

## Marldon Parish Council

### Notice of conclusion of audit

#### Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2023

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
1. The audit of accounts for <b>Marldon Parish Council</b> for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been completed and the accounts have been published.	This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.
2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of <b>Marldon Parish Council</b> on application to:	
(a) <u>KAREN GIBBERT CLERK RFO MARLDON PC</u> <u>JOLLY LANE COTTAGE HEXWORTHY</u> <u>NEWBORN PL20 6SD</u>	(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR
(b) <u>BY APPOINTMENT</u>	(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised
3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of £ <u>2</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.	(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs
Announcement made by: (d) <u>KAREN GIBBERT CLERK</u> <u>RFO.</u>	(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice
Date of announcement: (e) <u>29/9/23.</u>	(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice

## Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2022/23

In respect of **MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL – DV0240**

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2023; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

### 2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2022/23

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2022/23 for the exercise of public rights, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered ‘No’ to this Assertion. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, is not correct.

Information has come to our attention from the internal auditor highlighting the fact that the Notice of conclusion of audit for 2021/22 was not published on the authority’s website by the dates specified in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year’s AGAR:

- Transfers between bank accounts amounting to £1,911 should have been excluded from receipts and payments in Section 2 for the prior year, 2021/22.
- Section 2, Box 4 incorrectly includes items amounting to £1,682 which are not staff costs as defined in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners’ Guide. Please note that Box 4 should comprise payments made in relation to the employment of staff including only gross salary, employers’ national insurance contributions, employers’ pension contributions, gratuities for employees or former employees and severance or terminations payments to employees. Payments to contactors who are self employed are not staff costs for the purpose of completion of the AGAR in accordance with proper practice.
- As a result of the above two points, the figures in Section 2, Boxes 3, 4 and 6 for the current year should read £7,984, £11,142 and £32,801 respectively.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None.

### 3 External auditor certificate 2022/23

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

External Auditor Name

**PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP**

External Auditor Signature

*PKF Littlejohn LLP*

Date

**24/09/2023**