

Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England

Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016

Every smaller authority in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return at the end of each financial year in accordance with proper practices summarising its activities. In this annual return the term 'smaller authority'* includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council, a Town Council and an Internal Drainage Board.

The annual return on pages 2 to 4 is made up of three sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the smaller authority. Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 before Section 2.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor.

In addition, the **internal audit report** is completed by the smaller authority's internal audit provider.

Each smaller authority must approve Sections 1 and 2 of this annual return no later than 30 June 2016.

Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all highlighted sections. Do not leave any highlighted box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external auditor work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements, **your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights** and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed for their work. Unless requested, do not send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Once the external auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the smaller authority for publication or public display of Sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2016.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guides that can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.slcc.co.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2015/16

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

SHIPTON GORGE 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 2016, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this smaller 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 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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on 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 smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			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 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 smaller 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.	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 this smaller authority and recorded as minute reference:

dated 16.55
04/05/2016

Signed by:

Chair

dated

Signed by:

Clerk

dated

MJ Baugliten

18/05/2016

[Signature]

18/05/2016

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

Section 2 – Accounting statements 2015/16 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2015 £	31 March 2016 £	
1. Balances brought forward	10011	7851	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	6351	6506	Total amount of precept or (for IDBs) rates and levies received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	11752	732	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	2293	1686	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 the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	17970	4664	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	7851	8739	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	7851	8739	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	22148	22948	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the smaller authority 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. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes ✓	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2016 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer



Date 19/05/2016

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on this date:

04/05/2016

and recorded as minute reference:

16.55

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.



Date 18/05/2016

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2015/16 Certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2016 in respect of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

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

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of the annual return, 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 smaller authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor signature

External auditor name

Date

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2015/16 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Annual internal audit report 2015/16 to

Enter name of smaller authority here:

SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL

This smaller authority'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 2016.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller 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 smaller authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	✓		
B. This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This smaller 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 smaller authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		DATE
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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. (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 smaller authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed)

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: PETER JOHN VARNEY

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: *Peter John Varney* Date: 30.5.16

*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).

Guidance notes on completing the 2015/16 annual return

1. You must apply proper practices for preparing this annual return. Proper practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide* which is updated from time to time and contains everything you should need to prepare successfully for your financial year-end and the subsequent work by the auditor. NALC, SLCC and ADA have helplines if you want to talk through any problem you encounter.
2. Make sure that your annual return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed return. Any amendments must be approved by the smaller authority, properly initialled and explanation provided. Annual returns containing unapproved or unexplained amendments will be returned and may incur additional costs. **Smaller authorities must approve the annual governance statement before approving the accounts.**
3. Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a Councillor or Board Member, to review the annual return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
4. Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must tell the external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chair.
5. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation which you send to your external auditor with the annual return covers all your bank accounts. If your smaller authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2 on page 3**). You must provide an explanation for any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide*.
6. Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 3**. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete analysis to support your explanation. There are a number of examples provided in the Practitioners' Guide* to assist you.
7. If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or you do not fully explain variances, this may incur additional costs for which the auditor will make a charge. **From 2016 onwards, you must inform the auditor of the date set for the commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights.**
8. Make sure that your accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2015) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2016).
9. Do not complete Section 3 which is reserved for the external auditor.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓
	All additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , has been provided for the external auditor?	✓
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	✓
Section 2	Smaller authority approval of the accounting statements is confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	✓
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016 agreed to Box 8?	✓
	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	n/a
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – all disclosures made if a Council is a sole managing trustee? NB: Do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	✓
Internal Audit report	All highlighted boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	✓

*Note: Practitioners' Guides are available from your local NALC, SLCC or ADA representatives or from www.nalc.gov.uk or www.slcc.co.uk or www.ada.org.uk.

SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2015/2016

Previous Issue Raised

The Issue raised as a result of last year's audit regarding the Council's responsibilities as a trustee in the Internal Audit check was discussed at a meeting on September 16th 2015 Minute No 15.77.

Although the Council had met its responsibilities as sole trustee of the King Georges Field Charitable Trust (Registered Charity number 1084139), the internal auditor marked it as not applicable. This was due to the fact that the trust has no separate income or expenditure and therefore other than ensuring completion of governance documents there are no internal audit implications or work that is required. For future years this will be corrected.

Explanation for Section F response in the internal audit report

F – The parish council does not have any petty cash payments or expenditure.

 18/5/2016

Cllr Mary Boughton, Chairman

Explanation of Significant Variance - Shipton Gorge Parish Council

2015/2016

Box No	This Yr (1)	Last Yr (2)	Diff (3)	Diff (4)	Explain	Explanation	Amount
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(%) ±	>10% (YorN)	(Ensure each explanation is quantified)	
3) Total other receipts	£732.00	£11,752.00	-£11,020.00	over 10% reduction	Y	In the previous year Grants were received from LTCS and Section 106 and The Dorset Community Fund towards outdoor exercise equipment and an AONB grant for fingerposts. This meant a reduction of the total receipts in the current year as no grants were received.	
4) Staff costs	£1,686.00	£2,293.00	-£607.00	over 10% reduction	Y	In previous year we made an extra half year payment of salary which had been due from year ending March 2014. This year the normal two half yearly payments have been made resulting in a reduced figure.	
6) All other payments	£4,664.00	£17,970.00	-£13,306.00	over 10% reduction	Y	Last year expenditure included payment for outdoor exercise equipment and slide refurbishment in playing field which were not incurred this year.	

SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL - ASSET REGISTER 2015/2016

Ref No	Description	ID	Date acquired	Purchase cost (if known)	Value	Custodian/Location	Disposal/ discharge	Comments
1	Motor Mower	Hayter 1330 rear collector	19/03/2004	£1,131.06	£1,263.05	Playing Field		(insurance value)
2	Strimmer	Echo SRM 2015S	26/07/2004	£259.57	£288.39	Playing Field		(insurance value)
3	Playing Field Shed Picnic Table Picnic Table		1991 01/05/2010 01/04/16	200 200	£3,224.28 £400.00	Playing Field Playing Field		(insurance value)
4	Playing Field Equipment - various hand tools		N/K	N/K	£279.71	Playing Field		(insurance value)
5	Computer and printer Shredder		22/01/2014 01/02/16	600 £50.00	£650.00	Clerk		
6	Notice Boards [x 4] - various positions in Village		12/05/10 and 15/02/11	£1,270.00	£1,270.00	X4 village locations		
7	Grit Bins x 5 Shipton Rd/Rockway Icen Ln/Markets Ln Chapel St/Brook St Shipton Rd/Burbitt Ln Rosamond Avenue	1-111 2-205 2-206 2-207	10/11/2010 30/11/2011 " 01/02/2016	£220.95 £310.14 £110.00	£700.00	X5 village locations 2-207 owned by Magna Housing		(insurance value)
8	Shelter in playing field plus plaque		"	£3,900.00	£3,900.00	Playing Field		
9	Outdoor Fitness equipment	4 x Wicksteed equipment		£10,623.00	£10,623.00	Playing Field		
10	Fence at Village Green			£300.00	£350.00	Village Green		
				Total	£22,948.43			

**Reconciliation Shipton Gorge Parish Council Accounts
30 March 2015 - 28 March 2016**

Balance 30/3/15	£	7,851.82
Plus Receipts		
Precept	£	6,506.00
Wayleave	£	47.61
Interest	£	3.01
LCTS Grant	£	130.00
Donations	£	551.45
VAT recovered	£	-
Total	£	15,089.89

Less Expenditure	-£	6,350.58
Total	£	8,739.31

Balance in a/cs at 28/3/16

Cheque a/c 00042897	£	2,741.69
Instant Access 07233264	£	1,604.85
Playing Field a/c	£	4,533.67
Total	£	8,880.21

Less unpresented cheques

789	ICO	£	35.00
790	G Rosamund	£	46.90
791	G Pyke	£	9.00
793	CAB	£	25.00
794	Ring & Ride	£	25.00
		£	140.90

Total	£	8,739.31
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APPENDIX 2

Change of Clerk/RFO/Chairman details

Please return this form to us immediately if there is a change of Clerk / RFO or Chair. If any of the contact details are incorrect or incomplete for **Shipton Gorge Parish Council**, amend and return with the completed annual return and supporting information.

Please note that as from 4/5/2016 the position of clerk / RFO will be carried out by:

Please circle preferred method of communication

Letter / Phone / Fax / Email

Title	Mrs	<u>MRS</u>
Initials	P	<u>CG</u>
Surname	Biss	<u>HUXTABLE</u>
Position	Clerk	<u>RFO</u>
Address	Laurel Cottage	<u>PEAR TREE COTTAGE</u>
	Church Street	<u>CHAPEL STREET</u>
	Puncknowle	<u>SHIPTON GORGE</u>
Town/City	DORCHESTER	<u>BRIDPORT</u>
County	Dorset	<u>DORSET</u>
Postcode	DT2 9BL	<u>DT6 4LX</u>
Home Tel No.	01308 898189	<u>01308-897519</u>
Work Tel No.		<u>-</u>
Fax no.		<u>-</u>
Mobile		
Email	#mailto:clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk#	<u>christinehuxtable@hotmail.com</u>
Website		

FOR BDO USE ONLY: FILE UPDATED RMS UPATED (PLEASE TICK)

Please note that as from _____ the position of chair will be carried out by:

Title	Mrs	_____
Initials	M	_____
Surname	Boughton	_____
Position	Chairman	_____
Address	Gullivers	_____
	Shipton Road	_____
	Shipton Gorge	_____
Town/City	BRIDPORT	_____
County	Dorset	_____
Postcode	DT6 4LP	_____
Home Tel No.		_____
Work Tel No.	01308 898276	_____
Fax no.		_____
Mobile	07785 948386	_____
Email	#mailto:mary@dorwest.com#	_____

FOR BDO USE ONLY: FILE UPDATED RMS UPATED (IF APPLICABLE) (PLEASE TICK)

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