

Internal Audit Report

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

Name of council:	Braunston Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	Gill Wells	Date of report:	21 st April 2023
Year ending:	31 March 2023	Date audit carried out:	17 th April 2023

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of an authority's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the authority's control. Managing the authority's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the authority and not left for internal audit. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of an authority 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 authority 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,

As part of the annual internal audit process I carried out a full examination of bookkeeping, due process, risk management, bank reconciliations, internal control and performed a detailed scan of the minutes and decisions taken by the authority from 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023.

During the course of the audit I asked for clarification on a number of points and issues which your Clerk, Mr Rolt, swiftly responded to in detail for which I am very grateful.

I would make the following points and comments for your consideration and action if necessary:-

- The Council is not eligible to hold the General Power of Competence – as such, the Council can only expend money on items it has a legal power or duty to do so. Each item of expenditure should have the relevant power under which the money is being expended listed against the item in order that the Council is able to evidence to Members of the Public that it has not exceeded its powers in terms of financial management and expenditure. Whilst there was some evidence that legislation had been applied to some of the payments approved by Council they have not been applied to all. Moreover, there is some confusion over the use of legislation pertaining to the use of the S137 power. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory expenditure – an example of use of S137 expenditure is often for the purchase of a wreath for a Remembrance Service. Litter picking would come under such legislation as the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Local Government Act 1983. As S137 payments are restricted in sum it is necessary to put a line item in the accounts just for S137 payments.

This report is based on the evidence made available to me either on the website or confirmed by email. It would be incorrect to view the internal audit report as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of the council in order to detect error or fraud. Consequently, the report is limited to those matters set out above.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Clerk, Steven, for providing all of the information and I look forward to auditing Braunston Parish Council next year.

Yours sincerely,



Gill Wells
Internal Auditor to the Council
Thewellsclan1@googlemail.com

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

	Year ending 31 March 2022	Year ending 31 March 2023
1. Balances brought forward	69145	75811
2. Annual precept	55244	56901
3. Total other receipts	1923	1328
4. Staff costs	16900	14627
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	6135	6135
6. Total other payments	29743	89442
7. Balances carried forward	75811	23836
8. Total cash and investments	77353	19922
9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	215382	215382
10. Total borrowings	99234	96146