



Chairman: Cllr C Nicholson

Clerk: Sarah Kyle, Hill House, Walton, Brampton, CA8 2DY
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13th March 2024

A meeting of Stanwix Rural Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday **20th March 2024 at 7.30pm** in Houghton Village Hall. This is a public meeting and all members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

THIS MEETING WILL BE AUDIO RECORDED FOR TRANSCRIPTION PURPOSES – A COPY OF THE RECORDING WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY EMAIL FROM THE CLERK

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Kyle', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sarah Kyle, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive written apologies and approve reasons for absence

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th January 2024

To resolve to authorise the Chairman to sign to approve the accuracy of the **attached** minutes

3. Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations

- a) The Clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest and to
- b) receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda

4. Public Participation

In accordance with [Standing Orders](#) 3e – 3k, the Chairman will, at his discretion:

- a) invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting; and
- b) receive reports from Cumberland Councillors

5. Planning Matters

5.1 To ratify responses to Planning Applications made prior to the PC Meeting:

24/0028 Timberwell Lodge, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QX - Application Of External Render To Entire Dwelling; Replacement Upvc Windows; Installation Of Pitched Roof Over Flat Roofed Dining Area; Erection And Alteration Of Living Room Front Elevation To Provide 2 Storey Picture Window In New Gable Front

23/0020/TPO 46 Lansdowne Close, Carlisle, CA3 9HN - Pollarding Of Overhanging Branches To 1no. Ash Tree (T8) Subject To TPO288

24/0085 Eden Golf Club, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4RA - Variation Of Condition 5 (Programme Of Archaeological Work) Of Previously Approved Permission 21/0111 (Change Of Use Of Part Of Golf Course To Allow For Stationing Of Up To 100 Caravans) To Take Into Account A Phased Approach To The Development

24/0062 11 Drumburgh Avenue, Carlisle, CA3 0PD - Erection Of Two Storey Side Extension To Provide Garage And Living Area On Ground Floor With 1no. En-Suite Bedroom Above; Single Storey Rear Extension To Provide Additional Dining Area (Revised Application)

24/0145 59 Millcroft, Carlisle, CA3 0HT Erection Of Single Storey Extension To Rear To Provide Additional Living Accommodation; Front Extension To Provide Porch On Ground Floor With New Roof Over To Create First Floor Area; Installation Of Solar Panels To Rear Elevation; Extension To Driveway (Revised Application)

24/0018/S211 5 Rickerby Court, Rickerby, Carlisle, CA3 9BF - Works To 1no. English Oak Tree, 1no. Ash Tree & 1no. Sycamore Tree In Rickerby Conservation Area (Woodland to the rear of Eden View)

5.2 To Consider Possible Actions

21/1143 Land adjacent to Meadow Cottage Tarraby, Carlisle CA3 0JS

To consider complaints raised regarding enforcement queries

23/0001/S211 Tarraby Conservation Area Works to Sycamore Tree

To consider a complaint received regarding the works

5.3 To Receive Decision Notices:

23/0864 4 The Nurseries, Linstock, Carlisle, CA6 4RR - Erection Of First Floor Extension Above Existing Garage To Provide En-Suite Bedroom & Dressing Room

23/0800/01 Houghton House Farm, Houghton, Carlisle, CA6 4DX (LBC) Erection Of Timber Orangery To Replace Existing Conservatory; Replacement Doors To Pool Room; Erection Of Detached Summerhouse & Store

23/0428 Land to the West of Walby Farm & Fairholme Farm, Birky Lane, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QL - Erection Of Agricultural Workers Dwelling On Land Associated With Walby Farm, Together With The Replacement Of The Existing Septic Tank With A Biological Package Treatment Plant At Fairholme Farm, Walby

5.4 To Receive Updates

22/0297 Land to the east of Lansdowne Close/Lansdowne Court, Carlisle - Erection Of 101no. Dwellings With Associated Parking, Landscaping, Drainage And Surface Water Attenuation, Public Open Space And Access

To receive a verbal update

23/0347 Land at Brunstock Lane, Houghton, Carlisle - Residential Development Consisting Of 163no. Dwellings & Associated Infrastructure

To receive a verbal update

22/0672 The Park, Rickerby, Carlisle, CA3 9AA - Discharge of Conditions 3 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme); 4 (Foul Drainage); 6 (Construction Vehicle Parking); 7 (Materials) & 10 (Window Detail) Of Previously Approved Permission 21/0762

6. Administrative Matters

6.1 Community Led Plan

To consider the community event planned for 24th April 7pm – 9pm in Houghton Village Hall and agree a budget

6.2 Emergency Plan

To appoint members to a working group to consider the above

6.3 Summer Play Scheme

To pre-authorise the budgeted expenditure for the above (6 days to be held in summer at Crosby and Houghton)

6.4 Review of Policies

To note that the Clerk has reviewed Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and GDPR policies with no suggestions for amendments made in the current Council year

7. Village Matters

7.1 Linstock Green Drainage

To consider standing water on the Green alongside mole hills

7.2 Wildflowers Tarraby Common Land

To consider the above request

7.3 Empty Property, Jackson Road

To update members regarding concerns over a vacant property

8. Clerk's Report

To receive a verbal report detailing updates from the last meeting

9. Highways Matters

9.1 Dog Walking Tarraby Lane

To consider a complaint regarding unattended dogs and livestock

9.2 Linstock Speeding

To consider concerns raised regarding vehicle speeds

10. Finance Matters

10.1 Payments

To consider the authorisation of payments as detailed in the [attached schedule](#)

10.2 Bank Reconciliation

To note the bank reconciliation to 29 February 2024 as detailed in the [above schedule](#)

10.3 Review of Internal Audit Arrangements

To review and consider approval of the current arrangements – [documentation attached](#)

10.4 Fidelity Insurance Guarantee

To consider a review of the above, prior to the receipt of the precept in April

10.5 Asset Register

To note the updated asset register - [attached](#)

11. Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents in their ward.

Note: no decisions can be made on these matters, but the Clerk may make investigations and/or they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council.

12. Date of Next Meeting

To resolve that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm in Linstock WI Hall. *Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk by 25th March 2024*

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024
at 8pm in the Village Hall, Houghton

PRESENT

The Chairman Cllr C Nicholson, Cllrs A Coles, P Nedved, A Robinson, C Savory and N Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Three members of the public. Cumberland Cllr J Mallinson (arrived 8.09pm). The Clerk, S Kyle.

SR 382/1/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr E Leitch. Apologies were also noted from Cumberland Cllrs H Davison and B Wernham.

SR 383/1/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th December 2023

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council.

SR 384/1/24 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Robinson declared an interest in planning application 24/0001/TPO due to its proximity to his home.

SR 385/1/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments were made by the attending members of the public.

Following item 387.2 below, Cumberland Cllr Mallinson updated members regarding grant funding and winter gritting routes (min 373/12/23 refers). He also reported that, although unconfirmed, a 4.9 percent increase in council tax was likely.

SR 386/1/24 PLANNING MATTERS

386.1 Resolved to Ratify Planning Application Responses Submitted Prior to the Meeting:

23/0864 4 The Nurseries, Linstock, Carlisle, CA6 4RR - Erection Of First Floor Extension Above Existing Garage To Provide En-Suite Bedroom & Dressing Room

386.2 To Consider new Planning Applications

24/0001/TPO 48 Lansdowne Close, Carlisle, CA3 9HN - Reduction To 1no. Ash Tree Subject To TPO 288

Resolved to resubmit previous objections to works on this tree due to the lack of evidence to support the re-application.

386.3 To Consider Additional Planning Matters

22/0297 Land to the east of Lansdowne Close/Lansdowne Court, Carlisle - Erection Of 101no. Dwellings With Associated Parking, Landscaping, Drainage And Surface Water Attenuation, Public Open Space And Access

Members were reminded that the deadline for responses for the revised application was 22 January. It was however noted that Statutory Consultee responses regarding drainage,

education and highways were still outstanding and that Natural England have requested further information regarding a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Due to this it was speculated that a further extension will be necessary. Cllr Robinson informed members he had met in a private capacity with Cumberland Officers, including the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Darren Crossley, to discuss concerns over the application.

23/0347 Land at Brunstock Lane, Houghton, Carlisle - Residential Development Consisting Of 163no. Dwellings & Associated Infrastructure

It was reported that Officer concerns regarding access had not yet been alleviated and that information regarding drainage and flooding revisions were still outstanding. Due to this it was assumed that the application would not be heard before April or May.

22/0672 The Park, Rickerby, Carlisle, CA3 9AA - Discharge of Conditions 3 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme); 4 (Foul Drainage); 6 (Construction Vehicle Parking); 7 (Materials) & 10 (Window Detail) Of Previously Approved Permission 21/0762

A briefing note had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting detailing updates with the process regarding parish council concerns over the application.

SR 387/1/24 Administrative matters.

387.1 Community Led Plan

Resolved that Cllrs Nicholson, Savory and Nedved to meet on Monday 22nd January to consider planning the open evening event.

387.2 Pest control

Concerns were expressed that the removal of free rodent pest control services from Cumberland Council may lead to failure to report infestations, thereby increasing the public health and environmental risks.

Resolved to send a letter to Cumberland Council outlining concerns over the removal of the free service.

387.3 Council arrangements for February 2024

It was noted that no meeting will take place during February due to being unable to be quorate.

Resolved that Cllr Nedved will join the planning working group during February. Also resolved that contractual payments will be made and any emergency payments or decisions will be dealt with under delegated powers by the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman.

387.4 D-Day Commemorations

Resolved to support the above with grant funding to be made available to community groups to commemorate the occasion. Consideration will also be given to installing a commemorative plaque on a parish bench.

SR 388/1/24 CLERK'S REPORT

A verbal update was provided, noting:

Councillor Vacancies

Thanks were given to the three attending members of the public for their potential interest in joining the Council.

Bus Services

Information regarding the bus service funding has been sent to the Border Rambler and Go North and contact details will be further provided. Cllr Nedved reported that amendments to service provisions are expected to be announced in April.

Play Area Inspections

Tender documents were in preparation for the potential new inspection rota.

Grounds maintenance contract

The 2024 contract has been verbally accepted and documents for signing will be issued in due course.

Grants noticeboard

A grant application to Cumberland Council is being written for the replacement of one to two noticeboard.

SR 389/1/24 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

389.1 Jackson Road

Discussion was held regarding the ongoing problems experienced by residents, primarily due to the school traffic. It was noted that experimental temporary traffic orders were currently in experiment in Inglewood and St Bede's to prohibit parking within a specified distance of their school at designated times. Alternative options such as a one-way system are previously discussed options with Highways.

Resolved that a survey of residents in Jackson Road, Smithy Croft, Green Lane and Beech Grove be consulted regarding potential solutions to the ongoing traffic issues. A copy of the survey also to be sent to the school and nursery. Cumberland Cllr Mallinson will also make enquires regarding the possibility for any experimental traffic order to be considered.

389.2 Speed Camera

The persistent existence of speeding over 30mph on Houghton Road was considered with members being informed that up to a third of vehicles are travelling over 30mph. Debate was held regarding potential solutions, including requesting consideration of a fixed traffic camera on the road.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Highways/Police to request consideration be given to the installation of a camera on Houghton Road.

SR 390/1/24 FINANCE MATTERS

390.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise the payment of invoices below:

Sarah Kyle	January salary & reimbursements	BACS	£1,371.49
HMRC	PAYE	BACS	£146.16
NEST	Pension January	DD	£93.69
A Kyle	January Salary	BACS	£232.40
C Bragg	Pond Ongoing	BACS	£3,681.60
Houghton Village Hall	Rental	BACS	£16.00
S Aglionby	Grant	BACS	£336.11
Unity Bank	Charges	DD	£18.00
			£5,895.45

390.2 Receipts

Resolved to note the receipt of £474.98 interest from Unity Bank.

390.3 Bank Reconciliation

Cash Book	Balance at 01.04.2023	£48,554.48
	Receipts to 31.12.23	£56,003.80
		£104,558.28
	Expenditure to 31.12.23	£37,924.15
	Cash book balance 31.12.23	£66,634.13
Represented by:	Current A/C (Unity)	£1,191.51
	Savings A/C (Unity)	£64,472.47
	Balance at bank 31.12.23	£65,663.98
	plus cheques still to be deposited	£1,005.15
	less payments still to be made	£35.00
		£66,634.13

390.4 Income and Expenditure against Budget 2023/24

The schedule of income and expenditure against budget to 31 December 2023 had been circulated alongside the agenda and was noted.

390.5 Grant Awards 2023/20234

Resolved to donate £150 towards the printing costs for the current financial year to Crosby Parish Magazine.

390.6 Grant Scheme 2024/25

A revised set of grant conditions for the forthcoming financial year had been circulated alongside the agenda.

Resolved to accept the grant criteria and open the 2024/25 scheme, with applications to be considered at the April 2024 meeting.

SR 390/1/24 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr Coles reported increased drainage problems, both at the Eden Gate bus stop, and emerging from the Police site. Both matters are to be reported to Highways.

SR 391/1/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Houghton. Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk before 4th March 2024.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.03pm.

<u>Schedule of Payments to be Authorised 20 March 2024</u>			
Payee	Details	Method	Gross Amount
Sarah Kyle	February salary	BACS	£1,288.49
HMRC	PAYE	BACS	£146.36
NEST	Pension February	DD	£93.69
A Kyle	February Salary	BACS	£232.40
Houghton Village Hal	Hall Rental	BACS	£16.00
Cluaran	Grounds maintenance	BACS	£1,860.00
EquiPhase	Website hosting	BACS	£66.00
Sarah Kyle	March salary	BACS	£1,250.89
HMRC	PAYE March	BACS	£146.16
Nest	March pension	DD	£93.69
A Kyle	March salary	BACS	£232.40
Savills	LInstock Green	BACS	£10.00
C Nicholson	Flyer Printing	BACS	£65.00
S Kyle	Stamps and ink	BACS	£277.39
S Kyle	Software		£254.45
Play Inspection Co	Quarterly Inspection	BACS	£262.44
			£6,295.36
<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>			
Cash Book	Balance at 01.04.2023		£48,554.48
	Receipts to 29.02.24		£56,003.80
			£104,558.28
	Expenditure to 29.02.24		£48,109.37
	Cash book balance 29.02.24		£56,448.91
Represented by:	Current A/C (Unity)		£971.29
	Savings A/C (Unity)		£54,472.47
	Balance at bank 29.02.24		£55,443.76
	plus cheques still to be deposited		£1,005.15
	less payments still to be made		0
			£56,448.91

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 20 March 2024
Title: REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2023/24
Report of: CLERK

SUMMARY:

This is to consider the effectiveness of our internal audit arrangements for the financial year 2023/24 and to consider the re-appointment of the internal auditor.

REPORT:

The Council is required to review its internal audit arrangements each financial year. This is a requirement of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and our adopted Financial Regulations. The Council must consider its current arrangements and authorise amendments to its procedures.

a) Internal Audit Plan (Appendix 1)

These are the current terms of reference that the internal auditor undertakes on behalf of the Council, preceded by an overall framework for the internal audit arrangements. The Council needs to decide if the plan/checks currently in place are sufficient and, if so, agree on the plan for the financial year 2023/24. The plan, if agreed upon, will stay in place until further review takes place in approximately March 2025.

b) Statement Regarding the Effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit

The Council is requested to confirm that they wish to re-appoint the Internal Auditor, Mr Robert Gordon, with immediate effect if so, that the Council resolves for the Chairman to sign the Statement Regarding the Effectiveness of the Councils Internal Audit (Appendix 2).

c) Internal Audit Review Checklist (Appendix 3)

The Council also needs to consider five standards expected of our internal audit as well as the characteristics of that effectiveness. These are outlined in Appendix 3.

ACTION:

The Council is requested to determine if they wish to:

- Approve the Internal Audit Plan/Terms of Reference for the financial year 2023/24.
- Authorise the Chairman to sign the statement regarding the Effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit.
- Authorise the Chairman to sign the Internal Audit Review Checklist.
- Re-appoint Mr R Gordon as the Council's internal auditor immediately and until further review.

The Council are also asked to confirm that the arrangements will continue into 2024/25 until a further review is carried out.

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/24

To safeguard Stanwix Rural Parish Council finances there are 3 systems of control:

- **Internal control,**
- **External Audit and**
- **Internal Audit**

Internal audit is a key component of the system of internal control. Its purpose is to review whether the systems of financial control and other controls over the activities of the council are adequate, effective, and in line with current regulations. Internal audit can assist the council in its responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption, error and mistakes.

The Internal Auditor is independent of the operations (financial control/management) of the Council and competent in the understanding of the law as applicable to Local Councils, of simple accounting and basic PAYE and VAT requirements.

The appointment of the Internal Auditor, along with agreed Terms of Reference, will be verified by the Council once per year. Any change in personal circumstances that may cause a question over the independence requirement must be reported to the Council.

The Internal Auditor will carry out under the direction and management of the Council (or as may be delegated to a Committee or to the Clerk) the following tasks:

- To review the accounting and internal control systems after the year end accounts have been completed.
- To report in writing to Council each year on the results of such tests of the system that are carried out.
- To report to Council in the format required in the Annual Return and to provide assurance for the council's Annual Governance Statement.
- To carry out test checking of the books accounts and vouchers as required.

These Tasks will be carried out using the guidance taken from Governance and Accountability for Local Councils: A Practitioners Guide 2014 and the schedule below suggests an approach to the testing of the key controls to provide assurance that the minimum level of coverage has been met and that all known risks are managed adequately.

A review of the effectiveness of the internal audit process will be carried out once per year by the Council. This will be done in conjunction with a review of the Council's internal controls (as set out in the financial regulations and standing orders) and the risk management procedures.

Internal Audit Terms of Reference for Y/E 31st March 2024

1. Proper Bookkeeping	<u>End Year</u>
Is cashbook maintained and up to date?	
Is cashbook arithmetically correct?	
Is cashbook regularly balanced?	
Is there a checking system for data input into the computer?	
Is computerised financial information regularly backed-up?	

2. a) Standing Orders Financial Regulations adopted and applied, and b) payment controls?	<u>End Year</u>
Has the Council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial regulations?	
Are they regularly reviewed?	
Has a Responsible Financial Officer been appointed with specific duties?	
Check (say) minimum 1 item or service per quarter above £2500. Has it been competitively purchased?	
Are payments in the cashbook supported by invoices, authorised and minuted? Check minimum 3 items over (say) £1000/quarter.	
Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	
Is sec137 expenditure recorded and within statutory limits?	

3. Risk Management Arrangements	<u>End Year</u>
Do the Minutes record the Council carrying out an annual risk assessment?	
Are the internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	
Does a scan of the Minutes identify any unusual financial activity? Are legal powers available and is the basis of the powers recorded and correctly applied?	
Are Minutes properly numbered/paginated with a master copy kept in safekeeping?	
Are procedures in place for recording/monitoring members' interests/gifts/hospitality received?	
Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	

4. Budgetary Controls	<u>End Year</u>
Has the Council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept?	
Is actual expenditure against the budget regularly reported to the Council?	
Are there any significant unexplained variances against budget?	
Are reserves adequate/excessive?	

5. Income Controls	<u>End Year</u>
Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	
Does the precept in the cashbook agree to the District Council's notification?	
Are security controls over cash adequate and effective?	

6. Payroll Controls	<u>End Year</u>
Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the Council?	

Are other payments to the Clerk reasonable and approved by the Council?	
Has PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the Council as an employer?	

7. Bank Reconciliation	End Year
Is there a bank reconciliation of each account?	
Are the original bank statement balances checked every month (by someone other than the Chairman) to the bank reconciliation?	
Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly on receipt of statements?	
Are there any unexplained balancing entered in the reconciliation?	

8. Year End Procedures	End Year
Are year-end accounts prepared on the correct basis? (receipts & payments/income & expenditure)	
Do accounts agree with the cashbook?	
Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	
Where appropriate, have debtors/creditors been properly recorded?	

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

**STATEMENT REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S
INTERNAL AUDIT**

Stanwix Rural Parish Council is confident that its Internal Auditor, Mr R Gordon, is a competent person, independent of the Council, to review it's financial controls and procedures and to give an objective view on the controls put in place by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and approved by the Council.

The Internal Auditor is a registered accountant, an ex-Parish Councillor and is briefed with Account and Audit Regulations 2015.

During the year the Council has responded to observations made by the Internal Auditor to further ensure compliance of the regulations.

Signed: _____
Cllr C Nicholson, Chairman

Date: _____

Stanwix Rural Parish Council Internal Audit Review Checklist 2023/24

Expected Standard	Evidence of Achievement	Yes/ No	Areas for Development
1. Scope of internal audit	Terms of reference for internal audit were reapproved by full council in March 2024 and remain on-going	Yes	
	Internal audit work takes into account both the councils risk assessment and wider internal control arrangements.	Yes	
	Internal audit work covers the council's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements.	Yes	
2. Independence	Internal audit has direct access to those charged with governance (see financial regulations).		
	Reports are made in own name to management.	Yes	
	Internal audit does not have any other role within the Council.		
3. Competence	There is no evidence of a failure to carry out internal audit work ethically, with integrity and objectivity.	Yes	
4. Relationships	All responsible officers (Clerk/RFO) are consulted on the internal audit plan.		
	Respective responsibilities for officers and internal audit are defined in relation to internal control, risk management and fraud and corruption matters (job descriptions and engagement letter).	Yes	
	The responsibilities of council members are understood; training of members is carried out if necessary		Encourage attendance at planned training
5. Audit planning and reporting	The annual internal audit plan properly takes account of all the risks facing the council and has been approved by the Council March 2024.	Yes	
	Internal audit has reported in accordance with the plan on a regular basis.		

Characteristics of 'effectiveness'	Evidence of Achievement	Yes/No	Areas for Development
Internal audit work is planned	Planned internal audit work is based on risk assessment and designed to meet the Council's needs.	Yes	
Understanding the whole organisation, its needs and objectives	The annual audit plan demonstrates how audit work will provide assurance for the council's Annual Governance Statement.	Yes	
Be seen as a catalyst for change	Internal audit supports the council's work in delivering improved services to the community.	Yes	
Add value and assist the organisation in achieving its objectives.	The council makes positive responses to internal audit's recommendations and follow up with action where this is called for.	Yes	
Be forward looking	In formulating the annual audit plan, national agenda changes are considered. Internal audit maintains awareness of new developments in the Councils services, risk management and corporate governance arrangements.	Yes	
Be challenging	Internal audit focuses on the risks facing the council. Internal audit encourages managers/members to develop their own responses to risks, rather than relying solely on audit recommendations.	Yes	
Ensure the right resources are available	Adequate resource is made available for internal audit to complete its work. Internal audit understands the council and the legal and corporate framework in which it operates.	Yes	

Signed:..... Chairman, Stanwix Rural Parish Council 20 March 2024