

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

I am pleased to present and publish the annual audit return for 2012/13. Arrangements to inspect the full accounts can of course be made with our Clerk. It has however, been a year of financial consolidation, and the Parish Council has managed its budgets carefully and prudently throughout the past year. As you may know, the Council has resolved not to increase the precept for the current financial year (2013/14), despite the increasing pressures on Parish Councils, as more and more responsibilities are devolved down to local level.

We have continued to make good progress with our Neighbourhood Plan, under the expert guidance of Councillor Mick Gratton, and we hope to present this for pre-submission consultation with the Parish, and other stakeholders, very soon. As many of you will know, the threats of large scale and ill-thought out development have not gone away, and our Neighbourhood Plan, along we hope, with Mid Sussex's District Plan, will be important tools for ensuring that local people continue to have a full voice in how their areas face up to the development challenges that will face mid Sussex over the next 20 years.

Last year, saw the resignations for various personal reasons of two of our Councillors, Jerry Butler and Robert Dunckley, and we thank them for all their work and contributions over the years. We have welcomed on to the Council as co-opted members, Nikki Ernest and Barry Compton, and so we still have our full complement of seven Councillors working hard on your behalf.

Over the course of the year, we have been consulted on, and commented on 30 planning applications in the Parish, and hope that our input has contributed to the well being, and continued character of our rural Parish. We have undertaken a number of capital projects, such as the replacement of two damaged lamp columns in the Parish, the soon to be completed restoration of the clapperboards along Church Lane, and the renewal of the High Cross finger post, which we hope will shortly be in place. Traffic concerns continue to be a major issue throughout the Parish, and we are considering various measures in order to try and prevent speeding and anti social driving, under our Neighbourhood and Infrastructure plans.

As trustee, the Parish Council has overseen the recently completed improvement works to the Village Hall, for which the Trust was able to obtain a grant from West Sussex County Council under its Big Society Fund. The project has been managed by the Village Hall Management Committee, under Councillor Elaine Makey's Chairmanship. Elaine has worked extremely hard to make this happen, and we are very grateful to her and her team.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work and support over the past year, and hope that we can continue to take our Parish forward in the interests of all of our residents.

Meg Price
Chairman of Albourne Parish Council

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of the original.

Tam McLean

Section 1 – Accounting statements 2012/13 for

Responsible Financial Officer

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2012 £	31 March 2013 £	
1 Balances brought forward	9362 14035	14021 9362	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	14500	14633	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	7427	3284	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	10549	6842 6538	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	296	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	15755	6720 6416	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	9362	14021	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	9362	14021	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 other long term investments and assets	28664	28664	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the council 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).
11 (If Applicable) Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	YES ✓	NO	(if applicable) The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures in the accounting statements above do not include any trust transactions.)

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2013 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.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

Tam R. W. McLean

Date 4/06/2013

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council on this date:

4/06/2013

and recorded as minute reference:

2013/106/3

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.

[Signature]

Date 4/9/13

Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2012/13

We acknowledge as the members of:

ALBOURNE PARISH 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 2013, that:

	Agreed –		'Yes' means that the council:	
	Yes	No*		
1 We approved the accounting statements 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 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 took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that 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 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 carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took 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 maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems.	yes		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 the council.	
7 We took 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 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 discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and , if required, independent examination or audit.	YES	NO	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 council and recorded as minute reference

2013/106(3) REFERENCE

dated 7/06/2013

Signed by:

Chair

dated

Signed by:

Clerk

dated

*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the council will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and opinion 2012/13

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2013 of

ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Respective responsibilities of the council and the auditor

The council is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The council prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2013; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

External auditor report

(~~Except for the matters reported below~~)* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the council:

Box 11 ON SECTION 1 HAS BEEN ANSWERED "YES". THE INTERNAL AUDITOR HAS TICKED BOX K AS "NOT APPLICABLE" (SECTION 4). BOX 11 SHOULD BE CORRECTED IF INCORRECT OR THE INTERNAL AUDITOR SHOULD CONSIDER THE QUESTION AND CORRECT BOX K. ALL CHANGES SHOULD BE

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

INITIALED

External auditor signature

External auditor name Date

Note: The auditor signing this page has been appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out and completed all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission's publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Small Bodies*.