

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of **Goxhill Parish Council - HU0102**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2019; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2018/19

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

- Section 1, Assertion 1 has been incorrectly completed. Information provided from the internal auditor suggests that expected income was not fully received in accordance with the current scale of charges, properly accounted for and promptly banked. Information provided from the internal auditor also suggests that the asset register was not accurately or properly maintained during the year. This is consistent with the points raised in the prior year external auditor report, which stated that Section 2, Box 9 was not correctly stated. Box 9 has not been restated for 2017/18. In the completion of the Annual Internal Audit Report, and their detailed report, the internal auditor has drawn attention to these significant weaknesses. The smaller authority must ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.
- The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2018/19 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered 'No' to this assertion. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, is not correct.
- As reported in 2017/18, trust fund transactions had not been excluded from the figures in Section 2. There has been no restatement of figures.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

- The smaller authority was unable to provide an explanation of variances for Boxes 3 and 9. This was due to changes in personnel.

3 External auditor certificate 2018/19

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

17/09/2019

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2018/19 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)