

Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Name of council:	Barnwell Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	Julia Tufnail	Date of report:	22 April 2021
Year ending:	31 March 2021	Date audit carried out:	22 April 2021

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and management and not left for internal audit. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out below.

The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chairman of the Council:

I would like to thank Nikki for her time and assistance during this year's audit which was held conducted remotely using the NCALC checklist and can confirm that matters appear to be in good order.

It was noted that the 126 VAT reclaim had had technical difficulties, but the year's VAT was reclaimed in the first week of April 2021 in the sum of £771.31. As this quite a large sum, it is recommended that the VAT should be considered for reclaim on a half yearly basis, provided it is over the £100 threshold.

It is noted that the Council uses a receipts and payments basis for its accounts and that the Council does not have the Power of General Competence. I note that the Council is intending to exempt itself from limited assurance review again this year and that the AGAR and my report will be presented to Council on 18th May 2021.

Yours sincerely

Julia Tufnail

NCALC Internal Auditor

The figures submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are:

	Year 31 March 2020	ending	Year 31 March 2021	ending
1. Balances brought forward	27031		31114	
2. Annual precept	10250		10300	
3. Total other receipts	9463		6212	
4. Staff costs	2391		3171	
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	1095		1095	
6. Total other payments	12144		10040	
7. Balances carried forward	31114		33320	
8. Total cash and investments	31114		33320	
9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	48745		52755	
10. Total borrowings	9024		8095	

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (2020)*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed. A copy of the guide is available for free download from:

<https://www.northantscalc.com/uploads/practitioners-guide-2020-2.pdf>