

(local council name) STONY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL**Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors' rights****Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010**

Audit Commission Act 1998, Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/533) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/564)

<p>1. Date of announcement: 16 June 2010 (a)</p> <p>2. Each year the Council's/Meetings (b) Annual Return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission. Any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the Annual Return and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts etc. relating to them. For the year ended 31st March 2010, these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to:</p> <p>(c) <u>CHARLES BRINDLEY TOWN CLERK</u> <u>STONY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL</u> <u>%o THE LIBRARY, 5-7 CHURCH ST</u> <u>STONY STRATFORD, MK11 1BD</u></p> <p>between the hours of (d) <u>10 am</u> and (d) <u>3 pm</u> on</p> <p>(e) <u>MONDAY</u> to (e) <u>FRIDAY</u></p> <p>commencing on (f) 1 July 2010</p> <p>and ending on (g) 28 July 2010</p> <p>3. Local Government Electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts. The auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose on 29 July 2010 (h) and after that date will be available at the address given in paragraph 4 below until the audit has been completed; and the right to make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the (i) Council/Meeting. <p>4. The audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) and the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice. Your audit is being carried out by:</p> <p>Mazars LLP, Regency House, 3 Grosvenor Square, Southampton SO15 2BE</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (j) <u>CHARLES BRINDLEY, TOWN CLERK</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 14 days before the date in (f) below</p> <p>(b) Delete as appropriate</p> <p>(c) Insert name, position and address of the Clerk or other person to whom any person may apply to inspect the accounts</p> <p>(d) Insert the times between which any person may apply to inspect the accounts. NB Indicate if there is a lunchtime closure</p> <p>(e) Insert working days of the week any person may apply to inspect the accounts – usually Monday to Friday</p> <p>(f) Insert date at least 21 working days before the date appointed for audit in (h) below</p> <p>(g) The inspection period between (f) and (g) must be 20 working days and (g) must be at least one day before the date appointed for audit in (h) below.</p> <p>(h) This must be at least one working day after the end of the inspection period. Amend as necessary if period for display of notice and inspection period cannot be completed by 28 July 2010.</p> <p>(i) Delete as appropriate</p> <p>(j) Insert name and position of person placing the notice</p>
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Section 1 – Accounting statements for

STONY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Readers should note that throughout this annual return references to a 'local council' or 'council' also relate to a parish meeting.

1	Balances brought forward	89164	62747	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	(+) Annual precept	123267	123511	Total amount of precept receivable or received in the year.
3	(+) Total other receipts	23230	64357	Total receipts or income as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4	(-) Staff costs	38320	36951	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	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on borrowings (if any).
6	(-) Total other costs	134593	150970	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	62747	62694	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8	Total cash and short term investments	61574	64407	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 and long term assets	74993	66275	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties and any long term investments.
10	Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11	Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	No	No	The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions.)

I certify that the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2010.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

6PB - dley
Date 29/6/2010

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

F050/10
Date 29/06/2010

Signed by Chair of the meeting at which these accounting statements were approved.

Rickie Efford
Date 29/6/10

Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of STONY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2010, that:

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| 1 | We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices. | YES | prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law. |
| 2 | We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | YES | made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge. |
| 3 | We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances. | YES | has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so. |
| 4 | We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. | YES | during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts. |
| 5 | We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. | YES | considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly. |
| 6 | We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems and carried out a review of its effectiveness. | YES | arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the council and reviewed the impact of this work. |
| 7 | We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | YES | responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. |
| 8 | We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements. | YES | disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant. |
| 9 | Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. | NA | has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts. |

This annual governance statement is approved by the local council and recorded as minute reference

F050/10 dated 29/06/2010

Signed on behalf of STONY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Signed by: Chair [Signature] Date 29/6/10

Signed by: Clerk [Signature] Date 29/6/2010

***Note:** Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report to

Stony Stratford Town Council


The council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2010.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the council'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 the council.

A	Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	Yes
B	The council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes
C	The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes
D	The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes
E	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes
F	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	NOT COVERED ⁽¹⁾
G	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	Yes
H	Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes
I	Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	Yes
J	Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	Yes
K	Trust funds (including charitable) The council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	N/A

For any other risk areas identified by the council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

(1) No petty cash held.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit H Heelis (on behalf of Heelis & Lodge)
 Signature of person who carried out the internal audit  Date 19/05/2010

***Note:** 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, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).