

Internal Audit Report
For
Thorpe Market Parish Council
Financial Year 2023-24

Prepared by
R M Calvert
16 April 2024

I have completed an internal audit of the accounts for Thorpe Market Parish Council for the year ending 31 March 2024

I would like to thank the Clerk/RFO for providing me with all the information required for the Internal Audit.

Internal control	Test	Observations
Proper bookkeeping	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	Yes
	Is the cashbook arithmetically correct?	Yes
	Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	Yes
Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and payment controls	Has the council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations?	Yes
	Date Standing Orders last reviewed	September 2022
	Date Financial Regulations last reviewed	September 2022
	Has a Responsible finance officer been appointed with specific duties?	Yes
	Have items or services above the de minimus amount been competitively purchased?	Yes
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by purchase orders, invoices, authorised and minuted?	Yes
	Have legal powers been identified for purchases	
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	Yes, VAT for 2023-24 identified and recorded and to be claimed in 2023-24
	Is s137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits?	N/A
	Have S137 payments been approved and included in the minutes as such?	N/A
Risk management arrangements	Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	No
	Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment or review of their risk management scheme?	Annual review completed for presentation at Annual Meeting 2024

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	Yes
	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	Yes
Budgetary controls	Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept and has this been minuted as being approved?	Yes – November 2022
	Has the precept been calculated from the budget and been approved?	Yes
	Does the budget include an actual completed year?	Not seen
	Is actual expenditure against budget regularly reported to the council?	Yes
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	No
Income controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	Yes
	Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	Yes
	Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	Yes
Petty cash procedures	Is all petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts?	N/A
	Is petty cash expenditure reported to each council meeting?	N/A
	Is petty cash reimbursement carried out regularly?	N/A
Payroll controls	Do all employees have contracts of employment with clear terms and conditions?	Yes
	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	Salary last reviewed September 2022. It should be reviewed annually
	Are salaries above the National Living Wage/Minimum Wage?	Yes
	Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	Yes
	Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an	Yes

Internal control	Test	Observations
	employer?	
Asset controls	Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	Yes
	Where appropriate, are these inspected annually	Yes
	Are the assets and Investments registers up to date? When were these last reviewed?	Yes
	Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	Yes
Bank reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account and is this reported to council?	Yes
	Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion?	Yes
	Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	No
	Are year-end accounts prepared using the correct accounting basis (Receipts and Payments or Income and Expenditure)?	Yes
Year-end procedures	Do accounts agree with the cash book?	Yes
	Has a year-end bank reconciliation been undertaken?	Yes
	Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	Yes
	Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?	N/A
	Have the minutes been signed by the chairman	Originals not seen
Procedural	Has the chairman initialled each page of the Minutes book	Originals not seen.
	Has the chairman signed the year end bank reconciliation	Chair signs the bank reconciliation regularly at each meeting
	Is eligibility for the General Power of Competence properly evidenced?	Not adopted
	Have points raised on the last Internal Audit report been considered by council?	Yes

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Minutes for whole year on website?	Yes
Transparency: For smaller councils with turnover under £25,000	Agendas for whole year on website?	Yes
	Payments over £100 on website?	Yes
	Electors' rights advertised on website?	Yes
	Councillors' responsibilities detailed on website?	Yes
	Last financial year's Annual Return on website?	Yes
	Land and building assets details on website? (Description, location, owner/leaseholder, date and cost of acquisition and present use)	Assets List at April 2023 on website
	Has a list of allotment holders with amounts paid to Council been submitted?	N/A
Allotments	Have fees for the allotments been reviewed and agreed by Council?	N/A
	Have Charities reported and accounted separately?	N/A

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Signed

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Date