PKF Littlejohn LLP

PKF

Accountants &
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Mr Toni Critchlow
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Barnton
Cheshire
CW8 4QP

Our ref CH0022
SAAA ref SB00584

Email sba@pkf-l.com

26 September 2021

Dear Mr Critchlow

Barnton Parish Council
Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2021

We have completed our review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Barnton Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2021. Please find the external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the AGAR Part 3) included for your attention as another attachment to the email containing this letter along with a copy of Sections 1 and 2, on which our report is based.

The external auditor report and certificate detail any matters arising from the review. The smaller authority must consider these matters and decide what, if any, action is required.

Action you are required to take at the conclusion of the review

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/404) set out what you must do at the conclusion of the review. In summary, you are required to:

- Prepare a "Notice of conclusion of audit" which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. We attach a pro forma notice you may use for this purpose.
- Publish the "Notice" along with the certified AGAR (Sections 1, 2 & 3) before 30 September, which must include publication on the smaller authority's website.
- Keep copies of the AGAR available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication.

Fee

We enclose our fee note for the review, which is in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. Please arrange for this to be paid **at the earliest opportunity.**

Additional charges are itemised on the fee note, where applicable. These arise where either:

PKF Littlejohn LLP, Chartered Accountants. A list of members' names is available at the above address. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales No. OC342572. Registered office as above. PKF Littlejohn LLP is a member firm of the PKF International Limited family of legally independent firms and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions of any individual member or correspondent firm or firms.

- we were required to issue chaser letters and/or exercise our statutory powers due to a failure to provide an AGAR; or
- we had to seek clarification and/or correction to supporting documentation due to a mistake or omission by the smaller authority; or
- it was necessary for us to undertake additional work.

Please return the remittance advice with your payment, which should be sent to: **PKF Littlejohn LLP, Ref: Credit control (SBA), 5th Floor, 15 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HD.** Please include the reference CH0022 or Barnton Parish Council as a reference when paying by BACS.

Timetable for 2021/22

Next year we plan to set a submission deadline for the return of the completed AGAR Part 3 and associated documents (or Certificate of Exemption) in the usual way and this is expected to be Friday 1 July 2022. It is anticipated that the instructions will be sent out during March 2022, subject to arrangements for the 2021/22 AGARs and Certificates of Exemption being finalised by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited (SAAA). Our instructions will cover any changes about which smaller authorities need to be aware.

- The smaller authority must inform the electorate of a single period of 30 working days during which public rights may be exercised. This information **must be published at least the day before** the inspection period commences;
- The inspection period **must** include the first 10 working days of July 2022, i.e. 1 to 14 July inclusive. In practice this means that public rights may be exercised:
    - at the earliest, between Friday 3 June and Thursday 14 July 2022; and
    - at the latest, between Friday 1 July and Thursday 11 August 2022.

As in previous years, in order to assist you in this process we plan to include a pro forma template notice with a suggested inspection period on our website. On submitting your AGAR and associated documentation, as was the case for this year, we will need you to either confirm that the suggested dates have been adopted or inform us of the alternative dates selected.

Feedback on 2020/21

Please note that if you wish to provide feedback, our satisfaction survey template can be used, which is available on our website on this page: https://www.pkf-l.com/services/limited-assurance-regime/useful-information-and-links/

Yours sincerely

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of **BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL - CH0022**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2020/21

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Information received from the smaller authority indicates that the one of the 2020/21 loan repayments of £777 has been posted to Section 2 Box 6, rather than Box 5. Section 2 Boxes 5 and 6 for the current year should read £1,540 and £66,611, respectively.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

The smaller authority has provided complete details of the income and expenditure for 2020/21 but has not provided an adequate numerical explanation for the variance between the prior and current year values for Box 6.

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature PKF Littlejohn LLP Date 25/09/2021

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)