

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of

Ironville Parish Council DE0130

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 2018; 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.

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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.

The smaller authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 2 July 2018, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 1.

The smaller authority failed to publish the final signed AGAR by 30 September 2018, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This is as a result of the AGAR and additional documentation not being submitted for review until 28 September 2018 and the appointed auditor not having then completed the review by this date.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR:

- The prior year accounts were prepared on an income and expenditure basis, but should have been restated on a receipts and payments basis in the prior year column of Section 2 for comparative purposes.
- Section 2, Box 7 for the current year does not agree to Boxes 1+2+3-(4+5+6) because the prior year comparative column has not been restated (as noted above) and so the balance brought forward is incorrect. The figures in Section 2, Boxes 1 and 7 of the current year should read £981 and £6,096 respectively.
- The smaller authority has not fully addressed the 'except for' matter raised by the external auditor when qualifying the prior year annual return. The smaller authority has not restated the 2016/17 figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. Please note that the Practitioners' Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability.

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

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2018/19 for the exercise of public rights, since the period for the exercise of public rights did not include the first 10 working days of July. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2019/20.

The smaller authority has not provided an adequate explanation for the variance between the prior and current year values in Box 4 of Section 2

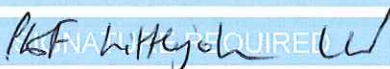
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We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

06/12/2018

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)