

Appleton with Eaton Parish Council
Internal Audit 2024/2025
Final Report

Annual Return Section	Process	Findings	Recommendations and actions
A	Bookkeeping Arrangements	Appropriate books of account have been kept properly throughout the year and are well maintained with audit trails.	No further recommendations.
B	Council's Financial Regulations have been met with regard to expenditure	The Council's Financial Regulations have been met in that appropriate authorisations have been given for each level of expenditure. Payments were supported by invoices, and expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	No further recommendations.
C	Review of Internal Controls	The Council does have adequate provision.	No further recommendations.
C	Review of Risk Assessment	During 2024/2025, the Council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives using their Risk Assessment.	No further recommendations.
D	Budgetary Controls (Precept requirement)	The annual Precept requirement resulted from a budgetary process.	No further recommendations.
D	Budgetary Controls (Budget monitoring)	Progress against the budget was monitored and minuted regularly.	No further recommendations.
D	Reserves were appropriate	The Council does have a Reserves Policy.	Include a reserve for elections.

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D	The final outturn is in line with expectations	The final outturn was materially in line with expectations.	No further recommendations.
E	Review of hire fees for hall	Not reviewed annually.	Fees for hall hire be reviewed annually.
E	Income controls	Expected income was fully received and properly recorded.	No further recommendations.
E	VAT	VAT had been appropriately accounted for.	No further recommendations.
F	Petty cash controls	Petty cash is not operated by the Council.	No further recommendations.
G	Payroll controls	Salaries to employees were paid in accordance with Council approvals.	No further recommendations.
H	Asset Controls - all material assets correctly recorded	The Asset Register has been published and uploaded onto the web site.	No further recommendations. Council could consider including photographs of assets in the Register.
H	Asset Controls - all additions and removals correctly recorded	Items have been added and removed this financial year.	No further recommendations.
H	Asset Controls - all Deeds and Titles established and shown on register?	Deeds and titles have been established; they are not shown on the Register.	Include references to deeds and titles in the Asset Register.
H	Investment Registers	The Parish Council does not require an Investments Policy.	No further recommendations.
I	Bank Reconciliations	Periodic and year-end reconciliations were properly carried out.	No further recommendations.

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J	Accounting Statements	The Accounting Statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis and were supported by an adequate audit trail.	No further recommendations.
K	Limited Assurance Review Exemption	The Council does not meet the exemption criteria.	No further recommendations.
L	Information published on website	The information is available.	No further recommendations.
M	Exercise of Public Rights	The Parish Council published the exercise of public rights notice on the website and noticeboard with the following dates: 28 June to 8 August 2024.	No further recommendations.
N	AGAR publication Requirements	The Parish Council has complied with the publication requirements for the 2023/2024 AGAR.	No further recommendations.
O	Trust funds (If applicable) – the Council met its responsibilities as a trustee	The Parish Council does not operate as a trustee.	No further recommendations.

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Transparency Compliance

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations and actions
Review of Internal audit action plan 2023/2024 has been considered and actioned?	Good Practice	The Internal Audit has been reviewed the previous year.	No further recommendations.
Accounting Statements agreed and reconciled to the Annual Return	Section 2 of the Annual Return is complete and accurate and reconciles to the statement of accounts.	Both reconcile.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	Whilst the Parish does not fall into the criteria for Councils below the £25k threshold, it is good practice to conform to the criteria and publish the items below.		
Compliance with the Transparency Code	1) Expenditure over £100 is recorded on the Council website and with all information requirements	Available in the minutes.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	2) Annual Return published on the website	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	3) Explanation of significant variances	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	4) Explanation of difference between Box 7 & 8 if applicable	No differences.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	5) Annual Governance Statement recorded	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	6) Internal Audit Report Published	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.

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Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations and actions
Compliance with the Transparency Code	7) A List of Councillors' responsibilities	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	8) Details of Public Land and Building Assets	Available on the website.	Include Deeds and Titles in Asset Register.
Compliance with the Transparency Code	9) Minutes & Agenda	Available on the website.	No further recommendations.

Further Recommendations

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations and actions
Training	Regular training for Councillors and the Clerk	Clerks has attended regular training, but a number of Councillors have not.	Councillors should attend regular training offered by OALC.
Effectiveness of IA	Review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit	A review has not been undertaken	Following the completion of the Internal Audit 2023/2024, the Council should undertake a review of effectiveness as per Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. However it is noted the Clerk is currently investigating this matter.

Theresa Goss
Internal Auditor
17 April 2025

