

Name of Smaller authority: PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION
OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY
RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)**

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>2nd June 2025</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review.</p> <p>Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2025, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</p> <p>(b) <u>Don Hill - Parish Clerk</u> <u>18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Rd, Yatton BS49 4JG</u> <u>clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk</u></p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>3rd June 2025</u></p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>14th July 2025</u></p> <p>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and• The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. <p>The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.</p> <p>4. The smaller authority's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed auditor is:</p> <p>BDO LLP Arcadia House Maritime Walk Ocean Village Southampton SO14 3TL ✉ councilaudits@bdo.co.uk</p> <p>Don Hill Clerk to the Council & Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (e) <u>Responsible Financial Officer</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below</p> <p>(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts</p> <p>(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.</p> <p>(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority</p>

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including local councils, internal drainage boards and 'other' smaller authorities.

The basic position

The [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (the Act) governs the work of auditors appointed to smaller authorities. This summary explains the provisions contained in Sections 26 and 27 of the Act. The Act and the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) also cover the duties, responsibilities and rights of smaller authorities, other organisations and the public concerning the accounts being audited.

As a local elector, or an interested person, you have certain legal rights in respect of the accounting records of smaller authorities. As an interested person you can inspect accounting records and related documents. If you are a local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate you can also ask questions about the accounts and object to them. You do not have to pay directly for exercising your rights. However, any resulting costs incurred by the smaller authority form part of its running costs. Therefore, indirectly, local residents pay for the cost of you exercising your rights through their council tax.

The right to inspect the accounting records

Any interested person can inspect the accounting records, which includes but is not limited to local electors. You can inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records. You can copy all, or part, of these records or documents. Your inspection must be about the accounts, or relate to an item in the accounts. You cannot, for example, inspect or copy documents unrelated to the accounts, or that include personal information (Section 26 (6) – (10) of the Act explains what is meant by personal information). You cannot inspect information which is protected by commercial confidentiality. This is information which would prejudice commercial confidentiality if it was released to the public and there is not, set against this, a very strong reason in the public interest why it should nevertheless be disclosed.

When smaller authorities have finished preparing accounts for the financial year and approved them, they must publish them (including on a website). There must be a 30 working day period, called the 'period for the exercise of public rights', during which you can exercise your statutory right to inspect the accounting records. Smaller authorities must tell the public, including advertising this on their website, that the accounting records and related documents are available to inspect. By arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records. You may have to pay a copying charge. The 30 working day period must include a common period of inspection during which all smaller authorities' accounting records are available to inspect. This will be 1-14 July 2025 for 2024-25 accounts. The advertisement must set out the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights, how you can communicate to the smaller authority that you wish to inspect the accounting records and related documents, the name and address of the auditor, and the relevant legislation that governs the inspection of accounts and objections.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records

You should first ask your smaller authority about the accounting records, since they hold all the details. If you are a local elector, your right to ask questions of the external auditor is enshrined in law. However, while the auditor will answer your questions where possible, they are not always obliged to do so. For example, the question might be better answered by another organisation, require investigation beyond the auditor's remit, or involve disproportionate cost (which is borne by the local taxpayer). Give your smaller authority the opportunity first to explain anything in the accounting records that you are unsure about. If you are not satisfied with their explanation, you can question the external auditor about the accounting records.

The law limits the time available for you formally to ask questions. This must be done in the period for the exercise of public rights, so let the external auditor know your concern as soon as possible. The

advertisement or notice that tells you the accounting records are available to inspect will also give the period for the exercise of public rights during which you may ask the auditor questions, which here means formally asking questions under the Act. You can ask someone to represent you when asking the external auditor questions.

Before you ask the external auditor any questions, inspect the accounting records fully, so you know what they contain. Please remember that you cannot formally ask questions, under the Act, after the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. You may ask your smaller authority other questions about their accounts for any year, at any time. But these are not questions under the Act.

You can ask the external auditor questions about an item in the accounting records for the financial year being audited. However, your right to ask the external auditor questions is limited. The external auditor can only answer 'what' questions, not 'why' questions. The external auditor cannot answer questions about policies, finances, procedures or anything else unless it is directly relevant to an item in the accounting records. Remember that your questions must always be about facts, not opinions. To avoid misunderstanding, we recommend that you always put your questions in writing.

The right to make objections at audit

You have inspected the accounting records and asked your questions of the smaller authority. Now you may wish to object to the accounts on the basis that an item in them is in your view unlawful or there are matters of wider concern arising from the smaller authority's finances. A local government elector can ask the external auditor to apply to the High Court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, or to issue a report on matters which are in the public interest. You must tell the external auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you think the item is unlawful, or why you think that a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide the external auditor with the evidence you have to support your objection. Disagreeing with income or spending does not make it unlawful. To object to the accounts you must write to the external auditor stating you want to make an objection, including the information and evidence below and you must send a copy to the smaller authority. The notice must include:

- confirmation that you are an elector in the smaller authority's area;
- why you are objecting to the accounts and the facts on which you rely;
- details of any item in the accounts that you think is unlawful; and
- details of any matter about which you think the external auditor should make a public interest report.

Other than it must be in writing, there is no set format for objecting. You can only ask the external auditor to act within the powers available under the [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#).

A final word

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take such complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor. Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the cost that will be involved, they will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. They may also decide not to consider an objection if they think that it is frivolous or vexatious, or if it repeats an objection already considered. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision not to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on public rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication [Local authority accounts: A guide to your rights](#) are available from the NAO website.

If you wish to contact your authority's appointed external auditor please write to the address in paragraph 4 of the *Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return*.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH BDO LLP

To be completed annually and minuted at a meeting of the smaller authority.

Name of Smaller Authority	PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
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- ☒ I confirm that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.
- ☐ I confirm the following conflicts of interest (please detail below:

This was confirmed and minuted at the following meeting:

Date of Meeting	Minute Reference
4th April 2025	025/25 iii

Signed (Clerk/RFO)

Print Name

Donald Hill

Signed (Chair)

Print Name

Lynda Redding

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Form 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure **does not exceed** £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption **are able to declare themselves exempt** from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review **provided** the authority **completes**:
 - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2025**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2)** which is made up of:
 - c) **Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4)** must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - d) **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - e) **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** must be completed and approved by the authority. **NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.**
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement **before** approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2025**.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3
- **Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25**, page 4
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25**, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2024/25 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be **£210 +VAT**.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2025. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2025**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2024) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2025).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2025**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?		
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?		
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?		
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?		
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2025 been reconciled to Box 8?		
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (<i>Local Councils only</i>)		

***Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices**, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/25 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2025, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2025 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2025** notifying the external auditor.

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2024/25, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year **or** total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2024/25: **£16352**

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2024/25: **£14392**

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority **is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£210 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2021
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2023/24), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2025.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Donald Hill

Date

04/04/2025

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

04/04/2025

Signed by Chair

Lynda Redding

Date

04/04/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

025/25 iv

Generic email address of Authority

clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Telephone number

07774 125578

*Published web address

puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2025. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

28/02/2025 18/04/2025

PHILIP JOHN SMITH

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

18/04/2025

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

PUXTON 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 2025, that:

	Agreed		Yes' means that this 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.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>	
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>	
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>	
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>	
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>	
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>	
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>	
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>	
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	N/A	<i>has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>
			✓	

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

01/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

039/25

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Lynda Redding

Chair

Clerk

Donald Hill

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes ☒ No ☐

ENTER PUBLIC PAGE ADDRESS puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	14014	11485	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	10082	10871	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	5481	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	4284	4699	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	8327	9693	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	11485	13445	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	11485	13445	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	42744	49531	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Donald Hill

14/04/2025

Date

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

01/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

041/25 d)

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Lynda Redding

Puxton Parish Council Internal Audit Check List

Puxton Parish Council Internal Audit Report Covering the Year Prior to April 2025				
Internal Control	Test	Yes	No	Comments
Proper Bookkeeping	Is the Cashbook maintained & up to date	x		
	Is the Cashbook arithmetically correct	x		
	Is the Cashbook regularly balanced	x		
Standing Orders & Financial Regulations adopted & applied	Has the Council formally adopted standing orders & financial regulations	x		NALC Model Adopted 5/20 & Agreed 6/24 Min 053/24
	Has a Responsible Officer been appointed with specified duties	x		Clerk is appointed as per contract of employment
Payment controls	Have items or services above a set amount been competitively purchased	N/A		No items noted in review year
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by invoices, authorised & minuted			
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded & reclaimed	x		Reclaimed & Received 14th Oct
	Is S137 expenditure separately recorded & within statutory limits	N/A		All claims under £100 are rejected
Risk Management	Does a scan of minutes identify any unusual financial activity		x	
	Do the minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment for all appropriate activities and locations	x		Comprehensive Risk Review Report maintained See Web Site
	Is insurance cover appropriate & adequate	x		
	Are internal financial controls documented & regularly reviewed	x		
Budgetary Controls	Has the Council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept	x		Approved 1/24 - 006/24 iii
	Is actual expenditure against the budget regularly reported to the Council	x		Budget Reviewed 12/23
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from the budget		x	
Income Controls	Is income properly recorded & promptly banked	x		
	Does the precept recorded in the cashbook agree to the District Council's notification	x		
	Are security controls over cash adequate & effective	N/A		

Puxton Parish Council Internal Audit Check List

Internal Control	Suggested Test	Yes	No	Comments
Petty Cash Procedures	Is all petty cash spent recorded & supported by VAT invoices or receipts Is petty cash expenditure reported to each Council meeting Is petty cash reimbursement carried out regularly		N/A	
Payroll Controls	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by Council Are other payments to the Clerk reasonable & approved by the Council Has PAYE & NIC been properly operated by the Council as an employer Auto enrolment process completed	x x		
Asset Controls	Does the Council keep an asset register of all material assets owned Are the asset & investment registers up to date Do asset insurance valuations agreed with those in the asset register	x x x		Loan to Puxton & Hewish VH recorded as LTI as repayment only due under certain conditions. Reviewed 03/24 - 019/24
Bank Reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account Is the bank reconciliation carried out regularly on receipt of statements Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation	x x		Regularly presented to Council
Year End Procedures	Are year end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis - Receipts/Payments or Income & Expenditure Do accounts agree with the cash book Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts Where appropriate have debtors & creditors been properly recorded	x x N/A		
Based on my checks, carried out and reported as above, in my opinion the Council's accounts for the Financial Year 31st March 2025 have been well managed and present a fair and accurate picture of the Parish Council's activities.				
Confirmed 18/04/2025				
Philip J Smith ACIB Cert ITCM - Internal Auditor for Puxton Parish Council				

Puxton Parish Council Asset Register - 2016 - 2023

Year	Item	Quantity	Unit Value (£)	Book Value (£)	Location	Notes
	No Register Before 2016					
@ 31/03/16	Acer Laptop	1	400	400	Hall (no evidence of purchase to 1990)	
	Printer	1	80	80	Hall	
	Flower Planters	4	500	2000	PO Lay-by & Entries	
	Grit Bins	2	150	300	Wick side of Rail Bridge & East Hewish Lane	
	Noticeboard	1	980	980	Village Green	
	Projector	1	300	300	Hall	
	Film Screen	1	80	80	Hall	
	Public Bench	1	500	500	Village Green	
	SpeedWatch Gun	1	191	191	Jim Howard's	See min 121/15
				4831		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/16
@31/03/17	Public Bench (missed from 2016)	1	500	500	Wick Lane/The Grange	
				5331		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/17
@31/03/18	Acer Laptop Write Off	1	-400	-400	To tip - disk casing & disk destroyed	
	Apple Mini Computer	1	399	399		
	Printer	1	-80	-80		
				5250		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/18
@31/03/19	Filing Cabinet	1	122	122	Hall	
				5372		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/19
@31/03/20	No write offs or additions	-		5372		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/20
@31/03/21	Flower Planters	4	-500	-2000		
	Projector	1	-300	-300		
	Film Screen	1	-80	-80		
				2992		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/21
@31/03/22	No write offs or additions			2992		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/22
01/07/2022	* St Annes School Car Park	1		1		
July 2022	Hewish & Puxton Village Hall 1st Charge	1		40000		
@31/03/22	Amended Asset Value to carry forward as at the end of the Financial year 2021-22			42993		AMENDED AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/22
January 2023	Grit bins	2	150	300	A370 side of Rail Bridge	
	Apple Mini Computer	1	-399	-399		
March 2023	Grit bins	1	-150	-150		
@31/03/23				42744		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/23

AMENDED AUDIT FIGURE FOR 2021-22 ACCOUNTS DUE TO CHANGED TREATMENT OF TWO ITEMS

Puxton Parish Council also has two 'notional' property assets that have been recorded here but not included as assets on the above register, and not, therefore, on the AGAR Section 2 report that forms the financial section of our annual audit papers. These items are:

1. The Car Park attached to St Anne's School - per deed (on office file).

On external auditor's advice in July 2022 this is to be recognised as an asset to the value of £1.00

2. The Hewish & Puxton Community Fund - During 2016, funds of £40,000 were advanced to Hewish and Puxton Village Hall Ltd in the form of a no-interest, no-repayment first charge (mortgage) on the assets of the Hall, towards the purchase of the freehold of Hewish and Puxton Village Hall per deed (on office file). The only circumstances under which the terms of this charge would be triggered would be if, for whatever reason, the Hall were to cease operating and realised its assets.

On external auditor's advice in July 2022 this is to be recognised as an asset to the value of £40,000

The asset values of items 1 & 2 above have accordingly been included in the Asset Register above per the amendment in red.

Puxton Parish Council Asset Register - 2023 - 20..

Year	Item	Quantity	Unit Value (£)	Book Value (£)	Location	Notes
B/f	Opening Assets @ 01/04/23					
@ 31/03/23	Grit Bins	3	£150.00	£450.00	Either side of Rail Bridge & East Hewish Lane	
	Noticeboard	1	£980.00	£980.00	Village Green	
	Public Bench	2	£500.00	£1000.00	Village Green & Wick Lane	
	SpeedWatch Gun	1	£191.00	£191.00	Jim Howard's	** See min 121/15
	Filing Cabinet	1	£122.00	£122.00	Hall	
	St Annes School Car Park	1	£1.00	£1.00		
	Hewish & Puxton Village Hall 1st Charge	1	£40000.00	£40000.00		
				£42744.00		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/23
@ 31/03/24	No additions or write offs occurred during the financial year			£42744.00		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/24
/11/2024	Speed Indicator Device (SID) kit		£6978.00	£6978.00	6 NSC approved sites in parish	
	SpeedWatch Gun	1	-£191.00	-£191.00		
				£49531.00		AUDIT FIGURE - @ 31/03/25

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE: 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025 (Precept £10871.00)

DATE	ITEM	BANK CH	IN	OUT	BALANCE	Stmnt	NOTES	Clerk	Clk/Cltr Exp	Hall Hire	Parish Maint	Ins/Subs Audit	Pub-licity	Other Costs	Web Site	Bank Chrgs	TOTALS	VAT	OPERATING FUNDS			
2024		Minute																	Election Pro	Capital Prov	General Fund	Total Op Funds
-2025																						
Apr 1	Funds Bought Forward				11,485.24														1830.14	5401.00	4254.10	11485.24
	OPERATING BAL B/F				11,485.24		Agrees												1,830.14	5,401.00	4,254.10	11485.24
Apr 18	ALCA Sub 2023-24	BACS		114.19	11,371.05	130						114.19					114.19				114.19	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	11,031.15	131		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	11,008.23	131				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	NSC half year precept	BACS	5435.50		16,443.73	131											0.00	150.00	500.00		4,785.50	
	Bank Charges			5.00	16,438.73	131	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
May 9	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	16,415.81	132				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	P Smith re Internal Audit	BACS		50.00	16,365.81	132						50.00					50.00				50.00	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	16,025.91	132		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
May 30	Bank Charges			5.00	16,020.91	132										5.00	5.00				5.00	
Jun 6					16,020.91	132											0.00				0.00	
	BDO External Audit Complaint	BACS		900.00	15,120.91	132						900.00					900.00	150.00			900.00	
	HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun	BACS		229.20	14,891.71	132	Agrees	229.20									229.20				229.20	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	14,551.81	133		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	14,528.89	133				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	Bank Charges			5.00	14,523.89	133	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
Jul 4	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	14,183.99	134		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	14,161.07	134				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	Bank Charges			5.00	14,156.07	134	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
Aug 1	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	13,816.17	135		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	13,793.25	135	Agrees			22.92							22.92				22.92	
	Police Speed Indicator Grant	Ch	5000.00		18,793.25	135											0.00				5,000.00	
	Bank Charges			5.00	18,788.25	135										5.00	5.00				5.00	
Sep 5	ICO Annual Fee	DD		35.00	18,753.25	136						35.00					35.00				35.00	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	18,413.35	136		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	18,390.43	136				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	HMRC PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep	BACS		229.20	18,161.23	135		229.20									229.20				229.20	
	NSC half year precept	BACS	5435.50		23,596.73	135	Agrees										0.00	150.00	500.00		4,785.50	
	Bank Charges			5.80	23,590.93	136	Agrees									5.80	5.80				5.80	
Oct 3	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	23,251.03	137		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	23,228.11	137				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	VAT Refund 1/4/22 to 31/3/24		480.63		23,708.74	137	Agrees										0.00				480.63	
	Bank Charges			5.00	23,703.74	137	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
Nov 7	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	23,363.84	138		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	23,340.92	138				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	Bank Charges			5.00	23,335.92	138	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
Dec 5	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	22,996.02	138		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	22,973.10	138				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec	BACS		230.03	22,743.07	139		230.03									230.03				230.03	
	Speed Indicator Device (SID)	278		6978.00	15,765.07	139	Agrees				6,978.00						6,978.00	1,163.00			6,978.00	
	Bank Charges			5.00	15,760.07	139										5.00	5.00				5.00	
Jan 2	Vision/TC Annual Service Fee	BACS		185.26	15,574.81	139	Agrees								185.26		185.26	30.88			185.26	
	Bank Charges (40p for ch 278)			5.40	15,569.41	140										5.40	5.40				5.40	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	15,229.51	140		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	15,206.59	140				22.92							22.92				22.92	
Feb 6	ALCA Chairs Course	BACS		45.00	15,161.59	140	Agrees							45.00			45.00				45.00	
	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	14,821.69	141		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	14,798.77	141	Agrees			22.92							22.92				22.92	
	Bank Charges			5.00	14,793.77	141	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00	
Mar 6	Clerks Pay & Expenses	SO		339.90	14,453.87	RT		305.60	34.30								339.90				339.90	
	Clerks Overtime re min 006/25ii	BACS		91.80	14,362.07	141		91.80									91.80				91.80	
	Hall Hire	SO		22.92	14,339.15	RT				22.92							22.92				22.92	
	HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb/Mar	BACS		252.00	14,087.15	141		252.00									252.00				252.00	
	H Riddell for litter picking kit	BACS		40.97	14,046.18	141					40.97						40.97	6.83			40.97	

RT in the Statement Col = Recent Transaction per online statement

Notes:

- * The 2024-25 budget figures were not transferred to this sheet until October 2025 The matching approved budget can be found as appendix 1 of the January 2024 minutes on the website.
- * The Parish Maintenance total at Col L includes £5000 income above at Aug 1 above in the form of a Police Grant.

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
CURRENT ACCOUNT BANK RECONCILIATION - page 1
BEING THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FROM 1ST APRIL 2024 - 31ST MARCH 2025

	2024-25	2023-24		2024-25	2023-24
INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	HSBC		EXPENDITURE		
Precept	10871	10082	Clerk's pay	4699	4284
Other Income	5481	0	Hall Hire	275	275
Interest	0	0	Training	45	0
TOTAL INCOME		16352	Insurance	300	245
Add Funds Bought Forward	11485	14014	Cllr/Clerk Expenses	412	412
Deduct Clerk's Pay for Year	-4699	-4284	Subscriptions	149	143
Deduct Other Expenses Paid Out	-9693	-8327	Donations	0	0
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR		13445	Asset Purchases	6978	0
			Other Purchases		5519
			Audit	950	50
			Website	185	183
			Election Admin	0	0
			Parish Maintenance	338	1440
			Bank Charges	61	60
			Total Expenditure	14392	12611
BANK RECONCILIATION					
Balances per Accounts @31st March	13445	11485			
Plus Un-presented Cheques @ 31st March	0	0			
Balances per Bank Statements @ 31st March	13445	11485			

The Council is not VAT registered

Assets Register: Asset Book Total is per per the accompanying Register

The Council handles no cash, so there is no cash book

Approved by the Parish Council

Signed.....
Chairman **Lynda Redding**

Signed.....
Clerk **Donald Hill**

Date.....**15/25**

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
BANK RECONCILIATION - page 2
INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FROM 1ST APRIL 2024 - 31ST MARCH 2025
ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2023-24 & 2024-25

INCOME	2024-25	2023-24	Difference	Notes
Precept	10871	10082	789	Clerk's Pay (+£300). Election Provision (+£200). Increased provision for insurance, other costs and hall hire.
Bank Interest	0	0	0	
Other Income	0	0		
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk's Pay	4699	4284	415	Pay increase plus one day's overtime.
Other Expenses				
Hall Hire	275	275	0	
Training	45	0	45	Avon Local Councils Association Course in Chairmanship.
Insurance	300	245	55	Zurich policy upgrade replacing old policy after alternative quotations sought
Cllr's Clerk's Expenses	412	412	0	
Subscriptions	149	143	6	
Donations	0	0	0	
Asset Purchases	6978	0	6978	Speed Activated Device (SID) plus computer and analysis programs.
Other Purchases	0	4494	-4494	£4300 shared cost with NSC re A370 central refuge near Wick Palmers Elm. £194 was cost of Coronation Mugs
Audit	950	50	900	£900 was the external auditor's fee for work on a vexatious complaint made to them by a resident
Website	185	183	2	Annual Service charge
Elections	0	1025	-1025	Cost of full Parish election in May 2023
Parish Maintenance	338	1440	-1102	Contractor retired part was through year 2023/24— replacement only found towards end of financial year.
Bank Charges	61	60	1	Charge for cheques issued.
Excluding Clerk's Pay	9693	8327	1366	Pay rise plus 1 day's overtime.
<i>Including Clerk's Pay</i>	<i>14392</i>	<i>12611</i>	<i>1781</i>	
BALANCE SHEET ITEMS			0	
Fixed & Long Term Assets *	49531	42744	6787	Write off of SpeedWatch Gun (-£191). Addition of Speed Indicator Device (£6978).