	
11/03/21	I M Goldsmith	Other Expenses	-78.14	-1351.64
05/08/20	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-168.00	
11/09/20	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-180.00	
12/10/20	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-132.00	
18/11/20	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-132.00	
11/12/20	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-168.00	
11/01/21	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-192.00	
11/01/21	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-288.00	
08/03/21	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-357.00	
31/03/21	R Wilks Lengthsman	Parish Lengthsman Expense	-96.00	-1713.00
11/05/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
26/05/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
08/06/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
22/06/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
06/07/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
09/07/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
05/08/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-75.00	
25/11/20	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-1085.00	
24/01/21	MCB Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	-90.00	-1700.00

Sheet2

27/04/20	WCALC	Subscriptions	-392.04	-392.04
29/06/20	J Clarke	War Memorial Mntce	-56.37	
02/11/20	J Clarke	War Memorial Mntce	-44.88	
09/12/20	B Salter	War Memorial Mntce	-175.00	-276.25
			-14711.08	-14711.08

Please note the two items marked Other Expenses \* were balanced by a payment of £560 from Lulsley Charities for allowing the use of this account.

Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council

Asset Register

Ref No.	Description	Location	Original Date	Asset Value	Replacement Value £	Deeds etc/ Location	Comments
1	War Memorial - Alfrick Green	WR6 5HW	1919	19000	19000	Not Known	As advised by Wells Masonry 3 April 2006
2	Playing Field	WR6 5HJ	1953	3		With Clerk	Approx 8500 sq.m Valued at £1/acre for accounting purposes
3	Jubilee Plantation - Knightwick Road	WR6 5HX	1980	1		WW&F	Approx 200 sq.m Valued at £1/acre for accounting purposes
4	Bus Shelter - Alfrick Pound	WR6 5EZ	1953	2700	2700	Not Known	
5	Land at Clay Green - Old Bus Shelter	WR6 5HW	1962	1		With Clerk	2m x 3m - No value but could be a 'ransom strip' at a future date!
6	Public Address System		2001	200	200	With Clerk	Purchased 2001 - £170
7	Notice Board - Lulsley	WR6 5QT	2003	300	300	In Situ	Purchased 2004 - £260
8	Notice Board - Bridges Stone	WR6 5HR	2003	300	300	In Situ	Purchased 2004 - £260
9	Notice Board - Alfrick Village Shop	WR6 5HJ	2000	300	300	In Situ	Purchased 2013 - £300
10	100 paid-up £10 Shares - Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop		2011	1		With Clerk	Cannot be traded - Nominal or long-term value only
					22806		

\* WW&F - Whatley Weston and Fox - Solicitors, The Tything, Worcester

Revised 27/04/06 War Memorial replacement value increased to £19000

Confirmed-

e. H. Williams

Chairman

*Allyson Green*

Clerk & RFO

# Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 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 2020/21

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 2021**. 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)** must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
    - **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** must be completed and approved by the authority.
    - **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** must 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 the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2021**.

## Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available 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 2020/21**, page 4
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21**, 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

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Part 3 of the AGAR 2020/21 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be **£200 +VAT**.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

If it decides to certify itself as exempt, the authority must complete and return the Certificate of Exemption on Page 3 to the external auditor to confirm that it has certified itself exempt.

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 (AGAR) 2020/21, 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 2021. 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 2021**. 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 AGAR 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 before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR 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 AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic 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 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2021).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, 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 2021**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	y	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	y	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	y	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	y	
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	y	
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published?	y	
	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?	y	
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> )	y	

\* *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 2020/21 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 2021, 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 2021 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2021** notifying the external auditor.

### Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2020/21, 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 2020/21:

£16305 AMOUNT £00,000

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2020/21:

£14711 AMOUNT £00,000

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 2017
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2019/20), 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 the authority website/webpage\* before 1 July 2021.

**By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.**

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

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



SIGNATURE REQUIRED

06/04/2021

22/04/2021

Signed by Chairman

Date

as recorded in minute reference:



SIGNATURE REQUIRED

22/04/2021

Financial matters 4.(b)

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

N/A

01886 821 386

\*Published web address

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

**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 2021. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT**

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> ADDRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 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	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
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.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority publishes information on a website/webpage, up to date at the time of the internal audit, in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.	✓		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).			N/A
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
<b>O. (For local councils only)</b> Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

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

04 05 2021

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

TINA DYBLE - FOR AND ON BEHALF OF DUFFY REGAN & CO.

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

T. Dyble RP. DUFFY REGAN & CO.

Date

04 05 2021

\*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 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

### Alfrick and Lulsley 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' means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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.	yes		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
	yes		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:

22/04/2021 Y

and recorded as minute reference:

MIN Financial Matters 4 (c)

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

Chairman

*B. W. Mutt*  
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

*[Signature]*  
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

### Other information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.	Yes	No
	yes	

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> E ADDRESS

## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

### Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
			<i>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.</i>
1. Balances brought forward	21448	27739	<i>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.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	12840	13000	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	5028	3305	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	4203	4315	<i>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.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	7374	10396	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	27739	29333	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	27739	29333	<i>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.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	22806	22806	<i>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.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	<i>The Council as a body corporate acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>  <i>N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>
	y		

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



SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

06/04/2021/Y

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

22/04/2021/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

Financial Matters 4 (d)

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



## Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY) ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27  
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

NOTICE	NOTES
<p><b>1. Date of announcement (a) 5 June 2021</b></p> <p><b>2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it 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 2021, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</b></p> <p>(b) <i>G M Brewin – Clerk to the Council.</i></p> <p><b>Whistlewood House, Lulsley, Knightwick, Worcester WR6 5QT</b></p> <p><b>01886 821386 <a href="mailto:geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com">geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com</a></b></p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>Monday 14 June 2021</u></p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>Friday 23 July 2021</u></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 only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. 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> <b>(<a href="mailto:sba@pkf-l.com">sba@pkf-l.com</a>)</b></p> <p><b>5. This announcement is made by (e)</b></p> <p><b>G M Brewin – Clerk to the Council and RFO</b></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 include the first 10 working days of July.</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 and the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) 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. The 30 working day period must include a common period of inspection during which all smaller authorities' accounting records are available to inspect. This will be 1-14 July 2021 for 2020/21 accounts. 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.

<p>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.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
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