

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Thursday, 30 July 2020, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllr S Bratt, Cllr R Gale, Cllr T Langlois and Cllr H Smart.

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and no members of the public.

20/64) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr P Watmough.

20/65) Declarations of interest

None.

20/66) Internal controls

a. Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Annual Internal Audit review had been completed for the 2019/20 financial year, and that this is recorded on page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The review concluded that the Parish Council had the expected controls in place and no recommendations were made. It was agreed to note the review.

b. Review of effectiveness

The Clerk reported that the effectiveness of the internal controls in place from April 2019 to March 2020 had been reviewed and no issues had been identified. This review underpins the Annual Governance Statement for the last financial year which is part of the next agenda item.

RESOLVED to approve the review of effectiveness of internal controls for 2019/20.

20/67) Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Firstly, the Clerk reported that the unapproved Annual Governance and Accountability Return and detailed accounts were available on the Parish Council's website. [www.furneuxpelham.org.uk/accounts]

a. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

The Clerk highlighted that the Annual Governance Statement, detailed on page 5 of the Return, reflects that the Parish Council has a system of internal control in place, as highlighted by the review of effectiveness considered under the last agenda item. Following

consideration, RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

b. Accounting Statements 2019/20

The Clerk highlighted that there are two versions of the accounting statements: very summarised version, detailed on page 6 of the Return, and the detailed accounts. Following consideration, RESOLVED to approve both formats of the Accounting Statements 2019/20.

c. Declare the Parish Council exempt 2019/20

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council now has the option of not being subjected to an external audit as its total income and total expenditure are below £25,000, although it can opt for an audit if it wanted to. On the basis that no audit will be undertaken, the Parish Council is required to formally declare itself exempt.

The certificate of exemption, detailed on page 3 of the Return, demonstrates that the Parish Council is below the required threshold. RESOLVED to declare the Parish Council exempt from a limited assurance review.

For completeness, the Clerk highlighted that the Parish Council had to comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code, covered below.

d. Period for exercise of public rights 2019/20

The Clerk explained that the inspection period, during which local electors can inspect the supporting accounting records and ask questions, is still required even though no external audit is being undertaken. In addition, an objection, relating to the accounts, can be raised with the external auditor.

Full details of the rights of a local elector are detailed on the website and the inspection period will be from the 3rd August to the 11th September. This was noted.

e. Compliance with the Transparency Code

The Clerk confirmed that the requirements of the Transparency Code had been complied with, as demonstrated by the documentation circulated with the agenda and available on the Parish Council website.

20/68) Next meeting

Date of next full meeting is 3rd September via Zoom at 7 pm.

The meeting ended at 7:16 pm.