

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

SADDLEWORTH 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:

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

***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.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

MON 07/08/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

3466

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

Chairman

Clerk

www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Saddleworth Parish Council

Annual Governance Statement 2022 / 23

Explanations for 'No' Responses to Statement Items 1 and 4.

1. *Statement 1 : We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year and for the preparation of the accounting statements.*

The "No" in Statement 1 relates to the 2022-23 accounting statements being completed after the formal deadline. For various reasons the original Internal Audit submission deadline was missed. As the Internal Auditors (TPA) service many other clients, the Internal Audit was delayed until a new (later) time slot in their schedule could be allocated to us.

The submission deadline was formally extended to August 14th 2023 by which time the External Audit documentation was submitted to the Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The requisite (Unaudited) documents have also been published on the SPC website together with the 'Public Rights' Notice which will allow public scrutiny of all documents for at least 30 working days.

2. *Statement 4 : We provided proper opportunity during the year for exercise of electors rights in accordance with the requirements of Accounts and Audit Regulations.*

The "No" statement relates to the 2021-22 accounting statements being completed after the formal deadline .

The deadline for Audit submission was missed last year for various reasons (including Covid and serious IT issues) which necessitates a 'No' for Statement 4.

The requisite documents for 2021-22 were however subsequently published on the SPC website together with the 'Public Rights' Notice which allowed public scrutiny of all documents for at least 30 working days.