Internal Audit Service

Interim Internal Audit Report

Name of council:	Stilton Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	Julia Tufnail	Date of report:	09.05.23
Year ending:	31 March 2023	Date audit carried out:	5&9.05.23

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to- day function of the staff and management and not left for internal audit.
The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chairman of the Council:

Proper Bookkeeping — All appears to be in order using the Scribe Financial Package, good housekeeping and regular reporting to Council of its financial position using a receipts and payments basis.

Standing Orders Financial Regulations & Code of Conduct — Reviewed & readopted at the annual meeting of the Council in May 2022.

Risk Assessment — Various Risk Assessments were reviewed during the year, as required.
Insurance is in place having also been reviewed at the May meeting.
Robust Internal Controls are in place, conducted by the relevant committee during the year, see below.

Budgetary Controls — Budgetary procedures are in place under the Finance, General Purpose & Communication Committee who report regularly to Council.

Payroll Controls — PAYE & NI – Are outsourced and I can see all payments are up to date. It is noted that the Council uses Nest pension provision.

Asset Control — Reviewed at the May meeting and throughout the year.

Internal Audit Procedure — Internal audit controls are in place. It is noted that both the external and internal auditor for 2022-23 were appointed in May 2022.

Additional Comments & Recommendations
I would like to thank Julianne for her time and assistance in completing this year's Internal Audit. Council uses the committee and working party system well with regular and comprehensive reporting to Council. I would recommend that the following be looked at over the next 12 months to take the Council to the next level:

- Working towards a Quality Status Award
- Putting in place a Scheme of Delegated Authority
- Putting in place an Investment Policy

This report is based on the evidence made available to me. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council to detect error or fraud. Consequently, the report is limited to those matters set out above.

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Internal Auditor
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The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed.
A copy of the guide is available for free download from: https://www.northantscalc.com/uploads/practitioners-guide-2022-8.pdf