Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

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 2026, that:

	Agreed			
	Yes	No*		*'Yes' means that this authority:*
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 have assured 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.*
			✓	
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.		✓		*has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.*

***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:

27 07 2026

and recorded as minute reference:

3879

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

Chair BABailey.

Clerk [illegible]

https://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Saddleworth Parish Council
Financial Year 2025-26
12 months to 31st March 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

Annual Governance Statement

These notes relate to items on the Annual Governance Statement, which are listed as a **"NO"** :

- **Items 1 & 2** - this is based on advice given by the External auditor last year and relates to 2 main areas

  1. VAT accounting - although S126 for FY 2021-22 claims have been made in the year, the Fixed Asset register is still to be adjusted ahead of Non-Business claims due on major activity in FY 2024-25 and 2025-26

  (including car park wall and drains repairs and a stone bus shelter replacement). These will be prioritised in FY 2026-27 and the Fixed Asset Register adjusted accordingly before next year end.

  2. For various reasons, the AGAR has not been approved or published by the deadline of 30th June but it is anticipated that this will be in place by 31st July.

- **Item 4**

  The 'provision for the exercise of public rights' should include the first 10 working days of July. As the 2024-25 AGAR was published in late July the 'public rights' period was in early August instead.
  This will be addressed in FY 2026-27.