

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

Bredhurst Parish Council

www.bredhurst-pc.gov.uk PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 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	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 bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")			NOT EXEMPT
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	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 20/11/2024 23/05/2025 DD/MM/YYYY Name of person who carried out the internal audit HANNAH BARTON (KCC) AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit Hannah Barton Date 23/05/2025

*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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

Bredhurst 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 2025, 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 must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

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

11/06/2025

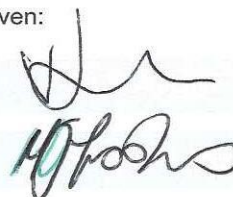
and recorded as minute reference:

256/25e

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

Chair

Clerk



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Bredhurst Parish Council

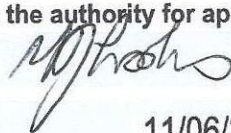
	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	32,168	25,841	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	30,588	32,327	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	31,271	55,171	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	10,532	10,920	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	57,654	60,753	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	25,841	41,666	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	25,842	41,667	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	69,559	68,545	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	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 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



11/06/2025

Date

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

11/06/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

256/25f

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



Instructions:

Please complete the coloured boxes with figures per the AGAR and figures for earmarked reserves.

The 'Explanation Required?' box will indicate whether an explanation is required to explain reserves exceeding the tolerable threshold set by Forvis Mazars (1.15 x the higher of precept and total payments).

If explanations are required, please document these in the rows below (*insert more rows where required*).

Once a sufficient amount of explanations has been provided, this will be shown with a 'Yes' in the 'Explanation sufficient?' line.

Box 2 Precept 32,327 x 1.15 = 37,176

Box 4 Staff costs

10,920

Box 5 Loan interest / capital repayments

0

Box 6 Other payments

60,753

71,673 x 1.15 = 82,424

Max level of reserves

82,424

Box 7 Balances carried forward

41,667

Explanation required?

No

Explanation(s) for earmarked reserves: **NB: NOT 'general' funds/reserves**

Asset Replacement

5,000

Blacksmith Barn

10,537

CIL Reserve

0

15,537

Reserves not earmarked

26,130

Explanations sufficient?

Yes

Statement of Variances - Year ended 31 March 2025

Instructions for completing this template:

1. Enter figures per the AGAR in the cells highlighted in light blue. This will automatically calculate a percentage change between years.
 2. If the variance is within 15%, no explanation is required. However, if it is outside this threshold, the percentage difference will highlight in yellow and an explanation is required.
 3. Explanations should be entered in each section, quantified to show the figures for each year. This will automatically calculate the remaining difference and the percentage unexplained.
 4. Once a sufficient explanation has been given to bring the percentage within 15% between years, the percentage difference cell will highlight as 'green' in the 'adjusted' line.
- Please note that for fixed assets, regardless of the percentage change in the figure, an explanation is required for the movement.

Item	2023-24	2024-25	Difference	%	Additional comments / explanations
Box 2: Precept or Rates and levies	30,588.00	32,327.00	1,739.00	5.7%	
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Box 2: Precept or Rates and levies (adjusted)			1,739.00	5.7%	No further explanation needed
Box 3: Total other receipts	31,271.00	53,259.00	21,988.00	70.3%	
Lidsing Fundraising	9,177.00	33,430.00	24,253.00		Public Fundraising for Judicial Review at the High Court against MBC and Lidsing Garden Development
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Box 3: Total other receipts (adjusted)			- 2,265.00	-7.2%	No further explanation needed
Box 4: Staff costs	10,532.00	10,920.00	388.00	3.7%	
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Box 4: Staff costs (adjusted)			388.00	3.7%	No further explanation needed
Box 5: Loan interest/capital repayments	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Box 5: Loan interest/capital repayments (adjusted)			-	0.0%	No further explanation needed
Box 6: Other payments	57,564.00	60,753.00	3,189.00	5.5%	
			-		
			-		
			-		

			-		
			-		
Box 6: Other payments (adjusted)			3,189.00	5.5%	No further explanation needed

Box 9: Fixed assets plus long-term investments	69,559.00	68,544.00	- 1,015.00	-1.5%	
CCTV and Intruder Alarm	5,500.00	1,723.00	- 3,777.00		Replaced at a much lower cost
Notice Board	485.00	1,763.00	1,278.00		Replaced noticeboard using acquired grant fund
Allotment Fencing	1,102.00	2,333.00	1,231.00		Replaced allotment fence through insurance claim
Bench	400.00	900.00	500.00		Replaced delapidated bench for new more expensive bench
Barn Trolley and Padded Chairs	813.00	-	- 813.00		
HP Printer 8130e		100.00	100.00		Purchased a printer for the Clerk
Dell Monitor		80.00	80.00		Additional monitor for the Clerk
Wireless Keyboard and Mouse		20.00	20.00		Purchased office equipment for Clerk to carry out her duties
Fellowes Cross Shredder		35.00	35.00		Purchased office equipment for Clerk to carry out her duties
Box 9: Fixed assets plus long-term investments (adjusted)			331.00	0.5%	No further explanation needed

Box 10: Total borrowings	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Box 10: Total borrowings (adjusted)			-	0.0%	No further explanation needed