

Stoke Ferry Parish Council

External auditor report 2015/16

We were required to return the Annual Return to enable the Council to correct the following:

A. Audit amendments in 2014/15 to the precept, other receipts and fixed asset figures at Section 2 had not been reflected in the 2014/15 figures on the 2015/16 annual return. The prior year figures shown were pre-audit.

B. The Annual Return was not completed: the signatures, dates and minute references were omitted from both Section 1 and Section 2 in the original submission and a complete, signed version was not provided until 2 September 2016.

In future the Council should ensure that the Annual Return is accurate and complete and submitted by the deadline specified in our letter.

Stoke Ferry Parish Council

Please provide evidence that you have addressed the matters raised in our 2015/16 external audit report.

The qualification matters raised in 2015/16 are outlined below:

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.

As acknowledged in the Annual Governance Report the Council did not have an internal audit in 2015/16 and thus Section 4 was left blank. An independent internal audit is a statutory requirement and thus we are unable to certify that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met. We understand that an internal auditor has been appointed in 2016/17 and the Council should ensure that they complete their work and report prior to approving the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement.