

# **WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

## **1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**Woodchurch Parish Council** (the Council) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is also responsible for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

## **2. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should be they be realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The system of internal control has been in place at the Council for the year ended **31 March 2017** and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and except for the details of significant internal control issues at section 5, accords with proper practice.

## **3. THE INTERNAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT**

### **The Council:**

The Council has appointed a Chairman, who is responsible for the smooth running of meetings and for ensuring that all Council decisions are lawful.

The Council reviews its obligations and objectives and approves budgets for the following year at its **November** meeting. The **November** meeting of the Council approves the level of precept for the following financial year.

The full Council meets at least **10 times** each year and monitors progress against its aims and objectives at each meeting by receiving relevant reports from the Parish Clerk.

The Council carries out regular reviews of its internal controls, systems and procedures.

### **Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer:**

The Council has appointed a Clerk to the Council who acts as the Council's advisor and administrator. The Clerk is the Council's Responsible Financial Officer and is responsible for administering the Council's finances. The clerk is responsible for the day-to-day compliance with laws and regulations that the Council is subject to and for managing risks. The Clerk also ensures that the Council's procedures, control systems and policies are adhered to.

### **Payments:**

All payments are reported to the Council for approval. **Two Members** of the Council must authorise every cheque.

