

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

LODSNORTH 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	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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.	☒	☐	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
	☐	☐	☒

*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:

24/05/21

and recorded as minute reference:

34/21

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

Chairman

Clerk

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	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	23,745	22,449	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	17,743	17,743	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	21,265	4,750	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	5,448	5,704	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	—	—	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	34,856	9,104	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	22,449	30,134	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	22,449	30,134	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	92,641	92,641	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	—	—	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 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

Hel. Oukel

Date

24/05/21

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

24/05/21

as recorded in minute reference:

MIN 34/21

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

Car. Oukel

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION as at 31st March 2021

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2021

Prepared by Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
27th April 2021

		£	£
Balance per Bank Statements as at 31st March 2021			30,339.14
Less : unpresented cheques no's:			
Cheque 511 - Lodsworth Local Care (Annual donation 2020/21 towards defibrillator		200.00	
Cheque 522 - Mr Paul Phillips (Reimbursement of allotment expenses)		5.16	
			205.16
Add: money yet to be credited:			-
			30,133.98
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the year, as follows:			
CASH BOOK			
Opening Balance 1 st April 2020			22,448.98
Add : Receipts in the year			22,492.88
Less : Payments in the year			14,807.88
			30,133.98
Closing balance per cash book as at 31.03.21			30,133.98

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES – 2020/21

Section 1	2019/20	2020/21	Variance +/- £	Detailed explanation of variance
Box 2	17,443	17,443	0	
Box 3	21,265	4,750	-16,515	<u>2019/20 figures</u> Donations and grants received for Outdoor Fitness Equipment installed in 2019 - £15,181 Donation for the new Village Hall dishwasher installed in 2019 - £2,360 Allotment rents 2019/20 - £425 Dishwasher refund - £2,520 Miscellaneous - £624 <u>2020/21 figures</u> No grants or donations received in 2020/21. VAT return for 2019/20 - £4,190 Allotment rents - £560
Box 4	5,448	5,704	256	
Box 5	-	-	0	
Box 6	34,856	9,104	-25,752	2019/20 figures included Outdoor Fitness Equipment project @ £21,361 and a new dishwasher for the Village Hall @ £2,360.
Box 7	22,449	30,134	7,685	Year-end balance is higher than in previous years as works to play area (repairs and new equipment) were delayed into next financial year. Estimated cost £8,255
Box 9	92,641	92,641	0	
Box 10	-	-	0	

Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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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.	☒	☐	☐
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.	☐	☐	☒ N/A
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. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it 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. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	☒	☐	☐
O. (For local councils only) 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

07/05/2021

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Jean Huggatt

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Mrs Jean Huggatt

Date

07/05/2021

*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).