

HEELIS & LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

Internal Audit Report for Aldworth Parish Council – 2021/2022

The following Internal Audit was carried out on the adequacy of systems of control. The following recommendations/comments have been made:

Income: £9,715 Expenditure: £11,880 Reserves: £8,002

AGAR 2021 / 2022 Completion:

Section One: [Yes not signed](#)

Section Two: [Yes not signed](#)

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021 / 22: [Yes](#)

Certificate of Exemption: [Yes not signed](#)

Proper book-keeping Cash Book, regular reconciliation of books and bank statements. Supporting vouchers, invoices and receipts

All were found to be in order. LGAs137 and VAT payments are tracked and identified within the year-end accounts.

The cashbook is referenced providing a clear audit trail. Supporting paperwork is in place and well referenced.

Financial regulations Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Tenders
Appropriate payment controls including acting within the legal framework with reference to council minutes
Identifying VAT payments and reclamation
Cheque books, paying in books and other relevant documents

Standing Orders in place: [Yes](#)
Reviewed: [5th May 2021 \(Ref: 11/21\)](#)
Financial Regulations in place: [Yes](#)
Reviewed: [5th May 2021 \(Ref: 12/21\)](#)

VAT reclaimed during the year: [Yes](#) Registered: [No](#)

General Power of Competence: [No](#)

There were no tenders during the year that exceeded the £25,000 Public Contract Regulations threshold.

Risk Assessment

Appropriate procedures in place for the activities of the council
Compliance with Data Protection regulations

Risk Assessment document in place: Yes

Data Protection registration: Yes – ZB020004 Expiry 17/03/2023

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulations have changed and the new Regulations came into force on 25 May 2018. It is likely that this will affect the way in which the Council handles its data. Due to the financial risk associated with the General Data Protection Regulations, the Council have included this in their Risk Assessment.

Privacy Policy published: Yes

Insurance was in place for the year of audit. The Risk Assessment, including Internal Controls, were reviewed at a meeting held on 16th March 2022 (Ref: 132/22).

The Council have good internal financial controls in place. The Clerk provides financial reports to council meetings. Councillors are provided with information to enable them to make informed decisions.

The annual play area inspection has been undertaken during the year and the inspection report was reviewed at the council meeting on 16th March 2022 (Ref: 128/22).

Fidelity Cover: £150,000

The level of Fidelity cover is within the recommended guidelines of year-end balances plus 50% of the precept.

Transparency

Under the **Transparency code for smaller authorities**, smaller councils with income/expenditure under £25,000 should publish on their website from 1 April 2015:

Smaller Council: **Yes**

Website: www.aldworth-pc.gov.uk

- a) all items of expenditure above £100
Published – Yes – contained within the minutes
- b) annual governance statement (By 1 July)
2021 Annual Return, Section One Published – Yes
- c) end of year accounts (By 1 July)
2021 Annual Return, Section Two Published – Yes
- d) internal audit report (By 1 July)
2021 Annual Return, Section Four Published – Yes
- e) list of councillor or member responsibilities
Published – Yes
- f) the details of public land and building assets (By 1 July)
Published – Yes
- g) minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings
Published – Yes

The Council have met the requirements of the Transparency Code for smaller councils.

Under **The Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 9(6 & 7)** a smaller council having certified itself as an Exempt Authority must publish on their website:

Certificate of Exemption

Certificate of Exemption Published - Yes

Under **The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 15(2b)** councils must publish on their website:

Notice of period for the exercise of public rights

Published – Yes

Period of Exercise of Public Rights

Start Date 14th June 2021

End Date 23rd July 2021

Budgetary controls	<p>Verifying the budgetary process with reference to council minutes and supporting documents</p> <p>Precept: £8,000 (2021 / 2022) Date: 18th January 2021 (Ref: 8) Precept: £8,620 (2022 / 2023) Date: 12th January 2022 (Ref: 102/22).</p> <p><i>Good budgetary procedures are in place. The precept was agreed in full council and the precept decision and amount has been clearly minuted. The Clerk ensures the council are aware of responsibilities, commitments, forward planning and the need for adequate reserves. Budget papers are prepared to ensure councillors have sufficient information to make informed decisions. Budgets are monitored during the year.</i></p>
Income controls	<p>Precept and other income, including credit control mechanisms</p> <p><i>All were found to be in order. Income controls were checked and income received and banked cross-referenced with the Cash Book and bank statements.</i></p>
Petty Cash	<p>Associated books and established system in place</p> <p><i>A satisfactory expenses system is in place with supporting paperwork. No Petty Cash held.</i></p>
Payroll controls	<p>PAYE and NIC in place where necessary. Compliance with Inland Revenue procedures Records relating to contracts of employment</p> <p>PAYE System in place: Yes – PAYE Tools Employer PAYE Reference: 120/GA56980 P60's issued: Yes</p> <p><i>The Council continue to operate RTI in accordance with HMRC regulations. All supporting paperwork is in place and a P60 has been produced as part of the year-end process. The Council has not joined the LGPS / NEST pension scheme.</i></p> <p><i>It is noted that the Council undertook a review of salaries at meetings held on 16th June 2021 (Ref: 038/21) and 16th March 2022 (Ref: 133/22b).</i></p>
Asset control	<p>Inspection of asset register and checks on existence of assets Cross-checking on insurance cover</p> <p><i>A separate asset register is in place. Values are recorded at cost value. The total value of assets is recorded at £36,029.67. The figure in the asset register corresponds with the figure in Section 2, Box 9 of the AGAR.</i></p>

Bank Reconciliation	<p>Regularly completed and cash books reconcile with bank statements</p> <p><i>All were in order. Bank Reconciliations are carried out regularly. The bank statements reconciled with the end of year accounts and bank reconciliations for all accounts.</i></p> <p><i>Reconciled Bank Balance as at 31st March 2022 was confirmed as:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td><i>Unity Current</i></td> <td><i>£8,002.16</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Unity Current</i>	<i>£8,002.16</i>
<i>Unity Current</i>	<i>£8,002.16</i>		
Reserves	<p>General Reserves are reasonable for the activities of the Council Earmarked Reserves are identified</p> <p><i>The Council has general reserves (£2,162.71) which is 25% of the expenditure budget, and has identified earmarked reserves (£5,839.45) in their year-end accounts.</i></p>		
Year-end procedures	<p>Appropriate accounting procedures are used and can be followed through from working papers to final documents Verifying sample payments and income Checking creditors and debtors where appropriate.</p> <p><i>End of year accounts is prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.</i></p>		
Sole Trustee	<p>The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee</p> <p><i>The Council is not a sole trustee.</i></p>		
Internal Audit Procedures	<p><i>The 2021 Internal Audit report was considered by the Council at a meeting held on 5th Mat 2021 (Ref: 009/21a).</i></p> <p><i>A review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit was carried out on 24th November 2021 (Ref: 085/21).</i></p> <p><i>Heelis & Lodge were appointed as Internal Auditor at a meeting held on 24th November 2021 (Ref: 085/21).</i></p>		
External Audit	<p><i>The Council formally approved the AGAR at a meeting of the full Council held on 5th May 2021 (Ref: 009/21)</i></p> <p><i>The Council declared themselves Exempt from External audit for the 2020-2021 financial year.</i></p>		

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on 5th May 2021. The first item of business was the Election of Chairman, in accordance with Standing Orders.
- There are no additional comments/recommendations to make in relation to this audit.
- I would like to record my appreciation to the Clerk to the Council for the quality of documentation presented in the Audit File.

Dave Crimmin

Dave Crimmin PSLCC

Heelis & Lodge

12th April 2022

HEELIS&LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

www.heelisandlodge.co.uk

INVOICE

To:

Aldworth Parish Council
Swimbrels
Newbury Hill
Hampstead Norreys
Thatcham
Berks RG18 0TR

Invoice No: HLD2102

Date: 12th April 2022

Details	Quantity	Amount (£)	Total (£)
To carry out Year-end Internal Audit for Aldworth Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022.	1	90.00	90.00
Pick-up and return courier service	0.5	30.00	15.00
Total			105.00

Please make cheques payable to: Heelis & Lodge

Bank Details: Account 02539349 Sort Code 72-00-00

Terms – 30 days

Thank you.

HEELIS&LODGE

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