

Model Internal Control Statement and Report to Council. This document should be tailored to meet the needs of your Council particularly where [] are shown.

## Wickhambrook Parish Council

### INTERNAL CONTROL REPORT

The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 aims to strengthen governance and accountability through requirements related to internal control and internal audit.

Whilst the Parish Council has reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit (independence, competence, proportionate and scope), it has a requirement levied on it to ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control: -

'The regulations require active participation by members in providing positive assurance to the electors of their stewardship of public money. The framework of accountability is risk-based i.e. level of control and management must be appropriate to the risk involved. The Council must determine the most appropriate method of internal control.... care should be taken to ensure that internal control tests are proportionate and relevant and that they are neither seen as, nor intended as, undue interference in the RFO's day to day management of financial affairs.'

As part of its internal control, Wickhambrook Parish Council has appointed a non-signatory Councillor to conduct a review of the system of internal control via the following tests on a quarterly basis with a written report of any findings to be submitted to the Council and minuted as received.

New items highlighted in yellow.

<b>CONTROL TEST</b>	<b>TEST DONE</b> Yes or No	<b>COMMENTS – check documents and initial</b>
Ensuring an up-to-date Register of Assets	Yes	<a href="#">See website</a> New items purchased – Consumables, storage. Update of register, including removal of items no longer in use Premium of £138 Asset Register checked in advance of taking up parish council insurance
Regular maintenance arrangement for physical assets	Yes	All play equipment, cemetery & churchyard, greens etc inspected regularly by councillors and lay members and play equipment monthly by West Suffolk and actions reviewed at Estates Committee Play inspection training completed in July '24 Replacement play equipment consumables ordered and fitted

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		Installation of replacement grass tiles and new feet for swing set at Bury Road on order
Annual review of risk and the adequacy of Insurance cover	Yes	Insurance – Feb '25 Min. 25.02.09.3 Risk – Jan '25 Min. 25.01.9.2
Annual review of financial risk	Yes	April '25 for April report WPC.25.04.06
Awareness of Standing Orders and Financial regulations	Yes	Reviewed and updated annually taking into account NALC updated Financial Regs and Model Standing Orders at AMPC in May (Min. 25.04.7 refers)
Adoption of <a href="#">Financial</a> and <a href="#">Standing Orders</a>	Yes	Reviewed May '25 – Min ref 25.04.07 Next Review May '26

Regular reporting on performance by contractors	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> walk round with grounds contractor to be completed May  Phone & e-mail catch up with contractor
Annual review of contracts (where appropriate)	Yes	Grounds Contract – November '24 Min. 24.11.15 – RH Landscapes and Maintenance Review of specification for 25/26 contract scheduled for July meetings. Estates reviewed draft specification at its July meeting (Min. WPC.EC.25.07.11)
Regular bank reconciliation, independently reviewed	Yes	Monthly
Regular scrutiny of financial records and proper arrangements for the approval of expenditure	Yes	Pre-authorised payments reported at each meeting and reviewed by view only councillors
Recording in the minutes or appendices of the minutes the precise powers under which expenditure is being approved	Yes	Recorded in report supporting proposal for expenditure.
Payments supported by invoices, authorised and minuted	Yes	Yes, all pre-authorised payments reported to next meeting with copies of invoices for counter-signing. For shop purchases, scan and save receipts as soon as possible after purchase.
Regular scrutiny of income records to ensure income is correctly received, recorded and banked	Yes	Income reported to each meeting
Scrutiny to ensure precept recorded in the cashbook agrees to District Council notification	Yes	Checked on notification from District Authority that precept paid.

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Contracts of employment for staff	Yes	
Contract annually reviewed	Yes	As part of report on Annual Pay Award
Updating records to record changes in relevant legislation	Yes	
PAYE/NIC properly operated by the Council as an employer	Yes	Note moved to SALC Feb'22
VAT correctly accounted for VAT payments identified, recorded and reclaimed in the cashbook	Yes	Corporate Multipay Card (Min 22.09.11.6) applied for, approved and now issued.
Regular <a href="#">financial reporting</a> to Parish Council	Yes	At each parish council meeting
Regular budget monitoring statements as reported to Parish Council	Yes	As above
Compliance with DCLG Guide Open & Accountable Local Government 2014, Part 4:	Yes	Payments over £500 now reported online Quarterly.
Officer Decision Reports		Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min. Ref. 25.01.10.5</li> <li>• Min. Ref. 25.02.10.5</li> <li>• Min. Ref. 25.04.12.5</li> <li>• Min. Ref. 25.05.20.5</li> </ul>
Compliance with Local Transparency Code Of 2015: Items of expenditure incurred over £500	Yes	<a href="#">See website</a> Q's 1, 2, 3 & 4 '24.25 published Q1 25-26 Published
Verifying that the Council is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation requirements  Are the following in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit / Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Privacy Notices</li> <li>• Procedures for dealing with Subject Access Requests</li> <li>• Procedure for dealing with Data breaches</li> <li>• Data Retention &amp; Disposal Policies</li> </ul>	Yes  Yes  Yes	
Minutes properly numbered and paginated with a master copy kept in for safekeeping	Yes	

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Procedures in place for recording and monitoring Members' Interests and Gifts of Hospitality	Yes	
Adoption of Codes of Conduct for Members	Yes	<u>revised code of conduct adopted May '24</u>
Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Yes	

Date of review of system of Internal Controls: 21/07/2025

Review of system of Internal Controls carried out by:

Name: **Mike Lavelle**

Signature.....

Report submitted to Council

(date) 31.07.25

(minute reference) ..... 25.07.10.7.

Next review of system of Internal Controls due: September 2025

Additional comments by reviewer: