

Review and adopt – The Annual governance statement – AGAR Section 1

(The Council is required to review each and every statement in the Annual governance statement. This requires proper consideration and an assessment of the risks.)

Consequently, the following Motion restating the Annual governance statement with a conclusion is to be tabled.

We acknowledge as the members of Lackford Parish Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for 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 2020, that:

1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. Meaning that this authority 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. Meaning that this authority 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 authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. Meaning that this authority 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. Meaning that this authority during the year has given 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 authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. Meaning that this authority considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and 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. Meaning that this authority 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 authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. Meaning that this authority 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 authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements. Meaning that this authority disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

In conclusion, Lackford Parish Council consider that this detailed review, in conjunction with the review and assessment of risks carried out at the March meeting and, having regard for the size, nature and the way the Council conducts its business with the financial controls that are in place, the insurance cover and the internal audit, all contribute towards a thorough, detailed and sound system of internal control, which is adequate, effective and wholly appropriate for the affairs of Lackford Parish Council.

❖ **Moved by**
Seconded by
Council members to approve the motion