Form 2PM Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

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 Parish Meeting:
	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 Parish Meeting 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 Parish Meeting's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this Parish Meeting 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 met the needs of this Parish Meeting.*
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 Parish Meeting 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.*

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

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a Parish Meeting on:

22/05/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE 14.4

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Chair

Form 2PM Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	*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	120965	132020	*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	NIL	NIL	*Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	25960	22307	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	2021	4087	*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 Parish Meeting's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	12884	12762	*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	132020	137478	*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	132020	137478	*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	NIL	NIL	*"The value of all the property the Parish Meeting owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March."*
10. Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

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 Parish Meeting.

Signed by the Chair before being presented to the Parish Meeting for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 22/05/2024

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

22/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

14.5

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Form 2PM Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the Parish Meeting's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2023/24 has been carried out in accordance with this Parish Meeting'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 Parish Meeting.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This Parish Meeting complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This Parish Meeting assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.			✓ No Precept
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓ No PCash used
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the Parish Meeting certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the Parish Meeting had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")*			✓

	Yes	No	Not covered**
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, The Parish Meeting 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 confirmation of the Chair that the notice has been published on a suitable website or publicly displayed in the local area.)*	✓		
N. The Parish Meeting has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR. *(See AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).*	✓		

For any other risk areas identified by this Parish Meeting adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: DD/MM/YYYY 08/05/2024 DD/MM/YYYY

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: ENTER NAME OF INTERNAL AUDITOR John M G Foster

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: SIGNATURE REQUIRED John M G Foster

Date: DD/MM/YYYY 08/05/2024

*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).

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2PM

To be completed by all Parish Meetings that neither received gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeding £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 Parish Meeting has certified itself as exempt at a Parish Meeting held between **1 April and 30 June 2024** and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2024** notifying the external auditor.

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

certifies that during the financial year 2023/24, the higher of the Parish Meeting'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 Parish Meeting 2023/24: £22307

Total annual gross expenditure for the Parish Meeting 2023/24: £16849

There are certain circumstances in which an Parish Meeting will be **unable to certify itself as exempt,** so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If a Parish Meeting **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 3PM 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:

- This parish has no Parish Council
- 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 Parish Meeting or any entity connected with it
  - made a statutory recommendation to the Parish Meeting
  - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and 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 you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and the Parish Meeting 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, and Annual Accounting Statements still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate and notice of the period for the exercise of public rights, published on a suitable website or be publicly displayed in the local area before 1 July 2024. **Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.**

Signed by Chair 

Date 22/05/2024

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this Parish Meeting on this date: 22.05.2024

as recorded in minute reference: 14.6

Email jeremycotterill7@gmail.com

Telephone number 07726413331

Place where this Certificate of Exemption is published or displayed (e.g. Parish Notice Board, Newsletter, Village website, etc.)

LITTLE LONGSTONE NOTICEBOARD

ONLY a copy of 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.

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

2024 Variance Report

Box 3 Receipts	**2023**	**2024**	**Var**	
Ice Cream Franchise	25,000.00	20,000.00	(5,000)	new lease at a lower rate from October 2023
Bank interest received	529.70	655.78	126	full year at higher interest rates
DCC Jubilee grant	300.00	0.00	(300)	one off grant in 2023
LEAP Clay refund	120.00	137.14	17	not material
Taylor & Emmett refund	10.00	0.00	(10)	refund of legal fees
Building Society interest received	0.00	1,513.97	1,514	first year of this new account
	25,959.70	**22,306.89**	**(3,653)**	Overall decrease is 14.07%

Box 4 Expenditure				
Salary and expenses to clerk	2,020.77	4,086.52	2,066	Clerk's hours up from 151 hours to 257 hours , mostly in connection with the renegotiation of the new ice cream franchises and car park related matters.
	2,020.77	**4,086.52**	**2,066**	Overall increase is 102.23%

Box 6 Expenditure				
General maintenance/mowing/strimming	4,570.00	5,134.00	564	general increase
Section 137 payments	1,000.00	850.00	(150)	
Subscriptions/donations	2,615.00	2,715.00	100	
Cleaning	550.00	0.00	(550)	none paid this year
Well Dressing	346.05	274.28	(72)	
Room Hire	330.00	400.00	70	
Audit costs	624.00	636.00	12	
Legal fees	600.00	1,208.40	608	new ice cream lease arranged this year
Jubilee costs	300.00	0.00	(300)	one off item in 2023
Repairs etc	1,293.70	691.99	(602)	general reduction
Band hire	280.00	400.00	120	
Insurance	325.99	372.62	47	no change in year
Training and Admin	50.00	79.80	30	not material
	12,884.74	**12,762.09**	**(123)**	Overall decrease is -0.95%

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

Cash Book Summary as at 31st March 2024

Opening balance	132,020.04
Receipts	22,306.89
Payments	(16,848.61)
Closing balance	**£137,478.32**

Balance per statements	1,000.41	Bank current account
	50,963.94	Bank reserve account
Balance per Passbook	86,513.97	Mansfield Building Society account
Unpresented cheques	(1,000.00)	*chq 907*
	£137,478.32	

Bank - Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort Code - 16-12-24
Account 12807764

Mansfield Building Society
Community Deposit Maxi Account - issue 2
Account 13-287713