

Claypole Parish Council

Explanation of 'No' Responses on Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

Annual Governance Statement Assertion	Comments
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year and for the preparation of the accounting statements	No Clerk/RFO in place for 2022-23 or for most of 2023-24. A member of the council was appointed as RFO at the APCM 2024 but no action was taken to produce the AGAR for 2022-23. Experienced Clerk was appointed in February 2024 who is now putting in place measures needed to comply with this statement
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.	The Parish Council did not comply with its statutory duties and responsibilities during the financial year which culminated in a Public Interest Report being issued. Experienced Clerk/RFO now appointed
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	The Parish Council did not comply with this statutory duty. Experienced Clerk/RFO now appointed.
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	The Parish Council risk register has not been reviewed since 2020. Review will be carried out and agreed during a PC meeting.
6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems	No system for internal audit in place for 2022-23. Internal Audit system put in place towards end of 2023-24. The PC will put in place a robust system of internal audit for 2024-25
7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit	The Parish Council did not respond to the statutory recommendations issued by the external auditor in 2023. Public Interest Report was responded to as newly appointed Clerk/RFO was in place and is now set up for all communications from internal and external auditors.