

Section 1 – Accounting statements 2014/15 for

Enter name of reporting body here:

EAST COWTON PARISH

Council/Meeting

Readers should note that throughout this annual return references to a 'local council' or 'council' also relate to a parish meeting.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2014 £	31 March 2015 £	
Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.			
1 Balances brought forward	7706	10385	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 (+) Annual precept	3500	3331	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Excludes any grants received.
3 (+) Total other receipts	1905	1335	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	840	1015	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	1886	3042	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	10385	10994	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	10385	10994	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 other long term investments and assets	20425	19428	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the council as at 31 March
10 Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11 Disclosure note Trust funds (including charitable)	yes	no	The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any trust transactions.
		No	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2015 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer



Date 1/6/15

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council on this date:

13-5-15

and recorded as minute reference:

FINANCE ITEM

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.



Date 04/06/2015

Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2014/15

We acknowledge as the members of:

EAST COWTON PARISH Council/Meeting

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2015, that:

	Agreed –		'Yes' means that the council:
	Yes	No	
1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.
2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
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 the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 the council.
7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
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 the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9 Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

FINANCE MINUTE

dated

Signed by:

Chair

dated 04/06/2015

Signed by:

Clerk

dated 4/6/15

Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the council will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report 2014/15 to

EAST COWTON PARISH Council Meeting

The council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2015.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the council's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the council.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B The council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K Trust funds (including charitable) The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For any other risk areas identified by the council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Name of person who carried out the internal audit D.G. SMITH

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit [Signature] Date 3/6/15

If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Bank reconciliation – pro forma

East Cowton Parish Council

Financial year ending 31 March 2015

Prepared by Elaine Simpson, RFO (Name and role)

Date 1/6/15

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2015:

clg 8173
dep a/c 2821

£ £

10994

Petty cash float (if applicable)

-

Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 2015

10994

-

Add: any un-banked cash at 31 March 2015

10994

Net balances as at 31 March 2015 (Box 8)

10994

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:

CASH BOOK:

Opening Balance 1 April 2014 (Prior year Box 8)

10385

Add: Receipts in the year

+ 4666

Less: Payments in the year

- 4057

Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 31 March 2015 (must equal net balances above – Box 8)

10994

Explanation of variances – pro forma for local councils

East Cowton Parish Council

The JPAG 'Practitioners' Guide' (paragraph 2.15 onwards) provides guidance on explaining significant variances. Please provide explanations for the following:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept value (Box 2).

Section 1	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 Precept					
Box 3 Other receipts	1905	1335	-570	-30%	Refund of cost of speed sign equipment deemed unsuitable despite initial approval by District Council. Funds retained by still under discussion to explore alternative.
Box 4 Staff costs	840	1015	+175	+20%	Clerks wages increased to cover additional workload & responsibilities. No longer appropriate as new Treasurer elected recently. (will revert to previous 2014)
Box 5 Loan interest/ capital repayments					
Box 6 Other payments	1886	3042	+1156	+60%	Additional costs as one-offs include knee surgeon (for safety due to proximity to play area), 2 new benches (replacing damaged) & St John's Ambulance 1st Aid course in conjunction with Resilience Plan.
Box 9 Fixed assets & long term assets	20425	19428	mm		Fixed assets prior year included speed equipment which was rejudged (£1356) Additional asset (benches) incl in fut 2014 (+300)
Box 10 Borrowings					
Explanation for 'high' reserves	Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because Parish Council has carried forward funds previously raised to accommodate emergency costs for flooding, including legal advice/flood alleviation works (due to ongoing & well documented failings in current pumping capacity during extreme wet weather) Also to enable cover costs of traffic calming/ speed reduction equipment currently under discussion.				