

HEELIS & LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

Internal Audit Report for Marlesford Parish Council – 2019/2020

The following Internal Audit was carried out on the adequacy of systems of control. The following recommendations/comments have been made:

Income: £4,177

Expenditure: £3,051

Reserves: £4,649

AGAR Completion:

Section One: **Not presented**

Section Two: **Yes in pencil – not signed**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20: **Yes**

Certificate of Exemption: **Not presented**

Proper book-keeping Cash Book, regular reconciliation of books and bank statements. Supporting vouchers, invoices and receipts

All were found to be in order. LGAs137 and VAT payments are tracked and identified within the year end accounts.

The cashbook is referenced providing a clear audit trail. Supporting paperwork is in place and well referenced.

Financial regulations Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Tenders
Appropriate payment controls including acting within the legal framework with reference to council minutes
Identifying VAT payments and reclamation
Cheque books, paying in books and other relevant documents

Standing Orders in place: **Yes**

Reviewed: **8th November 2019 (Ref: 5b)**

Financial Regulations in place: **Yes**

Reviewed: **8th November 2019 (Ref: 5b)**

VAT reclaimed during the year: **Yes** Registered: **No**

General Power of Competence: **No**

Tenders exceeding the £25,000 threshold have been advertised on the Contract Finders website.

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Heather Heelis Dip HE Local Policy PILCM

Lynne Lodge Dip HE Local Policy

Risk Assessment

Appropriate procedures in place for the activities of the council
Compliance with Data Protection regulations

Risk Assessment document in place: Yes

Data Protection registration: Yes – ZA540955 – Expiry 06/08/2020

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulations have changed and the new Regulations came into force on 25 May 2018. It is likely that this will affect the way in which the Council handles its data. Due to the financial risk associated with the General Data Protection Regulations, the Council have included this in their Risk Assessment.

Privacy Policy published: Yes

Insurance was in place for the year of audit. The Risk Assessment, including Internal Controls were reviewed at a meeting held on 8th November 2019 (Ref: 5a).

The Council have good internal financial controls in place. Cheque stubbs and invoices are initialled by signatories. The Clerk provides financial reports to council meetings. Councillors are provided with information to enable them to make informed decisions.

Fidelity Cover: £25,000

The level of Fidelity cover is within the recommended guidelines of year end balances plus 50% of the precept.

Transparency

Under the **Transparency code for smaller authorities**, smaller councils with income/expenditure under £25,000 should publish on their website from 1 April 2015:

Smaller Council: **Yes**

Website: www.marlesford.suffolk.cloud

- a) all items of expenditure above £100
Published – Yes
- b) annual governance statement (By 1 July)
2019 Annual Return, Section One Published – Yes
- c) end of year accounts (By 1 July)
2019 Annual Return, Section Two Published – Yes
- d) internal audit report (By 1 July)
2019 Annual Return, Section Four Published – Yes
- e) list of councillor or member responsibilities
Published – Yes
- f) the details of public land and building assets (By 1 July)
Published – Yes
- g) minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings
Published – Yes

The Council have met the requirements of the Transparency Code for smaller councils.

Under **The Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 9(6 & 7)** a smaller council having certified itself as an Exempt Authority must publish on their website:

- h) Certificate of Exemption
Certificate of Exemption Published - Yes

Under **The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 15(2b)** councils must publish on their website:

- i) notice of period for the exercise of public rights
Published – Yes

Period of Exercise of Public Rights

Start Date 17th June 2019

End Date 26th July 2019

Budgetary controls	<p>Verifying the budgetary process with reference to council minutes and supporting documents</p> <p>Precept: £3,000 (2019-2020) Date: 23rd November 2018 (Ref: 8a) Precept: £3,000 (2020-2021) Date: 8th November 2019 (Ref: 6c)</p> <p><i>Satisfactory budgetary procedures are in place. The precept was agreed in full council and the precept decision and amount has been clearly minuted. The Clerk ensures the council are aware of responsibilities, commitments, forward planning and the need for adequate reserves. Budget papers are prepared to ensure councillors have sufficient information to make informed decisions. Budgets are monitored during the year.</i></p>
Income controls	<p>Precept and other income, including credit control mechanisms</p> <p><i>All were found to be in order. Income controls were checked and income received and banked cross referenced with the Cash Book and bank statements.</i></p>
Petty Cash	<p>Associated books and established system in place</p> <p><i>A satisfactory expenses system is in place with supporting paperwork. No Petty Cash held.</i></p>
Payroll controls	<p>PAYE and NIC in place where necessary. Compliance with Inland Revenue procedures Records relating to contracts of employment</p> <p>PAYE System in place: Yes – SALC Payroll Service</p> <p><i>The Council continue to operate RTI in accordance with HMRC regulations. Payroll is outsourced. All supporting paperwork is in place but a P60 has not been produced as part of the year end process. The Council has not joined the LGPS / NEST pension scheme.</i></p> <p><i>Recommendation (1):</i> <i>Copy of P60 to be maintained in Audit File as part of year-end process.</i></p> <p><i>It is noted that the Council undertook a review of salaries at a meeting held on 8th November 2019 (Ref: 6c).</i></p>
Asset control	<p>Inspection of asset register and checks on existence of assets Cross checking on insurance cover</p> <p><i>A separate asset register is in place. Values are recorded at cost value. The total value of assets are recorded at £500. The figure in the asset register corresponds with the figure in Section 2, Box 9 of the AGAR.</i></p>

Bank Reconciliation	<p>Regularly completed and cash books reconcile with bank statements</p> <p><i>All were in order. Bank Reconciliations are carried out regularly. The bank statements reconciled with the end of year accounts and bank reconciliations for all accounts.</i></p> <p><i>Reconciled Bank Balances were confirmed as:</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Barclays Community</i></td> <td><i>£4,222.50 as at 27th March 2020</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Barclays Business</i></td> <td><i>£ 839.18 as at 27th March 2020</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Recommendation (2):</i> <i>Use the bank balance as at the 31st March for the reconciliation.</i></p>	<i>Barclays Community</i>	<i>£4,222.50 as at 27th March 2020</i>	<i>Barclays Business</i>	<i>£ 839.18 as at 27th March 2020</i>
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<i>Barclays Business</i>	<i>£ 839.18 as at 27th March 2020</i>				
Reserves	<p>General Reserves are reasonable for the activities of the Council Earmarked Reserves are identified</p> <p><i>The Council have adequate general reserves (£4,649).</i></p> <p><i>Recommendation (3):</i> <i>The council should review whether Earmarked reserves need to be established.</i></p>				
Year-end procedures	<p>Appropriate accounting procedures are used and can be followed through from working papers to final documents Verifying sample payments and income Checking creditors and debtors where appropriate.</p> <p><i>End of year accounts are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.</i></p>				
Sole Trustee	<p>The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee</p> <p><i>The Council is not a sole trustee.</i></p>				
Internal Audit Procedures	<p><i>The 2019 Internal Audit report was considered by the Council at a meeting on 10th May 2019 (Ref: 7C).</i></p> <p><i>A review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit was carried out throughout the year of audit.</i></p> <p><i>Heelis & Lodge was not appointed as Internal Auditor at a meeting held during the year of Audit.</i></p> <p><i>Recommendation (4):</i> <i>It is a requirement to appoint the Internal Auditor and record the decision in the minutes of the meeting.</i></p>				
External Audit	<p><i>The Council declared themselves Exempt from External audit for the 2018-2019 financial year.</i></p>				

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on 10/05/2019 within the required timescale. The first item of business was the Election of Chairman, in accordance with Standing Orders.
- There are no additional comments/recommendations to make in relation to this audit.

Dave Crimmin

**Dave Crimmin PSLCC
Heelis & Lodge**

9th May 2020

HEELIS&LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

www.heelisandlodge.co.uk

INVOICE

To:

Marlesford Parish Council
19 Stanhope Close
Snape
Suffolk
IP17 1RH

Invoice No: HLD1010

Date: 9th May 2020

Details	Quantity	Amount (£)	Total (£)
To carry out Year-end Internal Audit for Marlesford Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2020.	1	50.00	50.00
Total			50.00

Please make cheques payable to: Heelis & Lodge

Bank Details: Account 02539349 Sort Code 72-00-00

Terms – 30 days

Thank you.

HEELIS&LODGE

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