

Explanation of 'No' Assertions on Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Assertion 1 – Financial management and preparation of accounting statements

The Parish Council is of the belief that the requirements of Assertion 1 have largely been met.

However, as identified by the Internal Auditor, the Parish Council recognises that owing to a minor administration error, the 2026/27 Precept amount agreed by council was not minuted, nor was the total budgeted for Income and Expenditure amounts.

The monitoring of Budget Vs Actual and reserve levels are carried out on a quarterly basis throughout the year, but the Parish Council recognises that this fact is not often minuted.

The Parish Council recognises what actions should be taken moving forwards to ensure full compliance with Assertion 1.

Assertion 4 – Exercise of public rights

The Parish Council is of the belief that the requirements of Assertion 4 have largely been met.

However, in relation to the “provision for the exercise of public rights” document for the 2024/25 accounts, it is unfortunate that the “External Auditor” version of this document was published to the Parish Council website instead of the “public” version.

The Parish Council recognises what actions should be taken moving forwards to ensure full compliance with Assertion 4.

Assertion 10 – Digital data and compliance

Whilst several requirements of Assertion 10 have been met in full, the Parish Council recognises that certain aspects of Assertion 10 have only been partially met or not met at all.

The weaknesses identified are:

- The Website Accessibility Statement has not recently been reviewed for compliance with WCAG 2.2 AA, nor has the website accessibility been recently tested.
- A robust IT Policy, that covers device use, security protocols, backup procedures, and provides clear guidelines for when councillors or staff leave, has not been developed and deployed by the Parish Council.

An action plan is currently being developed by the Parish Councillors to ensure full compliance with Assertion 10 within the coming months.