

APPENDIX 5

Poslingford Parish Council PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2017

Local Audit And Accountability Act 2014
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

Poslingford Parish Council's annual return needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts and other documents relating to those records or documents.

These documents for Poslingford Parish Council are to be made available on reasonable notice by application between the hours of 17.00 and 20.00 on working days (excluding public holidays).

Commencing on 05 June 2017
And
Ending on 14 July 2017

If you wish to view them then please contact the named smaller authority representative:

Name C R TURNER
Position in Smaller Authority Parish Clerk
Address 1 THE MARTLETS
HIGH STREET
CAVENDISH CO10 8AZ

Phone number 01787 280943

Local electors and their representatives have rights to question the auditor about the accounts and object to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. The auditor can be contacted at the address below for this purpose during the inspection period which commences on 05 June 2017 and ends on 14 July 2017.

The smaller authority's annual return is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice.

The appointed auditor of Poslingford Parish Council is:

BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3TL
Telephone: 023 8088 1941

POSLINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL 2016/17 ACCOUNTS

Balance b/f £6624.12

Income Received

Precept/Grants	£3730.00 (3497/233)
Cemetery Fees	£50.00
VAT refund	£301.12

Total £4081.12

Total £10705.24

Less Payments

Clerks Wages	£932.60
PAYE	£457.80
Accountancy	£138.00
Subscriptions	£127.56
Grass Cutting	£1587.50
Royal British Legion	£25.00
VAT Paid	£139.53
Parish Insurance	£147.66
Donations	£50.00
Website Cost	£50.00
Cost of Salt bins- Replaced	£326.02
BBQ -Capital Item	£204.12
Village BBQ Costs	£59.38
Hall Hire	£64.00
Installation of new bins	£390.00
Leaflets	£12.50
Total	£4711.67

Balance to c/f £5993.57

(NB Deficit in year £630.55)

Bank Account Reconciliation

Balance as at 31st March 2017 £5993.57

less o/s cheques
nil

Net £5993.57

These accounts are unaudited and subject to change.

[Signature]
Parish Clerk

Asset Register

Assets held by Poslingford PC - 2016/17

War Memorial- Nom £1

Seats £1510 Purchased ? /In Churchyard

Grit Bins x 3 £956- 2 replaced 2016/17 at a cost of £716. Bottom of
New House Lane/ Hillside/The Street(nr. Hill Cottage)

Notice Board x2 £1000 By phone Box and Hillside

Village Sign £250 Centre of village near phone box

Dog Bag Disp x2 £110 Located at Hillside and Churchyard

Laptop £262 Held at Parish Clerks property, Purchased 2015/16

BBQ £204- Purchased 2016/17 Located at Chairmans lock up

TOTAL £4292

APPENDIX 6

Councils' Accounts: A Summary of Electors' Rights

The basic position

By law any person interested has the right to inspect a smaller authority's accounts. If you are entitled and registered to vote in local council elections then you (or your representative) also have the right to ask the appointed auditor questions about the smaller authority's accounts or object to an item of account contained within them.

The right to inspect the accounts

When your smaller authority has finalised its accounts for the previous financial year it must make them available for inspection. Smaller authorities must tell the public including advertising this on their website that the accounts and related documents are available to inspect. You then have 30 working days to look through the accounting statements in the annual return and any supporting documents. The 30 day period must include a common period of inspection, the first 10 working days of July during which all smaller authorities accounts are available to inspect. This will be 3-14 July 2017 for 2016/17 accounts. By arrangement you will be able to inspect and make copies of the accounts and the relevant documents. You may have to pay a copying charge.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounts

You can only ask the appointed auditor questions about the accounts. The auditor does not have to answer questions about the smaller authority's policies, finances, procedures or anything else not related to the accounts. Your question must be about the accounts for the financial year just ended. The auditor does not have to say whether they think something the smaller authority has done, or an item in its accounts, is lawful or reasonable. You can only ask the auditor questions during the period for the exercise of public rights.

The right to object to the accounts

If you think that the smaller authority has spent money that they shouldn't have, or that someone has caused a loss to the smaller authority deliberately or by behaving irresponsibly, you can object to an item of account by sending a formal 'notice of objection' to the auditor, to the address below. The notice must be in writing. In it you must tell the auditor why you are objecting and what you want the auditor to do about it. The auditor must reach a decision on your objection. If you are not happy with that decision, you can appeal to the courts.

You may also object if you think that there is something in the accounts that the auditor should discuss with the smaller authority or tell the public about in a 'public interest report'. **You must give your reasons in writing** to the auditor at the address below and send a copy to the smaller authority no later than the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. The auditor must then decide whether to take any action. The auditor does not have to, but usually will, give reasons for their decision and you cannot appeal to the courts.

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take these complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or a solicitor.

What else you can do

Instead of objecting, you can give the auditor information that is relevant to their responsibilities. For example, you can simply tell the auditor if you think that something is wrong with the accounts or about waste and inefficiency in the way the smaller authority runs its services. You do not have to follow any set time limits or procedures. The auditor does not have to give you a detailed report of their investigation, but they will usually tell you the outcome.

A final word

Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, must meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward further, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the costs that will be involved. They will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. If you appeal to the courts, against an auditor's decision, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication **Local Authority Accounts - a guide to your rights** are available from the National Audit Office's website.

If you wish to contact your smaller authority's appointed external auditor please write to: BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 3TL.

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

POSLINGFORD Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2017, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that this smaller authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		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.	✓		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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		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.	✓		during the year gave 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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has 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.	✓		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 smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		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 smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.		Yes No NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
		✓	

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

31st May 2017

and recorded as minute reference:

no 7 (a)

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

James Ruddle

Clerk:

3/5/2017

*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.