



Lighthorne Parish Council

Statement supporting 2020-21 Financial Return

Lighthorne Parish Council (LPC) is required to publish its annual return in the form of an Annual Governance and Accountability (AGAR) document and, where certain declarations cannot be made in the affirmative, provide an explanation.

Following difficulties with last year's (12 months to 31st March 2020) annual return we were in much better shape this year (12 months to 31st March 2021), but there were still some issues left to resolve. Anticipating this we prepared our financial return within days of the end of the financial year and engaged a very experienced internal auditor, to whom we express our thanks for his helpful and diligent approach. Working closely with the internal auditor we were able to submit our annual return for external audit on 6th May, giving ample time to resolve any queries before the deadline of 30th September.

Our first contact with the external audit came in late September, and required extensive dialogue. Some adjustments were necessary, all in relation to reporting rather than any material deficiencies. This is why you will see some hand written adjustments in the annual return. In relation to last year's difficulties the external auditor states that no further action is required, primarily because our annual return statement for 2019-20 thoroughly addresses those circumstances and the remedial steps in place.

On the last page of the annual return you can read the external auditor report. The one remaining issue relates to the lack of comparative historical values on our asset list. This is due to an absence of historical data. Having already reviewed and updated our asset list the external auditor confirms that this will not affect next year's audit.

LPC is accountable to residents of the parish, and if residents are not satisfied with this annual return and this report, or simply have questions, then they are invited to contact the clerk for further information.

Andy Smith, Chairman, Lighthorne Parish Council – 1st October 2021