

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/23 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 2023, 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 2023 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2023** notifying the external auditor.

HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2022/23, 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 2022/23:

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2022/23:

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 **£200 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2019
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), 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notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice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under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration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 2023.

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

Signature of the Authority Officer Date

LF

Date

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

as recorded in minute reference:

DL

Telephone number

agmail.com

07916 628673

Published web address

ough-hill-parish-lincolnshire.gov.uk

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 2023. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

HOUGH ON THE HILL 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	<i>has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>
		N/A	

*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:

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

and recorded as minute reference:

Chairman

DL

Clerk

LF

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 Code has been published.

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)	
Yes	No
✓	

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	6689	7565	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	6705	7935	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	2089	4485	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	2648	2879	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 authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	5270	7134	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	7565	9972	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	7565	9972	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	30374	30374	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	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

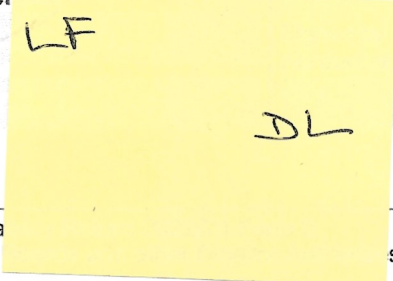
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓	✓	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 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

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

as recorded in minute reference:



 Date _____

Chairman of the meeting where the Statements were approved

Hough on the Hill Parish Council Bank Reconciliation at 31.3.23

<u>Explanation</u>		
Balances brought forward 1.3.23		5,623.81
		6,444.33
		12,068.14
Add receipts:		
interest		<u>5.15</u>
		12,073.29
Less payments:		
Salary and expenses	443.21	
Meeting costs	17.80	
LALC subscription	156.40	
Community Heartbeat mainten.	419.40	
Groundwork UK (repay grant)	1064.36	
		<u>2,101.17</u>
		9,972.12
Represented by:		
Savings account statement		5,628.96
Current account statement		4,343.16
		9,972.12
RESERVES:		
NP	500.00	
Election expenses	1500.00	
Defib maintenance	1580.60	
	3580.60	

Explanation of Variances Hough on the Hill Parish Council

Provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following:

[a] Variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except those less than £200).

[b] A breakdown of approved reserves if the total in Box 7 is more than twice the precept (Box 2)

Section 2	2021/22 £	2022/2023 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation with amount £
BOX 2 Precept	6705	7935	1230	18.5	£1000 was set aside for a Queens Platinum Jubilee memorial
BOX 3 Other receipts	2089	4485	2396	109	We received a donation of £2000 for defibrillator maintenance and an increased grant of £338 for the Neighbourhood Plan
BOX 4 Staff costs	2648	2879	231	8	
BOX 5 Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	NIL	----	
BOX 6 All other payments	5270	7134	1864	35	1183 additional Neighbourhood Plan costs 322 signage costs 163 training costs 202 subscription costs (2 paid in one year)
BOX 9 Total fixed assets	30374	30374	---	----	
BOX 10 Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	NIL	----	
Explanation for high reserves	N/A	N/A	N/A		

HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER AS AT APRIL 2020/21

Revised March 2023 - no change

Item	Location	£ Cost	£ Insurance Value
Village Green	Gelston	0	0
The Pinfold (stone wall surrounding)	Gelston	0	0
Pinfold wooden bench (6ft) and plaque	Gelston	0 (mf)	£420.00
Stone seat with wooden slat top (4ft 6in x 1ft 8in)	Gelston (phone box)	0 (mf)	£210.00
Notice board (3ft x 2ft)	Gelston	£480	£1700
Village seat (silver jubilee memorial plaque) concrete sides, timber slatted back and seat	Gelston (Holly Cottage)	£400.00*	£420.00
Pinfold commemorative plaque	Gelston (Pinfold)	£200.00*	£210.00
Phone box and defibrillator	Gelston	£1000	£1000
Millennium monument (Rutland stone) and village names plaque (brass)	Brandon Church	0	£315.00
Social Club land	Brandon	0	0
Notice board (3ft x 2ft)	Brandon	£480	£1700
Village seat (silver jubilee) concrete sides, thick timber seat and back (6ft 6in)	Brandon Church	£400.00*	£420.00
Phone box and defibrillator	Brandon	£1000	£1000
Gates for C001 at Brandon	Brandon	£388	£388
Playing field	Hough on the Hill	0	0
Notice board (3ft x 2ft)	Hough on the Hill	£480	£1700
Wooden field gate (9ft x 5ft) and pedestrian gate (4ft x 3ft) off 8 x 8 posts	Hough on the Hill	0 (pf)	£420.00
Playing field equipment including covered wooden seating area	Hough on the Hill	0 (mf/pf)	£19,471.00
Phone box and defibrillator	Hough on the Hill	£1,000	£1,000
Brief case, fireproof filing box, filing cabinet	Clerk's House	n/k	0
TOTAL			30374

Notes:

- (1) Insurance value is for replacing items and includes built in labour costs.
- (2) Items marked * are deemed to be of no value except for replacement.
- (3) (mf) = millennium fund purchase & (pf) = playing fields committee purchase. Original costs not borne by Parish Council.
- (4) Land values are zero as Parish Council is only custodian of Hough on the Hill playing fields and Brandon Social Club land. The Council are simply "overseers" of the Pinfold and Gelston Village Green.

Smaller authority name:

HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>1.6.23</u> (a)</p> <p>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 2023, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</p> <p>(b) <u>Hesley Frances - Clerk + RFO</u> <u>Tel: 07916 628673</u> <u>Email: houghpcclerk@gmail.com</u></p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>Monday 5 June 2023</u></p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>Friday 14 July 2023</u></p> <p>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-l.com)</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (e) <u>Hesley Frances</u> <u>Clerk + RFO</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below</p> <p>(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts</p> <p>(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.</p> <p>(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice - this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority</p>