## Annual Audit 2020-2021

The Annual Audit has now been completed by the council's appointed Internal Auditors (**Min. 21.02.09.3 refers**) and their report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The reported noted that that Council continued to maintain effective governance arrangements including a robust framework of financial administration and internal controls. The following comments or recommendations were made which require action on the part of either the Council or the Council's Responsible Finance Officer:

1. Review council's risk assessment to include reference to impact of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – this review has now been completed.

The Council's revised Risk Assessment as adopted at its May 2020 meeting is attached as Appendix 2.

The Council's accounts for the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 are attached as Appendix 3.

The Council's Annual Governance Statement is attached to this report as follows:

- Section 1 Appendix 4
- Section 2 Appendix 5

A summary of significant variations is attached as Appendix 6 to this report.

The period for public inspection of the Annual Accounts will be between Monday 14 June – Friday 23 July 2021 and a notice will be published and posted to that effect.

Hilary Workman Clerk & RFO May 2021

# HEELIS&LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

#### Internal Audit Report for Wickhambrook Parish Council – 2020/2021

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

Income: £46,363.12 Expenditure: £57,341.20

Reserves: £43,363.52

AGAR 2020 / 2021 Completion: Section One: No blank Section Two: Yes not signed Annual Internal Audit Report 2020 / 21: Yes Certificate of Exemption: N/A

## **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:YesReviewed:30th July 2020 (Ref: 20.07.09.6)Financial Regulations in place:YesReviewed:30th July 2020 (Ref: 20.07.09.6)

VAT reclaimed during the year: Yes

Registered: No

General Power of Competence: No

There were no tenders during the year that exceeded the £25,000 Public Contract Regulations threshold.

Contact details : 1 Hembling Terrace, Mill Lane, Campsea Ashe, Suffolk IP13 0PP Tel: 07732 681125 Email: heather@heelis.eu 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

Yes – ZA074439 Expiry 14/09/2021

#### **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. It is advised that, due to the financial risk associated with the new Data Protection Regulations, this should form part of the Council's Risk Assessment.

**Recommendation (1):** To include reference to GDPR in the Council's 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 (Ref: 20.02.12), 30th July 2020 (Ref: 20.07.11) and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (Ref: 21.03.10.6) and (Ref: 21.03.12.1)

The Council have good internal financial controls in place. The Clerk provides financial reports to council meetings. Councillors are provided with information to enable them to make informed decisions.

The annual play area inspection has been undertaken during the year.

Fidelity Cover: £150,000

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

Transparency	Under the <b>Transparency code for smaller authorities</b> , smaller councils with income/expenditure under £25,000 should publish on their website from 1 April	
	2015:	
	Smaller Council: No Website: www.wickhambrook.org	
	The Council is not subject to the requirements of the Transparency Code for smaller Councils. The Transparency Code for Councils with a turnover exceeding £200,000 is not covered as part of the Internal Audit.	
	Under <b>The Accounts &amp; Audit Regulations 2015 15(15)</b> councils must publish on their website:	
	h) external audit report 2020 Annual Return, Section Three Published – Yes	
	Under <b>The Accounts &amp; Audit Regulations 2015 15(2b)</b> councils must publish on their website:	
	i) notice of period for the exercise of public rights <u>Published</u> – <u>Yes</u>	
	Period of Exercise of Public Rights	
	Start Date 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2020 End Date 14 <sup>th</sup> September2020	
Budgetary controls	Verifying the budgetary process with reference to council minutes and supporting documents	
	Precept: £35,610 (2020 / 2021) Date: 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Ref:20.01.11.3) Precept: £35,610 (2021 / 2022) Date: 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 (Ref: 21.01.9.3)	
	Good 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.	
Income controls	Precept and other income, including credit control mechanisms	
	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.	
Cont	act details : 1 Hembling Terrace, Mill Lane, Campsea Ashe, Suffolk IP13 0PP	3

Tel: 07732 681125 Email: heather@heelis.eu

Heather Heelis Dip HE Local Policy PILCM Lynne Lodge Dip HE Local Policy

Petty Cash	Associated books and established system	m in place
	A satisfactory expenses system is in pla Cash held.	ce with supporting paperwork. No Petty
Payroll controls	PAYE and NIC in place where necessary Compliance with Inland Revenue procee Records relating to contracts of employe	dures
	PAYE System in place: Yes Employer PAYE Reference: 245/WA1744	40
x	The Council continue to operate RTI in supporting paperwork is in place and a year end process. The Council have join	accordance with HMRC regulations All P60 has been produced as part of the ned the Smart pension scheme.
	It is noted that the Council undertook a 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Ref: 20.05.17).	review of salaries at a meeting held on
Asset control	Inspection of asset register and checks Cross checking on insurance cover	on existence of assets
	A separate asset register is in place and May 2020 (Ref: 20.05.11.3). Values are assets are recorded at £316,758. The f with the figure in Section 2, Box 9 of the	
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>	Regularly completed and cash books red	concile with bank statements
Bank Reconciliation	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a	
Bank Reconciliation	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of y	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for
Bank Reconciliation	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of y all accounts.	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for
Bank Reconciliation	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of y all accounts. Reconciled Bank Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> Man Unity Trust Current	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for rch 2021 were confirmed as: £12,705.38 £30,658.14 d as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 d as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 d as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Bank Reconciliation	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of ye all accounts. Reconciled Bank Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> Mal Unity Trust Current Unity Trust Savings Nat West Reserve ****6397 was closed Nat West Current ****6400 was closed Nat West Current ****0921 was closed	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for rch 2021 were confirmed as: £12,705.38 £30,658.14 ( as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 ( as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of ye all accounts. Reconciled Bank Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> Mal Unity Trust Current Unity Trust Savings Nat West Reserve ****6397 was closed Nat West Current ****6400 was closed Nat West Current ****6419 was closed Nat West Reserve ****6419 was closed Nat West Reserve ****6419 was closed	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for rch 2021 were confirmed as: £12,705.38 £30,658.14 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (activities of the Council
Reserves	All were in order. Bank Reconciliations a statements reconciled with the end of ye all accounts. Reconciled Bank Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> Man Unity Trust Current Unity Trust Current Unity Trust Savings Nat West Reserve ****6397 was closed Nat West Current ****6400 was closed Nat West Current ****6400 was closed Nat West Current ****6419 was closed Nat West Reserve ****6419 was closed Nat West Reserve ****6419 was closed Nat West Reserve ****6419 was closed The Council have adequate general reserve	are carried out regularly. The bank rear accounts and bank reconciliations for rch 2021 were confirmed as: £12,705.38 £30,658.14 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020) (activities of the Council erves (£9,775) and have identified rear end accounts.

Year-end procedures	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.
	End of year accounts are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.
Sole Trustee	The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee
	The Council is not a sole trustee.
Internal Audit Procedures	The 2019 / 2020 Internal Audit report was considered by the Council at a meeting held on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (Ref: 20.07.11)
	A review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit was carried out on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (Ref: 20.07.11)
	Heelis & Lodge were appointed as Internal Auditor at a meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup>
External Audit	The External Auditor's report was considered at a meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Ref: 20.11.14.2)
	There were no matters arising from the External Audit.

#### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

- Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the requirement to hold the Annual Parish Council meeting was removed until May 2021.
- There are no additional comments/recommendations to make in relation to this audit.
- I would like to record my appreciation to the Clerk to the Council for her assistance during the course of the audit work
- I would like to record my appreciation to the Clerk to the Council for the quality of documentation presented in the Audit File.

Dave Curimi

Dave Crimmin PSLCC Heelis & Lodge 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

> Contact details : 1 Hembling Terrace, Mill Lane, Campsea Ashe, Suffolk IP13 0PP Tel: 07732 681125 Email: heather@heelis.eu Heather Heelis Dip HE Local Policy PILCM Lynne Lodge Dip HE Local Policy

#### Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

#### Wickhambrook Parish Council

#### wickhambrook.orgwickhambrook.org

**During** the financial year ended 31 March 2021, 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 2020/21 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.		NU	Covered
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	1		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	1		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			# NONE HED
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.	1		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	1		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	1		
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.	1		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")			$\checkmark$
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/ webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.			$\checkmark$
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	$\checkmark$		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	$\checkmark$		
O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			$\checkmark$
For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on se	eparate	sheets	if needed).
Date(s) internal audit undertaken Name of person who carried of	out the	interna	l audit
04/05/2021 DE DE DE DE CRIMMIN ON BEHAN	f of	HEEL	is + Lose
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit Date	04/0	5/20	21
*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in a (add separate sheets if needed).	control i	dentifie	d

\*\*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).

Торіс	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
Precept	Not submitted	L	Full Minute – RFO follow up	Diary
	Not paid by DC	L	Confirm receipt – check correct bank details when submitting precept request form	Diary
	Adequacy of precept	М	Quarterly review of budget to actual	Diary
Other Income	Cash handling	L	There is no cash handling – all payments are now done by means of submission of an expenses claim and receipts	n.b. Careful attention to ensure receipts attached to claims and where multiple items on receipt, specific item highlighted. Ensure timely quarterly submission of expenses claims.
	Banking	L	Segregate duties. Check to bank statements. Regular bank reconciliations Move to online banking has enabled regular checking of transactions and monthly reconciliations	The Clerk has increased the regularity of Bank Reconciliations (at least bimonthly which are published on the agenda)
	From Cemetery	Μ	Burial Register updated for grave allocations as required. Check of burial register to invoices to undertakers. Check of memorial fees work dockets to invoicing.	Clerk has introduced receipts for payments and new cemetery management has been installed and implemented recording transactions

Торіс	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
Internet Banking	BACs Payments of Invoices	L	The Council appoints two Councillors (who are not cheque signatories) to verify the schedule of payments made from the internet banking account against sample invoices selected at random on a regular basis.	RFO makes schedule of payments available to Cllrs by pdf doc prior to each ordinary meeting
	Access codes & passwords	М	The internet banking access codes and passwords are retained securely by the Clerk/RFO and no internet banking is undertaken on a computer to which the public have access.	Computers are password protected and hard copies kept in locked filing cabinet.
	Online security	М	The Council installs, and keeps updated, anti-virus software on all computers used for Internet Banking.	Clerk to check parish laptops and that Cllrs have virus software on their computers
Grants	Claims procedure	М	Clerk/RFO check as required	Diary
	Receipt of grant when due	М	Clerk/RFO check as required	Diary
Investment Income	Receipt when due	L	Clerk/RFO check as required – no current investment income	n/a
	Surplus funds	L	Review levels and investment policy annually – no current investment income	n/a
Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	М	Check salary to minute, check hours and rate to contract	Member to verify
	Wrong deductions – NI and Income tax	М	Check to PAYE Calculations PAYE calculations undertaken by appointed third party payroll provider	Member to verify
	Goods not supplied to Council	М	Follow up on all orders	Approval check

Торіс	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
Direct Costs and overhead	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	Check arithmetic on invoices and perform bank reconciliations on at least bi-monthly basis	Clerk to undertake Member to verify
expenses	Cheque payable is excessive or to wrong party	L	Signatory initials Stub & Voucher	Approval check
	BACs payment is	М	Invoices circulated to Cllrs in pdf format with Agenda.	Members to verify
	excessive or to wrong party		Authorised signatories to check payment transaction against invoice before approving.	
Grants & support	No power to pay or no evidence of agreement of Council to pay	М	Minute Council agreement with the power used to authorize payment	RFO check Member verify
	Conditions agreed	L	Agree and document any reasonable conditions	RFO check
GDPR		L	Procedures are in place for dealing with Subject Access Requests; Data Breaches –detecting, reporting & investigating and obtaining consent. Privacy Notices have been updated and are available on the website and in the Parish Council Office	Clerk/Council
Election Costs	Invoice at agreed rate	L	RFO check and consider budget	RFO verify
VAT	VAT analysis	М	All items in cash book lists	RFO verify
	Charged on purchases	L	Consider all items per cash book lists	RFO verify

Торіс	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
	Claimed within time limits	М	RFO to submit at least quarterly and report on next agenda. Payment received to be reported on agenda under income.	RFO verify
Reserves – General	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget setting and review quarterly and at year end	RFO opinion. 3 year plan
Reserves – Earmarked	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget, quarterly and at year end to move unspent funds into relevant ear-marked reserves. RFO to ensure that spend from reserves is authorised by full council.	RFO opinion Reserves have been considered at year end 201920 and adjustments made.
	Unidentified Earmarked or Contingent liability	L	Review minutes	RFO/member view
Assets	Loss, Damage etc	М	Annual inspection, update insurance and asset registers	Diary
	Risk or damage to third party property or individuals	М	Review adequacy of Public Liability Insurance	Diary
	Loss of financial assets	L	The Council advises its insurers and introduces such further safeguards, such as increased fidelity insurance, as may be required by the Insurers.	RFO to advise
Staff	Loss of key personnel (Clerk)	L	Hours, health, stress, training, long term sick, early departure – risk monitored and managed as appropriate	RFO/member view 2 month contingency reserve added to 2020-21 budget
	Fraud by Staff	L	Fidelity Guarantee value appropriately set	Council to review annually as part of insurance plan

Торіс	Risk Identified	Risk Level H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff action
Loss	Consequential loss due to critical damage or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party performance	L	Review adequacy of insurance cover	Diary
Maintenance	Reduced value of assets or amenities – loss of income or performance	M	Annual Maintenance Inspection	Diary
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payment	М	Educate councillors as to their legal powers RFO to identify power for spend when items are identified in reports for authorisation	RFO to check powers when preparing report Updating of Financial Standing orders July 2020
Financial Records	Inadequate Records	L	RFO/Clerk check annual & internal audit review	Diary
Minutes	Accurate & Legal	L	Review at following meeting Ensure consecutively numbered	Diary
Members Interests	Conflict of Interest	м	Ensure register of interests are completed and up to date Declarations of interest and any exclusion of members from relevant agenda items to be documented in minutes.	Diary Ensure members leave room when item under discussion or dispensation has been approved.

**Reviewed May 2021** 

Next Review: March 2022

Approved and Adopted:

Dated:

Wickhambrook Parish Co	ouncil		Suf	ffolk	F	Pre	pared 16/	04/2021			
Balance at 31 March 2020	£	55,087.67						Fixed and Long Term Assets As per Asset Register	£	165,149.38	
Receipts								Cash Reserves			
Precept	£	35,610.00									
Interest	£	20.22						Opening Reserves	£	55,087.67	
Wayleaves	£	-						Plus Receipts	£	45,616.65	
Ground rents	£	50.00						Less Payments	£	57,341.20	
Chapel Rent (Players)	£	-									
VAT refund	£	5,291.10						Closing Reserves	£	43,363.12	
Admin	£	1,112.99						2			
Cemetery	£	675.00									
Recycling Credits	£	2,857.34						Represented by			
Segregated Funds (Players)	£	-									
55 (,,,	Tot	al Receipts	£	45,616.65				Cash at Bank			
		•						Unity Trust Current Account #	£	12,705.38	
								Unity Trust Instant Savings Account #	£	30,658.14	
Expenditure								Uncashed Cheques	£	, -	
Administration	£	15,056.11						Petty Cash	£	-	
Services	£	3,450.54							£	43,363.52	
Estates (excluding cemetery)	£	22,979.10									
Cemetery	£	2,923.00									
Teen Projects	£	-									
Grants	£	2,750.00									
S.137	£	123.50								,	Variation -£ 0.40
Recycling Contra's	£	3,967.94									
VAT Paid	£	6,091.01									
Other											
	Tot	al Payments	£	57,341.20							
											Signed:
Opening Reserves (01/04/	2020)	made up of:			Movement on Reserves:			Closing Reserves (31/03/2021) m	nade	e up of:	Paul Couzens
			_			_			_		Chair of Wickhambrook Parish Council
Operating Reserve			£	15,891.40	£		6,116.15	Operating Reserve	£	9,775.25	
Data Protection			£	770.00	£		-		£	770.00	Dated:
Elections			£	2,000.00	£		-		£	2,000.00	
Grounds Maintenance			£	450.00	£		-		£	450.00	
Tree Surgery			£	1,300.00	£		-		£	1,300.00	
Cemetery & Churchyard Teen Project Replacement			£ £	2,356.00 12,750.00	£		1,608.00	Teen Project Replacement	£ £	748.00 12,750.00	Signed:
Teen Proj./Playground Maint.			£	1,015.27	£		_	Teen Proj./Playground Maint.	£	1,015.27	Hilary Workman
Playground Replacement			£	4,000.00	£		4 000 00	Playground Replacement	£	-	RFO to Wickhambrook Parish Council
Six Acres Development			£	2,500.00	£		-	Six Acres Development	£	2,500.00	
Memorial garden			£	500.00	£		-	Memorial garden	£	500.00	Dated:
Legacy			f	250.00	£		-	Legacy	£	250.00	
Day Club			£	555.00	£		-	Day Club	£	555.00	
Neighbourhood Planning			£	7,000.00	£		-	Neighbourhood Planning	£	7,000.00	
Safety & Security matters			£	1,500.00	£		-	Safety & Security matters	£	1,500.00	
Highways			£	2,250.00	£		-	Highways	£	2,250.00	
Total			£	55,087.67	2	-		Total	£	43,363.52	
			-						-	-,	

#### Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

#### ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

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 2021, that:

Agreed										
	Yes	No*	'Yes' me	eans that this authority:						
<ol> <li>We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.</li> </ol>				d its accounting statements in accordance Accounts and Audit Regulations.						
<ol> <li>We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.</li> </ol>			made proper arrangements and accepted responsibili for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.							
<ol> <li>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.</li> </ol>				v done what it has the legal power to do and has d with Proper Practices in doing so.						
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.			during the year gave all persons interested the opportun inspect and ask questions about this authority's accoun							
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.			considered and documented the financial and other risks faces and dealt with them properly.							
<b>6.</b> We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.			arranged for a competent person, independent of the finan controls and procedures, to give an objective view on when internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.							
<ol> <li>We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.</li> </ol>			respond external	ed to matters brought to its attention by internal and audit.						
<ol> <li>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.</li> </ol>			disclosed everything it should have about its business activ during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.							
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	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.						

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:			
		SIGNATURE REQUIRED		
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman			
MINUTE REFERENCE		SIGNATURE REQUIRED		
	Clerk			

#### ENTER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

#### Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

#### ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year e	nding	Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
1. Balances brought forward	51,420	55,087	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.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	33,955	35,610	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,588	10,007	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	7,996	9,705	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.		
<ol> <li>(-) Loan interest/capital repayments</li> </ol>	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	31,880	47,636	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	55,087	43,363	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	55,087	43,363	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>		
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	193,108	316,758	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.		
<b>10.</b> Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
<b>11.</b> (For Local Councils Only) re Trust funds (including ch		Yes No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
		x	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

D/MM/YY

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

DD/MM/YY

as recorded in minute reference:

**INUTE REFERENCE** 

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

#### Explanation of variances - pro forma

Name of smaller authority: Wickhambrook Parish Council County area (local councils and Suffolk Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all <u>Blue</u> highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

• variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);

• New from 2020/21: variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;

a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2019-2020 £	2020-2021 £	Variance £	Variance %		Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, <b>DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES</b>	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	51,420	55,087				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	33,955	35,610	1,655	4.87%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	9,588	10,007	419	4.37%	NO		
4 Staff Costs	7,996	9,705	1,709	21.37%	YES		incorrectly recorded on the AGAR as £7,996. A change in the clerk's tax code to BR resulted in an increase in tax paid.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	31,880	47,636	15,756	49.42%	YES		See explanation of Significant Variances
7 Balances Carried Forward	55,087	43,363			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	55,087	43,363				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments a	anc 193,108	316,758	123,650	64.03%	YES		In September 2020 the Chapel of Rest and the War Memorial were re-valued, an increase of £91,991 to £151,609 for the Chapel of Rest and £23,693 to £51,300 for the War Memorial, based on re-build costs ex VAT. These increases have been reflected in the Asset Register.
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable