

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Governance and Accountability Return
(AGAR 2025-2026)
Accounts for year ending 31st March 2026

1. Annual Internal Audit Report 2025-2026
2. Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026
3. Accounting Statement for 2025-2026
4. Explanation of Variances from previous years.
5. Bank Account Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026
6. Certificate of Exemption for external audit 2025-2026
7. Notice of Public Rights for accounts for the year ended 2025-2026
8. Contact Details

Any resident wishing to inspect the AGAR should also refer to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held 5th May 2026 for confirmation that the AGAR returns have been agreed by the Parish Council. Details of the Accounts 2025-2026 are available elsewhere on this section of the website.

Amy Miller

Clerk and RFO

5th May 2026

Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Name of council:	Woodnewton Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	Claire Tilley	Date of report:	16 th April 2026
Year ending:	31 March 2026	Date audit carried out:	16 th April 2026

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and management and not left for internal audit. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out below.

The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chairman of the Council:

I held a remote meeting today with the Parish Clerk, Amy and thank her for her time and assistance. Prior to this I had reviewed the information available at <https://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/parishcouncil/>. Although this is not a council owned website, I was pleased to see that all the necessary policies and actions had been put in place in order for the council to agree to the new assertion 10 on the AGAR, regarding digital compliance. After reviewing the policies and Minutes, I had a number of queries for the council, which Amy readily supplied, either electronically or during our discussion. Although I make a couple of recommendations, this does not detract from the fact that I was able to satisfy myself that all the Internal Audit Objectives had been achieved. I therefore have signed off the AIAR.

Have any comments from the internal audit 2024-2025 been addressed?

Recommendation 2024-2025	Comment
Move to a council owned Email address	Clerk is now using clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk

Cont.

Recommendations for action 2025-2026

Areas for consideration or improvement	Recommendation
Insurance Policy	Consider adding cyber security liability
Councillor meeting absences	Council should formally approve absences rather than just recording them, to comply with Local Government Act 1972 Sec 85(1)

Yours sincerely,



Ms Claire Tilley
Internal Auditor to the Council
07981609565
claire@renaissancebusiness.co.uk

The figures submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are:

	Year ending 31 March 2025	Year ending 31 March 2026
1. Balances brought forward	15,791	17,783
2. Annual precept	19,558	20,536
3. Total other receipts	3,684	3,589
4. Staff costs	6,606	7,237
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	770	0
6. Total other payments	13,874	15,512
7. Balances carried forward	17,783	19,159
8. Total cash and investments	17,783	19,159
9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	140,651	140,651
10. Total borrowings	0	0

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (2025)*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed. A copy of the guide is available for free download from:

<https://www.northantscalc.com/practitioners-guide-2024>.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Woodnewton Parish Council

<https://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/parishcouncil/>

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, 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 2025/26 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. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all 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 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>	✓		
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 <i>(during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)</i> .	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)</i> .	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (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 Name of person who carried out the internal audit

16/04/2026

Claire Tilley CiLCA PIALC

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

16/04/2026

*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 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).

NORTHANTS CALC LTD

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

WOODNEWTON 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 2026, that:

	Agreed			‘Yes’ means that this authority:
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	☒	☐		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	☒	☐		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We have assured 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.	☒	☐		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.	☒	☐		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority’s accounts.
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.	☒	☐		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	☒	☐		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.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	☒	☐		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 this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	☒	☐		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
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.	☐	☐	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	☒	☐		has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.

*For any statement to which the response is ‘no’, an explanation must be published

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

18/05/2026

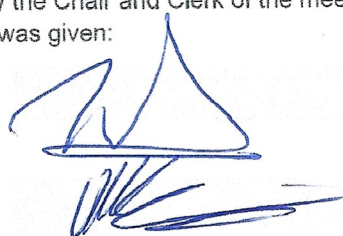
and recorded as minute reference:

13(b).

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

Chair

Clerk



Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

	Yes	No
The authority website is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.	☐	☐

<https://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/parishcouncil>

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	15,791	17,783	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	19,558	20,536	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,684	3,589	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	6,606	7,237	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	770	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	13,874	15,512	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	17,783	19,159	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	17,783	19,159	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	140,651	140,651	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	
11. Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions?		✓	For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 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.



Date

18/05/2026

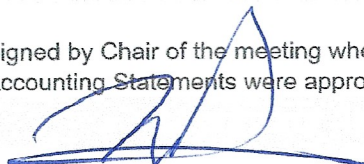
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

18/05/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

1366

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



Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: Woodnewton Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only)

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all **Blue** highlighted boxes

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 totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- New from 2025/26 onwards: variances of £500,000 or more in Box 3 require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year for smaller authorities with income and/or expenditure exceeding £8,500,000

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	15,791	17,783				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	19,558	20,536	978	5.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	3,684	3,589	-95	2.58%	NO		
4 Staff Costs	6,606	7,237	631	9.55%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	770	0	-770	100.00%	YES		This was a SALIX loan for the street lights which was finally paid off 31 March 2025 hence a zero for both years in box 10 (total borrowings)
6 All Other Payments	13,874	15,512	1,638	11.81%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	17,783	19,159				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED.	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	17,783	19,159				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED.	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	140,651	140,651	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

Woodnewton Parish Council

Bank Account Reconciliation

Financial Year: 1st April 2025 -31st March 2026

Position At: 31st March 2025

Balance at 1st April 2025 as per Bank Statement	£17,783.48
Available balance as at 1st April 2025	£17,783.48
(Balance less unpresented cheques at 1st April 2025)	0
Expenditure 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026	-£22,749.47
Receipts 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026	£24,124.85
	<u>£1,375.38</u>
Unpresented cheques at 31st March 2026	£0.00
Un-banked cheques at 31st March 2026	£0.00
Un-banked cash at 31st March 2026	£0.00
Balance at 31st March as per Bank Statement	£19,158.86
Available balance as at 31st March 2026	£19,158.86
(Balance less unpresented cheques at 31st March 2026)	
CHECK	£0.00

Prepared by: Amy Miller(Clerk and RFO)
01/04/2026

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2025/26 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2026 and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2026 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2026** notifying the external auditor.

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2025/26, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2025/26: £24,125

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2025/26: £22,749

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is **unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£210 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2022
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2024/25), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2026.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

18/05/26

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

18/05/26

Signed by Chair

Date

18/5/26

as recorded in minute reference:

13(LF)

Generic email address of Authority

clerk@woodnewtonparish.co.uk

Telephone number

07767 308859

*Published web address

<https://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/parishcouncil>

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2026. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement: 25TH MAY 2026 2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2026, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to: (b) clerk@woodnewtonparish.co.uk - Amy Miller Clerk & RFO commencing on (c) <u>Wednesday 3 June 2026</u> and ending on (d) <u>Tuesday 14 July 2026</u> 3. Local government electors and their representatives also have: - The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and - The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only. 4. The smaller authority's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed auditor is: PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 30 Churchill Place London E14 5RE (sba@pkf-l.com) 5. This announcement is made by (e) Amy Miller Clerk & RFO - WPC	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below (b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts (c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and exactly 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below (d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July. (e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

Contact details

Name of smaller authority: **WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only) **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Please complete this form and send it back to us with the AGAR or exemption certificate

	Clerk/RFO (Main contact)	Chair
Name	Amy Miller	Paul Blackmore
Address	25 Main Street Woodnewton PE8 5EB	69 Main Street Woodnewton PE8 5EB
Daytime telephone number		
Mobile telephone number	07767 308859	07733 014707
Email address	clerk@woodnewtonparish.co.uk	Paulblackmore177@msn.com