

We acknowledge as the members of:

BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for 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 2019, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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 this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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 this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
	✓		

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets should be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

11/06/2019

and recorded as minute reference:

699

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman



Clerk



**Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)**

Authority web address

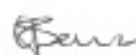
[www.barkway-village.org.uk](http://www.barkway-village.org.uk)

## BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2019 £	
1. Balances brought forward	60,479	73,649	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. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	35,476	36,187	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	32,471	54,532	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	15,566	16,369	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	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	39,711	62,800	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	73,649	85,199	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	73,649	85,199	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 long term investments and assets	248,997	262,558	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, 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.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2019 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval



11/06/2019

Date

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

11/06/2019

as recorded in minute reference:

699

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



## BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation **during** the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

The internal audit for 2018/19 has been carried out in accordance with this authority'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 this authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. IF the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2017/18, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. ("Not Covered" should only be ticked where the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2017/18 AGAR)	✓		
L. During summer 2018 this authority has correctly provided the proper opportunity for the exercise of public rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.			Not applicable ✓
M. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	✓		Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed)

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

25/06/19

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

CAROL WILKES FCA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

25/06/19

\*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to 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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

# Bank reconciliation – pro forma

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must agree with the column headed "Year ending 31 March 2019" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a cash and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative numbers.

Name of smaller authority:

Barkway Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

North Hertfordshire

Financial year ending 31 March 2019

Prepared by (Name and Role):

Catharine Toms - Clerk/RFO

Date:

31/03/2019

		£	£
<b>Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/19:</b>			
	account 1 Community A/C	17,126.11	
	account 2 Saver A/C	72,985.91	
	account 3 Pavilion A/C	286.38	
[add more accounts if necessary]	account 4		
	account 5		
	account 6		
	account 7		
	account 8		
			90,398.40
Petty cash float (if applicable)			25.00
<b>Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/19 (enter these as negative numbers)</b>			
	item 1 CHQ 102691	(250.00)	
	item 2 CHQ 102760	(167.00)	
	item 3 CHQ 102761	(152.00)	
	item 4 CHQ 102762	(100.00)	
[add more lines if necessary]	item 5 CHQ 102763	(55.00)	
	item 6 CHQ 102764	(1,500.00)	
	item 7 CHQ 102765	(3,000.00)	
	item 8		
			(5,224.00)
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/19			
<b>Net balances as at 31/3/19 (Box 8)</b>			<b>85,199.40</b>

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between years for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- a breakdown of approved revenues on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than before the annual process and leaves value (Box 2).

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES
1 Balance Brought Forward	60,971	73,643				
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	35,473	36,187	714	2.00%	NO	
3 Total Other Receipts	32,471	54,932	22,461	67.94%	YES	Additional income this year of £26,206 Section 106 monies, £911 grants, £625 for football pitch and Pavilion, net £261 donations from Bonfire Night
4 Staff Costs	15,949	16,319	369	5.5%	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Recognition	£	£	£	0.00%	NO	
6 All Other Payments	39,711	62,666	22,955	58.4%	YES	Additional costs this year of £388 on development of Neighbourhood Plan, £212 costs of opposition to Local Plan, £740 on site survey and maintenance, £160 maintenance on Wagon Wash, £495 maintenance of the Pond and Village Greens, £10,961 on equipment including a bus shelter, zip wire, coffeebar, foot trolley and grt bin, £540 on football pitch maintenance, £2,007 on installing disabled access to Recreation Ground and Pavilion and installation of non-slip floor in Changing Rooms area. Less costs this year of -£2,394 on legal and professional fees (acquisition of Open Space), -£9,472 on renovation of War Memorial, -£7,015 on grants from Solar Farm fund
7 Balance Carried Forward	73,643	85,119			YES	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED TO WHY CARRY FORWARD RESERVES ARE
8 Total Cash and Short Term investments	73,643	85,119			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term investments and	249,667	249,667	13,261	5.45%	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	£	£	£	0.00%	NO	

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

BOX 1 VARiances EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL REVENUE) INTEREST PAYMENT

### Explanation for 'high' reserves

(Please complete the highlighted boxes.)

Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year end:

	£	£	£
<b>Earmarked reserves:</b>			
Community Cont	39383		Community Contribution Fund (Mitigation due to nearby Solar Farm installation)
Reserve 2			
Reserve 3			
Reserve 4			
Reserve 5			
Reserve 6			
Reserve 7			
			<u>39383</u>
<b>General reserve</b>	<u>45816</u>		
<b>Total reserves (must agree to Box 7)</b>			<u><u>85199</u></u>