

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 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 2024, 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 2024 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2024** notifying the external auditor.

Whitbourne Parish Council ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

certifies that during the financial year 2023/24, 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 2023/24: 18326 PER AMOUNT £00,000

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2023/24: 17466 PER AMOUNT £00,000

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 2020
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2022/23), 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notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice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under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration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 2024.

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

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer Date
[REDACTED] SIGNED 08/05/2024

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date: 08/05/2024

Signed by Chair Date
[REDACTED] SIGNED 08/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference: 13 b) MINUTE REFERENCE

Generic email address of Authority Telephone number
whitbournepcclerk@outlook.com GENERIC EMAIL ADDRESS [REDACTED] NUMBER

*Published web address
<http://www.whitbourneparishcouncil.org.uk/> PUBLISHED WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

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 2024. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

Whitbourne Parish Council

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

<http://www.whitbourneparishcouncil.org.uk/>

ENTER FULLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, 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 2023/24 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.	Yes	
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
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.	Yes		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")	Yes		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	Yes		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	Yes		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	Yes		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			N/A

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

05/05/2024

DD/MM/YYYY

DD/MM/YYYY

LYNNIA S. BUTLER AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

ED

Date

05/05/2024

*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 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

Whitbourne Parish Council

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 2024, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		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.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied 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 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.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. 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 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.	✓		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.	✓		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.

*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:

08/05/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

13 c)

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

ED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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

<http://www.whitbourneparishcouncil.org.uk/> TABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

Whitbourne Parish Council

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
1. Balances brought forward	9881	10273	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	12000	13000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	179	5326	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	5774	5753	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	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	6012	11712	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	10273	11133	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	10273	11133	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.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	784159	833874	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	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	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)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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

IGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

24/04/2024

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

08/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

13 d)

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

IGNED

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Whitbourne Parish Council**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

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

	2022/23	2023/24	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	9,881	10,273								Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	12,000	13,000	1,000	8.33%	0	1	0	NO			
3 Total Other Receipts	179	5,326	5,147	2875.42%	0	1	1	YES		VAT refunds (£1389), Lengthsman Grant (£3909). Interest (£28) = £5326	
4 Staff Costs	5,774	5,753	-21	0.36%	0	0	0	NO			
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	NO			
6 All Other Payments	6,012	11,712	5,700	94.81%	0	1	1	YES		Subscriptions (£296), Grants (£1600), Lengthsman (£4691), Insurances (£935), Grass cutting (£1280), Smartwater (£2330), Election expenses (£177), Village Hall (£156), Tree (£38), Unpresented cheques (£210) = £11712	
7 Balances Carried Forward	10,274	11,134								VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	10,273	11,133								VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Ass	480,361	833,874	353,513	73.59%	0	1	1	YES		Increase in current insurance valuation of Village Hall (£805,403)	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	NO			
	Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable										
	Variances of £200 or less are tolerable										
	BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)										

Bank reconciliation – pro forma

This reconciliation should include **all** bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It **must** 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. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority:	Whitbourne Parish Council				
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):					
Financial year ending 31 March 2024					
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Kevin Phillips (Clerk & RFO)				
Date:	24/4/24				
				£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/24:					
	account 1			6,376.8	
	account 2			4,966.6	
	account 3				
	account 4				
[add more accounts if necessary]	account 5				
	account 6				
	account 7				
	account 8				
					11,343.4
Petty cash float (if applicable)					-
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/24 (enter these as negative numbers)					
	300580			(100.00)	
	300586			(110.00)	
	item 3				
	item 4				
[add more lines if necessary]	item 5				
	item 6				
	item 7				
	item 8				
					(210.00)
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/xx					
					-
Net balances as at 31/3/24 (Box 8)					11,133.4

Smaller authority name: **Whitbourne Parish Council**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION
OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY
RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)**

NOTICE

1. Date of announcement: 31st May 2024

2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review.

Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2024, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:

(b) Kevin Phillips, Clerk & RFO


Email: whitbournepcclerk@outlook.com

commencing on **Monday 3 June 2024**

and ending on **Friday 12 July 2024**

3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:

- The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and
- The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.

The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.

4. The smaller authority's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed auditor is:

**PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team)
15 Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf
London E14 4HD
(sba@pkf-l.com)**

5. This announcement is made by Kevin Phillips, Clerk and RFO

Payments over £100

PAID TO	Expenditure Gross	Expenditure Net	VAT Amt.
A Vincent-Perkins (Hedge & Verge cutting)	110.00	0	0
B Eddy (grass cutting)	1280.00	0	0
BCMC Grant	200.00	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Apr/May 23)	181.60	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Aug/Sep 23)	372.00	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Dec23/Jan24)	372.00	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Feb/Mar 24)	177.40	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Jun'Jul 23)	181.00	0	0
Clerk HMRC (Oct/Nov 23)	372.00	0	0
Clerk Salary (Apr/May 23)	727.35	0	0
Clerk Salary (Aug/Sep 23)	558.09	0	0
Clerk Salary (Dec23/Jan 24)	558.09	0	0
Clerk Salary (Feb/Mar 24)	710.42	0	0
Clerk Salary (Jun/Jul 23)	727.15	0	0
Clerk Salary (Oct/Nov 23)	558.09	0	0
DeterTech (Smartwater)	2329.56	1941.30	388.26
Gallagher insurance (PC)	423.76	0	0
Gallagher insurance (Playing Fields)	510.75	0	0
Herefordshire Council election expenses	176.53	0	0
Herefordshire Hearstart	100.00	0	0
Zoom subscription	143.88	119.90	23.98
MAS Bromyard	4690.86	3909.05	781.81
S Symonds (King's Coronation event grant)	150.00	0	0
SLCC Subscription	112.00	0	0
Whitbourne DCC	1250.00	0	0