

## Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

### Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

	Agreed	Yes means that the authority:
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	No	Responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit

The Internal Audit for the year ending 31 March 2022 recommended that ‘The Council should urgently address the weaknesses in internal control relating to the authorisation of online payments to ensure there is a separation of duties between the Clerk/RFO setting up the online payment and the Councillor Signatories authorising the payment’.

This recommendation was not actioned during the financial year 2022/23 due to difficulties in Councillors accessing online banking. A similar recommendation was made by the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2023.

Therefore the Parish Council stated that they had not taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

#### Update as at 10 August 2023

The Parish Council has now implemented two-factor authorisation for online payments. A Schedule of Payments is presented at every Parish Council meeting and is agreed by all councillors. The Schedule of Payments is then signed by the Chairman as being approved and authorised for payment.

The Clerk/RFO then creates the payment online which is authorised by one of the signatory Councillors.