Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22

- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. 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 and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. If the AGAR contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2022.
- 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.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, you must inform your
 external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide
 relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation must be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2021) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2022).
- 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 2022.

Completion checkli	st – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No
All sections Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?		1	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	1	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	1	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?	√	The manuscript of the second
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	1	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	√	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022 been reconciled to Box 8?	1	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	1	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB : do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	1	

^{*}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

Goudhurst Parish Council

goudhurst-pc.gov.uk TER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADBRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2022, 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 2021/22 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.	1		Trumbassassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissassissa
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		The second secon
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.			1
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		
 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 2020/21, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR tick "not covered")			1
L. The authority publishes information on a free to access website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with any relevant transparency code requirements			1
M. The authority, during the previous year (2020-21) 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).	1		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2020/21 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	1		
O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicabl
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			/

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

10/06/2022

David Buckett

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

(ED

Date 10/06/2022

*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 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

Goudhurst 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 2022, that:

	Agı	eed		
	Yes	No*	'Yes' means that this authority:	
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	1		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	1		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	
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.	1		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.	
We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	1		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.	
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.	1		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.	
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	1		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.	
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	1		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.	
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.	1		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity 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.

	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman
102/22	Clerk

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

Goudhurst Parish Council

Year ending		Notes and guidance		
31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	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.		
113,946	120,872	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.		
194,610	195,000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
42,171	79,380	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
66,753	69,067	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.		
0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
163,102	199,021	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
120,872	127,164	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
98,078	122,053	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.		
276,598	350,968	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.		
0	48,000	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do		
	31 March 2021 £ 113,946 194,610 42,171 66,753 0 163,102 120,872 98,078 276,598 0 Yes	31 March 2021 £ 2022 £ 113,946 120,872 194,610 195,000 42,171 79,380 66,753 69,067 0 0 163,102 199,021 120,872 127,164 98,078 122,053 276,598 350,968 0 48,000 Yes No N/A		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 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

ArBforntera.

Date

09/06/2022

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

21/05/22

as recorded in minute reference:

103/22

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting

Statements were approved

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2021/22

In respect of

Goudhurst Parish Council

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 <i>Proper Practices</i>	s which:	•
 summarises the accounting rec confirms and provides assurance 	ords for the year ended 31 March 2022; and e on those matters that are relevant to our duties and respon	nsibilities as external auditors.
	ited assurance opinion 2021/22	
	on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordation giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory required.	
(continue on a separate sheet if required	1)	
Other matters not affecting our opinion was continued in a separate sheet if required	which we draw to the attention of the authority:	
3 External auditor certi	ficate 2021/22	
We certify/do not certify* that we	have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the An arged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accord	nual Governance and untability Act 2014, for
*We do not certify completion because:		
External Auditor Name		
	ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR	
External Auditor Signature	SIGNATURE REQUIRED Date	DD/MM/YY

CONFIRMATION OF THE DATES OF THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Name of smaller authority: Goudhurst Parish Council

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only): Kent

On behalf of the smaller authority, I confirm that the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows:

Commencing on ___27th June 2022

and ending on

5th August 2022

(Please enter the dates set by the smaller authority as appropriate which <u>must</u> be 30 working days (i.e. Monday – Friday only, and not Bank Holidays) inclusive and <u>must</u> include the first 10 working days of July 2022 (i.e. Friday 1 July – Thursday 14 July).

We have suggested the following dates: Monday 13 June – Friday 22 July 2022. The latest possible dates that comply with the statutory requirements are Friday 1 July – Thursday11 August 2022.)

Signed:

Role: Clerk

This form is only for use by smaller authorities subject to a review:

Please submit this form to PKF Littlejohn LLP with the AGAR Form 3 and other requested documentation – this form is not for publication on your website.

Bank reconciliation

This reconciliation should include <u>all</u> bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It <u>must</u> agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 20xx" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis

Name of smaller authority:	Goudhurst Parish C	ouncil	
County area (local councils and pari	sh meetings only):	Kent	
Financial year ending 31 March 20	022		
Prepared by (Name and Role):		Panetta Horn RFO	
Date:	10/06/2	2022	
Balance per bank statements as a <i>Unity Trust Bank</i> Natwest CCLA	at 31/3/2022	£ 67,693.96 33,773.03 20,586.16	£ 122,053.15
Petty cash float (if applicable)			-
Less: any unpresented cheques as (normally only current account) Cheque number	at 31/3/xx		
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3	3/2022		0.00
			•
Net balances as at 31/3/22 (Box 8	3)		122,053.15

Explanation of variances - pro forma

Name of smaller authority.

County area (local councils and Kent
Insert figures from a Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes
Insert figures from a Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes
Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the Next, between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);

New from 2020/21 onwards: 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 precaptirates & levies value (Box 2).

						The state of the s
	2020/21 £	2021/22 Variance Variance £ £ %	rriance Va £		Explanation Required?	Explanation Automatic responses trigger below based on figures Required? Input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	113,946	120,872				Explanation of % variance from PY opening belance not required - Balance brought forward agrees
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	194,610	195,000	390	0.20%	9	
3 Total Other Receipts	42,171	79,380	37,209	88.23%	YES	PWLB loan of £49,000 for Mary Days Garages; £6,000 grant from TWBC for drainage at checquers field; £9717 received in Government support grants
4 Staff Costs	66,753	69,067	2,314	3.47%	0	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	9	
6 All Other Payments	163,102	199,021	35,919	22.02%	YES	Higher Maintenance costs than envisaged £15,329; Higher costs involved in digitising buliral records £2,438; Unbudgeted CCTV purchase £3979; Mary Days Garages Purchased costs and maintenance £4323; Purchase of Mary Days Garages at £89,000; Electric vehicle charge Electricity costs £7,248;
7 Balances Carried Forward	120,872	127,164			8	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	98,078	122,053				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and 276,598	s and 276,598	350,968	74,370	26.89%	YES	Purchase of block of garages for £69,000
10 Total Borrowings	0	48,000	48,000		Q Q	Loan Taken out to purchase Garages
Classic Co co and	olderologo					

Rounding errors of up to £2 aretolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8 in Section 2 - pro forma

(applies to Accounting Statements prepared on an income	and expenditure basis <u>only</u>)
Please complete the highlighted boxes. Name of smaller authority:	Goudhurst Parish Council
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):	Kent

There should only be a difference between Box 7 and Box 8 where the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis and there have been adjustments for debtors/prepayments and creditors/receipts in advance at the year end. Please provide details of the year end adjustments, showing how the net difference between them is equal to the difference between Boxes 7 and 8.

Box 7: Ba	alances carried forward	£	£ 127,165.00		
Deduct:	Debtors (enter these as negative numbers) HMRC VAT	(8,781.00)			
	3	(8,781.00)			
Deduct:	Payments made in advance (prepayments) (enter these as negative numbers)				
Total ded	luctions	-	(8,781.00)		
Add:	Creditors (must not include community infrastructure levy (CIL) receipts) Accruals Creditors	3,509.75 160.00 3,669.75			
Add:	Receipts in advance (must not include deferred grants/loans received)				
Total add	ditions	-	3,669.75		
Box 8: T	Box 8: Total cash and short term investments 122,053.75				

Goudhurst Parish Council

Chairman of the Council

Cllr Antony Harris The Oast House Curtisden Green Cranbrook Kent TN17 1LL Telephone: 01580 211329

antony.harris@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk



http://.goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council Claire Reed The Hop Bine Risebridge Farm Goudhurst Cranbrook **TN17 1HN** Telephone: 01580 212552

clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

23 June 2022

Goudhurst Parish Council - KE108 Audit 2021-22

This is an explanation for the 'Not covered' answers given by the internal auditor on the AIAR for 2021/22.

Internal Control objective

- F. Goudhurst Parish Council does not hold any petty cash.
- K. A limited assurance review of the 2020/21 AGAR was completed.
- L. We are awaiting clarification from the internal auditor.
- O. Goudhurst Parish Council is not a trustee.

Claire Reed

Clerk

Goudhurst Parish Council

Chairman of the Council

Clir Antony Harris
The Oast House
Curtisden Green
Cranbrook
Kent TN17 1LL
Telephone: 01580 211329

Telephone: 01580 211329

antony.harris@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk



http://.goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council Claire Reed The Hop Bine Risebridge Farm Goudhurst Cranbrook TN17 1HN Telephone: 01580 212552 clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

23 June 2022

Goudhurst Parish Council - KE108 Audit 2021-22

Information requested relating to the Intermediate level review:

- Goudhurst Parish Council does not act as a sole managing trustee of any local trust.
- There were not any 'except for' matters on the 2020/21 external auditor report.
- Goudhurst Parish Council does not have income or expenditure of more than £2,000,000.

Claire Reed

Clerk

Anthony Farnfield

Responsible Financial Officer

Contact details

Name of smaller authority: Goudhurst Parish Council (KE 108)

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only): Kent

Please complete this form and send it back to us with the AGAR or exemption certificate

	Clerk/RFO (Main contact)	Chair
Name	Claire Reed	Antony Harris
Address	The Hop Bine Ranters Lane Goudhurst Cranbrook TN17 1HN	The Oast House Curtisden Green Cranbrook TN17 1LL
Daytime telephone number	01580 212552	01580 211329
Mobile telephone number	07742 416282	07768 558008
Email address	clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk	Antony.harris@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk