

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

We acknowledge as the members of:

Eckington 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.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
			✓

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

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

16/06/2020

and recorded as minute reference:

177.3

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

Chairman

G RANSTED

Clerk

G JENNINGS

Other information required by the Transparency Code (not part of Annual Governance Statement)
 Authority web address

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 for

Eckington Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2020 £	
1. Balances brought forward	28,991	30,257	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	22,868	23,868	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	13,254	10,825	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	7,012	8,494	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	3,381	3,244	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	24,463	19,525	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	30,257	33,687	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	30,257	33,687	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	111,941	113,281	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	12,000	9,333	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.
		✓	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 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 JENNINGS

Date

26/05/2020

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

16/06/2020

as recorded in minute reference:

177.4

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

C RANSTED

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Eckington Parish Council**
 County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

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	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	28,991	30,297				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	22,868	23,888	1,000	4.37%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	13,294	10,825	-2,429	18.33%	YES		In 2018/19 there was a receipt in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan of £1,696 and a higher than average VAT recovery accounting for approx. £800
4 Staff Costs	7,012	8,494	1,482	21.14%	YES		Overlap of clerks £500, extra hours lengthsmen £400, holiday pay accrued £350, pay increases
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	3,381	3,244	-137	4.05%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	24,463	19,325	-4,938	20.19%	YES		
7 Balances Carried Forward	30,257	33,687			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	30,257	33,687				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	111,941	113,281	1,340	1.20%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	12,000	9,333	-2,667	22.23%	YES		Repayments of £3244 made in 2019-20 reduced balance

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS

Eckington Parish Council - reviewed 2020

Description	Ref/serial	Nc	Date	Acquire	Value	Titile	Number	Custodian
Recreation Field					38155.00	WR81052		Eckington Recreation Centre
Speed sign			11/10/2011		2625.00			EPC
War Stock			2013/14		401.00			EPC
Section 106 Recreation Centre	Transfer		2013/14		3083.84			Eckington Recreation Centre
Section 106 Recreation Centre			2014/15		61945.18			Eckington Recreation Centre
Section 106 Recreation Centre			2015/16		2373.49			Eckington Recreation Centre
Section 106 Recreation Centre			2016/17		2825.00			Eckington Recreation Centre
Lap Top and Printer			2017/18		532.50			Clerk
Strip of land 2 metres wide west side Persho			23/02/2000		0.00	WR49304		EPC
Transfer			2009		0.00	WR126718		EPC
Cemetery			2019		1340.00			EPC
White Gates & Planter					<u>113281.01</u>			