Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must
 do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023. It should not submit its Annual Governance and
 Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority
 must comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. 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.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- 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.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated.
 Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- · Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- 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.
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on page 6. Guidance is provided in the Practitioners' Guide* which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- 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 2023.

Completion checki	ist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	/	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	/	
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', is an explanation available for publication?	V	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	/	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	V	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	V	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 been reconciled to Box 8?	1	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	/	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (Local Councils only)	/	

*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

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

- Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000
 or less must, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and
 Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- 2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption are able to declare themselves exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review provided the authority completes:
 - a) The Certificate of Exemption, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both) no later than 30 June 2023. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2) which is made up of:
 - · Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 2 Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.
- The authority must approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2
 Accounting Statements and both must be approved and published on the authority website/webpage before 1 July 2023.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities must publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- · Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23, page 4
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, page 5
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23, page 6
- · Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2022/23 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be £210 +VAT.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Certificate of Exemption - AGAR 2022/23 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2023, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, provided that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2023 notifying the external auditor.

BURUESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2022/23, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

Total annual gross income for the authority 2022/23:

16485.94

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2022/23:

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt and it must submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £210 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this Certificate of Exemption you are confirming that:

· The authority was in existence on 1st April 2019

· In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), the external auditor has not:

· issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it

· made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it

 issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice

commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act

made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful,
 and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration

The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2023.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

26 06

26 06 2023
Date
26 06 2023

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

26 06 2023

as recorded in minute reference:

. MINUTE REFERENCE

Telephone number

clerk@burlescombe.org

TELEPHONE NUMBER

*Published web address

www.burlescombe.org

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

www.burlescombe.org

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, 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 2022/23 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 ye	ar.	100		SOME CO
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by in expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	voices, all	1		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed of arrangements to manage these.	the adequacy	/		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; pro the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	1			
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	promptly	/		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	e was			1
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with the approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	s authority's	1		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintain	ed.	/		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.		1		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct acco- (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supp- adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and cree- properly recorded.	1			
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")		1		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date a the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	t the time of	1		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the well authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	AGAR period,	/		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).		/		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.		Yes	No	Not applicable
For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any oth	er risk areas o	n separa	te shee	ets if needed).
Date(s) internal audit undertaken Name of per	son who carrie	ed out th	e inter	nal audit
The state of the s	O Good			
Signature of person who carried out the internal audi	Date 16	106	12	02.3
*If the response is 'no' plet	any weakness	in contro	l identi	fied

**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 Covernance Statement 2022/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

BURLESCOMBE 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 2023, that:

	Yes	No	Yes m	eans that this authority:	
 We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. 	/			ed its accounting statements in accordance e 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.	V			proper arrangements and accepted responsibility aguarding the public money and resources in ige.	
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.	/			ly done what it has the legal power to do and has ed 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.	/			the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to 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.	V		considered and documented the financial and other risks 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.			controls	ed for a competent person, independent of the financial is and procedures, to give an objective view on whether I controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.	
We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	V		respond	ded to matters brought to its attention by internal and it 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.	/		during t	ed everything it should have about its business activity the year including events taking place after the year elevant.	
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.	

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

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:
26 06 2023	
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman
ATT REFERENCE	Clerk

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes No

www.burlescombe.org

Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

BURGES COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year	ending	Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	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.
Balances brought forward	7989	7303	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	11950	15900-57	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	2311	585.37	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	4295	4433.8	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.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	10652	11 652:53	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	7303	7703	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	7901	7683	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.
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	13081	15361	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.
10. Total borrowings	NIA	NIA	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans

For Local Councils Only		N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		V	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 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 pres the authority for approval

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

from third parties (including PWLB).

26 06 2023

as recorded in minute reference:

NUMBER OF STREET

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

Date

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Burlescombe Parish Council Name of smaller authority:

County area (local councils a Devon

Insert figures from 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 green boxes where relevant:

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

- 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).

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	7,989	7,303				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	11,950	15,900	3,950	33.05%	YES	Higher precept raised due to more works carried out by council
3 Total Other Receipts	2,311	585	-1,726	74.69%	YES	Didn't receive a P3 Grant
4 Staff Costs	4,295	4,433	138	3.21%	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	
6 All Other Payments	10,051	11,652	1,601	15.93%	YES	2 new noticeboards purchased
7 Balances Carried Forward	7,303	7,703			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	7,901	7,683				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investmen	ts 13,081	15,361	2,280	17.43%	YES	2 new noticeboards purchased
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

Burlescombe Parish Council

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	2021.22	<u>difference</u>	2022.23		<u>explan</u>
	2311.57	-1726.20	585.37		
Interest	0.59	10.21	10.80		
Parish Paths Grant	1500.00	-1500.00	0.00	No grant awarded	
DCLG Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	No grant awarded	
Transparancy code grant	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Wayleave payment	11.92	0.00	11.92		
VAT	799.06	-236.41	562.65		
Horticultural society funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	No grant received	
TOTAL	2311.57	-1726.20	585.37		

explanation

Burlescombe Parish Council

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	2021.22	difference	2022.23	explanation
	4175.57	-4175.57		
Staff wages	3960.00		4433.00	
Clerk expenses	215.57		138.37	
TOTAL	4157.57	0.00	4571.37	Increase in Clerk salary

Bank reconciliation - pro forma

This reconciliation should include <u>all</u> bank and building society accounts, including short term investment acc to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 2023" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remember cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority: **Burlescombe Parish Council** County area (local councils and parish meetings only): Devon Financial year ending 31 March 2023 Mrs K Hurley Parish Clerk/RFO Prepared by (Name and Role): Date: 14/05/2023 £ £ Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/23: Lloyds Treasurers account 113 1,977.3 account 1 Lloyds Business Account 607 account 2 5,705.9 account 3 account 4 [add more accounts if necessary] account 5 account 6 account 7 account 8 7,683.2 Petty cash float (if applicable) Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/23 (enter these as negative numbers) item 1 item 2 item 3 item 4 [add more lines if necessary] item 5 item 6 item 7 item 8 Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/23 7,683.2 Net balances as at 31/3/23 (Box 8)

BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER as at March 2023

ASSET PURCHASED	DATE PURCHASED	COST AT PURCHASE £	LOCATION	INSURANCE VALUE £
2 Bus Shelters	Not known	-	Burlescombe & Westleigh	nil
1 Bench	Mar 11	403	Grand Western Canal	403
2 Picnic Tables	Mar 12	1763	Westleigh Play Area	1763
Fencing	Mar 14	2230	Old Railway Line	2230
Equipment	Mar 14	1187	Westleigh Play Area	1187
2 Picnic Tables	Mar 15	1322	Old Railway Line	1322
1 Phoenix Seat	Mar 15	433	Old Railway Line	433
Notice-Board	Apr 16	1122	Burlescombe	1122
Notice Board	May 17	1400	Ayshford	1400
Notice Board	-	-	Westleigh	nil
Notice Board	-	-	Appledore	nil
Armed Forces Day Flag	Jun 16	-		nil
Telephone Box	Feb 17	1	Westleigh	nil
ASUS Zen Beam E1 Short Throw Portable Projector	13 Oct 17		Clerk Home	
ASUS Transformer Mini T102HA Silver	13 Oct 17	525	Clerk Home	525
Dell Vostro 15 3000Series (3568) Laptop	11 Oct 18	462	Clerk Home	462
Laptop Case	11 Oct 18	-	Clerk Home	nil
Logitech Desktop MK120 UK Layout	11 Oct 18	-	Clerk Home	nil
Office Home & Business	11 Oct 18			163
Goal Posts	April 19	475.99	Burlescombe	475.99
Notice Board	Aug 20	1596.00	Westleigh	1596.00
Noticeboards x2	Aug 22	2280.00	Burlescombe & Appledore	2280.00
Total				15361.99

Part of the land belonging to Westleigh Quarry was transferred across to Burlescombe Parish Council in August 2011 for the sum of £1. This land is now known as the Old Railway Line and forms a footpath which is maintained by Burlescombe Parish Council.

The Parish Council are also responsible for the Westleigh Football Field and Play area. The land was given to the Parish for as long as it will remain a playing field. Therefore does not have a monetary value.