

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2023/24

In respect of

Copmanthorpe Parish Council – NY0138

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

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 2024; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2023/24

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 AGAR has not been approved in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015:

- A blank AGAR was approved during the AGAR approval meeting.

Section 1, Assertion 1 has been incorrectly completed as an adequate budgetary process has not been in place during the financial year.

Information has come to our attention highlighting the fact that the smaller authority has used the same email account for two smaller authorities. We note this is in the process of being changed.

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

In the completion of the Annual Internal Audit Report, and their detailed report, the internal auditor has drawn attention to significant weaknesses in relation to Internal Control Objectives A, C, D, F, H, I, J, and L. The smaller authority must ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.

3 External auditor certificate 2023/24

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 2024.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

16/09/2024

Copmanthorpe Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2024

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

<p>1. The audit of accounts for Copmanthorpe Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been completed and the accounts have been published.</p> <p>2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of Copmanthorpe Parish Council on application to:</p> <p>(a) <u>MRS P D GREENWELL</u> <u>CLERK TO COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL</u> <u>THE GRANARY, MILL LANE,</u> <u>BIKHAM RICHARD, YORK YO23 3NW</u></p> <p>(b) <u>10.00 am - 4.00 pm</u></p> <p>3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £ <u>5</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.</p> <p>Announcement made by: (d) <u>P D GREENWELL</u> <u>CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Date of announcement: (e) <u>5 OCTOBER 2024</u></p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for: the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.</p> <p>(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR</p> <p>(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised</p> <p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p> <p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice</p> <p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice</p>
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