

# NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

(LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014  
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015)

## FOR

### Benington Parish Council

NOTICE is hereby given that the audit for the  
year ended 31 March 2017 was completed on

28 September 2017

and the accounts are now available for inspection by local electors  
in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.  
The requisite information as defined by Section 13(1) of the Accounts and Audit  
Regulations 2015 is/is not\* displayed alongside this notice

(\* Please delete as necessary)

If the requisite information is not displayed alongside  
this notice, it is available for inspection by appointment.

To arrange a viewing please contact

JULIE HAIRE

CLERK TO BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

clerk.beningtonpc@yahoo.co.uk

between the hours of 11.00 and 17.00

Dated: 30 September 2017

Signed:   
.....

(Responsible Financial Officer)

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

**BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2017, that:

	Agreed		‘Yes’ means that this smaller 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.	✓		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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on 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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has 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 smaller 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	NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
			✓	

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

10/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

ITEM 12.4

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

*Richard VSAH*

Clerk:

*[Signature]*

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each ‘No’ response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

# Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

Benington Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
1. Balances brought forward	12410	21922	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	23862	17366	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	354	11411	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	2854	3640	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	none	none	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	11850	19536	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	21922	27523	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	21922	27523	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	65528	96,198	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.
10. Total borrowings	none	none	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 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.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

*[Signature]*

Date 10/05/2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

10/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

ITEM 12.4

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

*[Signature]*

# Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of smaller authority here:

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## 1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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. 2016/17 External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)\* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met. (\*delete as appropriate).

There is a breach of Proper Practices, regulations or legislation which we have noted in our opinion - please see enclosed report.

(continue)

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

Please see enclosed report

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

## 3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify/~~do not certify~~\* that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

\* We do not certify completion because:

External auditor signature

*[Signature]*

External auditor name

**BDO LLP Southampton  
United Kingdom**

Date

28/9/17

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2016/17 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))



**ISSUES ARISING REPORT FOR  
Benington Parish Council  
Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017**

**BDO**

## Introduction

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Benington Parish Council. These matters came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017. This report must be presented to a full meeting of the smaller authority for review.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

- Fixed assets
  - Standard information
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**The following issues have resulted in the annual return being qualified. They indicate either a breach of proper practices or legislation and they require the smaller authority to take immediate action to rectify these issues.**

#### **Fixed assets**

##### *What is the issue?*

It has come to our attention that fixed assets have been included in box 9 at a valuation amount and the figure in the accounting statements does not agree to the asset register.

A smaller authority should not adjust assets disclosed on the annual return for revaluations, depreciation or impairment. The only movements on assets should be the cost of additions or the cost value of any disposals.

##### *Why has this issue been raised?*

The accounting treatment is not in compliance with proper practices.

##### *What do we recommend you do?*

The Practitioners Guide states that all assets should be held at cost as reflected in the asset register. In future the smaller authority should review the current Practitioners Guide to ensure that they are accounting for assets correctly.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners' Guide, NALC/SLCC

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The following issues have been raised as we have detected issues with the governance arrangements of the smaller authority. It is recommended that the smaller authority consider these matters and decide what action to take to improve the governance arrangements as soon as possible.

#### **Standard information**

##### *What is the issue?*

We had to contact the clerk as standard information, including bank reconciliation, date of electors rights or explanation of variances was not supplied with the initial submission.

##### *Why has this issue been raised?*

Proper Practices and the annual return itself state that the above standard information should be submitted for all smaller authorities.

##### *What do we recommend you do?*

In future the smaller authority should ensure all standard information is submitted for audit.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners Guide, NALC/SLCC

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## Introduction

The following items are being brought to the attention of the clerk of Benington Parish Council. These items came to the attention of BDO LLP during the review of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017 but are not required to be reported to the smaller authority. These items are not considered to be either a breach of legislation or proper practices or other matters to report.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

The matters listed below are explained in further detail on the page(s) that follow;

- Minor issues
- Section 2 - Trust Funds Disclosure Note

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The following matters are being brought to your attention as we have detected administrative matters aimed at improving the review process in the future or items that have changed that we wish you to just note. These matters are not raised as formal matters and do not require reporting to the council.

#### **Minor issues**

##### *What is the issue?*

The following issues have been raised as minor issues or omissions have been identified in the current year's Annual Return:

The comparative figures disclosed in Section 2 of the Annual Return do not agree to the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016.

##### *Why has this issue been raised?*

This is to draw these minor errors to the attention of the smaller authority.

##### *What do we recommend you do?*

The smaller authority should ensure in future years that the above minor errors or omissions are not included in the Accounting Statements.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners Guide, NALC/SLCC

#### **Section 2 - Trust Funds Disclosure Note**

##### *What is the issue?*

The Smaller Authority has not answered box 11 in error in Section 2 of the annual return. We believe based on the prior year information that the authority should have answered 'No'.

##### *Why has this issue been raised?*

The disclosure on the annual return has not been completed, however we believe that the Smaller Authority is not the sole trustee of any charities.

##### *What do we recommend you do?*

The Smaller Authority should ensure in future years that it answers 'No', that the Smaller Authority does not act as the sole trustee for and is not responsible for managing trust funds or assets.

Further guidance on this matter can be obtained from the following source(s):

Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England - A Practitioners' Guide, NALC/SLCC

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of  
BDO LLP

Date: 28 September 2017

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