

Internal Audit Report
For
Bacton and Edingthorpe Parish Council
Financial Year 2025-26

Prepared by
R M Calvert
12 April 2026

I have completed an internal audit of the accounts for Bacton and Edingthorpe Parish Council for the year ending 31 March 2026.

I would like to thank the Clerk/RFO for providing me with all the information required for the Internal Audit.

Internal control	Test	Observations
Proper bookkeeping	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	Yes
	Is the cashbook arithmetically correct?	Yes
	Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	Yes
Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and payment controls	Has the council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations?	Yes These are published on the website.
	Date Standing Orders last reviewed	11 November 2024 (min 13)
	Date Financial Regulations last reviewed	11 November 2024 (min 13)
	Has a Responsible finance officer been appointed with specific duties?	Yes
	Have items or services above the de minimus amount been competitively purchased?	Yes 3 quotations have been sought for specific projects
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by purchase orders, invoices, authorised and minuted?	Yes
	Have legal powers been identified for purchases	S137 (10 Nov 2025 Min - 7)
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	Yes.
	Is s137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits?	Yes.
	Have S137 payments been approved and included in the minutes as such?	Yes – Royal British Legion
Risk management arrangements	Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	No
	Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment or review of their risk management scheme?	Yes May 2025 Draft ready for review in May 2026
	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	Yes, reviewed and adjusted annually with insurance renewal

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	Yes.
Budgetary controls	Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept and has this been minuted as being approved?	Yes. Minute 8 on 10 Nov 25
	Has the precept been calculated from the budget and been approved?	Precept 2026-7 approved following reappraisal of budget. Minute 9, 10 Nov 2025
	Does the budget include an actual completed year?	Yes
	Is actual expenditure against budget regularly reported to the council?	Yes
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	No
Income controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	Yes
	Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	Yes
	Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	Yes
Petty cash procedures	Is all petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts?	N/A
	Is petty cash expenditure reported to each council meeting?	N/A
	Is petty cash reimbursement carried out regularly?	N/A
Payroll controls	Do all employees have contracts of employment with clear terms and conditions?	Not seen.
	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	Yes. Reviewed and actioned in July 2025
	Are salaries above the National Living Wage/Minimum Wage?	Yes Salaries and ancillary costs should be reviewed annually prior to setting the budget for the following year
	Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	As the Council's workload increases it is recommended that additional hours might be allocated to the Clerk for special projects and that they are identified in the project costings.

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?	Yes
Asset controls	Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	Yes
	Where appropriate, are these inspected annually	Yes
	Are the assets and Investments registers up to date? When were these last reviewed?	Yes . Prepared on 31 st March 2026 for presentation at next meeting
	Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	Minor adjustments to be made when insurance schedule is reviewed in May 2026.
Bank reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account and is this reported to council?	Yes. Circulated approved and signed at the meetings
	Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion?	Yes
	Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	No
	Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?	Yes
Year-end procedures	Are year-end accounts prepared using the correct accounting basis (Receipts and Payments or Income and Expenditure)?	Yes Receipts and Payments
	Do accounts agree with the cash book?	Yes
	Has a year-end bank reconciliation been undertaken?	Yes
	Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	Yes
	Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?	N/A
Procedural	Have the minutes been signed by the chairman	Originals not seen
	Has the chairman initialled each page of the Minutes book	Originals not seen
	Has the chairman signed the year end bank reconciliation	Yes for yr ended 2025 2026 to be presented at annual meeting in May

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Is eligibility for the General Power of Competence properly evidenced?	Council uses S 137 It does not hold GPoC
	Have points raised on the last Internal Audit report been considered by council and actioned?	Yes. May and July 2025
Transparency: For smaller councils with turnover under £25,000	Minutes for whole year on website?	Yes
	Agendas for whole year on website?	Yes
	Payments over £100 on website?	Yes, included in the minutes.
	Electors' rights advertised on website?	Yes – at the appropriate time
	Councillors' responsibilities detailed on website?	See minutes 13 May 25 – item 14. It is not published separately on the website
	Last financial year's Annual Return on website?	Yes
	Land and building assets details on website? (Description, location, owner/leaseholder, date and cost of acquisition and present use)	No
Allotments	Has a list of allotment holders with amounts paid to Council been submitted?	Yes
	Have fees for the allotments been reviewed and agreed by Council?	Yes
Councils with charities only	Have Charities reported and accounted separately?	N/A
	Have the Charity accounts been independently audited?	N/A
	Have the Charity accounts and Annual Return been filed within the legal time limit?	N/A

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Signed

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Date