

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held in The Foxwell Room, The Village Hall, Aylesbeare on **Wednesday 3rd June 2026** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Anna Thompson
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Nick Warren

ABSENT

Cllr Debbie Banks

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public, Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)
County & District Cllr Jess Bailey

1 Chair Welcome

Cllr Anna Thompson opened the meeting with a welcome to all attending and gave the following report:

Apologies for my absence from the last meeting due to work commitments and thank you to Vice Chair Mark Branson for chairing the meeting.

The PC were saddened to hear that Cllrs Owen and Cooke have both decided to resign due to relocation. We would like to thank them both very much for their time and dedication to council business and wish them both all the very best for the future. This does mean that we need to recruit two new councillors to ensure we can always be quorate for meetings as we need a minimum of three present. If anyone would like more information please feel free to contact any of us.

It's always great to see so many community minded people collecting litter and reporting fly tipping- although of course it would be better if this wasn't necessary. Please take great care when collecting rubbish on the highway. Drivers aren't as careful or observant as we would wish.

Also due to Cllr Owen's resignation we will need a new lead for our SpeedWatch as people are keen to see this fully up and running. We'll also need a new Parish Council representative for the Village Hall and Airport Consultative committees as these were also undertaken by Cllr Owen.

Don't forget the Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th June to officially open the VH after their refurbishment.

2 Apologies

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Cllr Banks who is working.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations this month. Council **NOTED** that further to Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (as inserted by Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026), there is now a clear requirement that a councillor's home address must not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interests. EDDC would therefore not be publishing home addresses on the Registers of Interests. Councillors may individually ask EDDC to publish their home address if they prefer.

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Chair Initials

4 Open Public Forum

The first speaker raised item 7.6 concerning the letter for local community organisations to agree the share of the Ford Oaks Solar Park Community Benefit. The draft of the letter was discussed and the Chair will add a preamble.

The speaker also advised that the Blind Lane building work had commenced with the widening of the lane and extending the tarmac area which the Council understands was a condition of the planning consent.

The second speaker hoped get help as their planning application seemed to be held up. They hoped to see progress but it seemed slow. He knew they were not the only ones as other people had waited two months and their application hadn't even been validated after 8 weeks.

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 6th May 2026. The Chair duly signed them.

6 Report of the District & County Councillor

County & District Cllr Jess Bailey reported:

The Local Government Reorganisation decision had been deferred from June to July. There was still no indication of the likely form that the Government would select for Devon's unitary Council(s).

C & D Cllr Jess Bailey was pleased with the news that DCC had responded to the feedback from the public about libraries. More funds had been found and the feared cuts would not be as harsh as expected.

7 Parish Matters

7.1 Highways incl. Rosamondford closure and Village Way parking

Chair was happy to report that the road through Rosamondford was closed only for half a day and is now open. She had attended a multi-agency meeting about the closure. The meeting was not concerned about the bollards as they were on a landowner's boundary. Local residents were grateful that the disruption had been minimised.

The clerk had received a phone call from the landowner who was disappointed he had not been approached about the closure. He could have explained that it would only be brief and the application for 2 weeks had been solely to allow for variations in the weather. He was disappointed with the behaviour of Aylesbeare Cllrs and their friends/relatives and advised he was in touch with the EDDC Monitoring Officer. A VW Transporter van is now parking regularly on the corner of Village Way and Withen Lane. Obstruction to the bike racks in the pub and they have started using cones in this area. Council will ask the police to look at the visibility and invite our PCSO to future meetings.

7.2 Roadside drainage grips

Cllr Warren hoped that the digger is due to come and others cleaning activity had been witnessed in Village Way.

7.3 Damage to Village Hall Drain during grass cutting

Clerk to ask StreetScene about this damage.

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Chair Initials

7.4 Parking in Scotchmead (incl car park surface, abandoned vehicles, caravan)

The activity to deal with these problems is ongoing and vehicles have been removed. Any reports of anti-social activity would be welcomed so it can be tackled and progress on the surface improvements would be most welcome.

7.5 SWW Improved Water Treatment Works

From Cllr Warren:

It has been another overflow-free month as would be expected in a month with virtually no rainfall. Figures for May were:

Rainfall = 29.2mm/1.15inches Overflow duration = 0 hours

Council **NOTED** that there will be new equipment fitted to the works to remove phosphorous.

7.6 Ford Oaks Solar Park

Council was pleased to see that Quarter Mile Lane has recently improved significantly. The letter/agreement on the share of Ford Oaks Community Benefit Fund would be circulated with an explanatory paragraph added.

8 Policies to approve

8.1 IT Policy & Website Accessibility Statement

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the draft IT Policy and Website Accessibility Statement as circulated. The clerk will publish them on the website.

8.2 Publication Framework

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Publication Framework as circulated. The clerk will publish it on the website.

9 Budget Review, Annual Accounts and Annual Governance and Accounting Return

9.1 2025-26 Budget Review

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2025-26 full year (quarter 4) budget review (see appendix A).

9.2 2025-26 Annual Accounts

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2025-26 Annual Accounts and the Chair duly signed them (see appendix B).

9.3 2025-26 AGAR Internal Audit & Report

Council **NOTED** the Internal Audit and the report (see appendix C). The clerk was asked to contact the ICO and arrange the Council's membership.

9.4 2025-26 AGAR Governance Statement

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2025-26 AGAR Governance Statement and the and the Chair duly signed the document (see appendix D).

9.5 2025-26 AGAR Accounting Statements

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2025-26 AGAR Accounting Statements and the and the Chair duly signed the document (see appendix E).

9.6 2025-26 AGAR Dates of Public Rights

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the the dates for exercising public rights as Wednesday 1st July to Tuesday 11th August 2026 (see appendix F).

10 Finance

10.1 Current balances

Council **NOTED** the current balance of £ 44,825.00 as at 1st May 2026.

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Chair Initials

10.2 Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

10.2.1 Shane Martin Gates, stile and bench in Rec		£ 1,644.00
10.2.2 Mrs P Clapham Internal Audit 2025-26		£ 92.20
10.2.3 J P Roberts – clerk pay for May	£ 305.27	
Reimbursement for VH Cuckoo Fibre (May)	£ 20.00	
Reimbursement for pension payment (May)	£ 99.03	
Reimbursement for defib pads (Medisol)	£ 70.79	£ 475.09
10.2.4 HMRC – clerk's PAYE for May		£ 71.40

11 Next Meetings

Wednesday 8th July 2026

Wednesday 9th September 2026

Wednesday 14th October 2026

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting closed at 9:08pm

Signed Date

Cllr A C Thompson, Chair

Appendix A 2025-26 Quarter 4, Full Year Budget Review

Aylesbeare Parish Council Budget 2025-26 - Quarter 4 Review										
Detail	2019 -20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	Budget	2025-26 Actual	FYF	
Staff Costs	£ 3,068	£ 4,492	£ 4,164	£ 4,915	£ 5,147	£ 4,064	£ 6,300	£ 5,746		
Village Hall Telephone/Internet	£ 651	£ 355	£	£ 53	£ 210	£ 158	£ 230	£ 210		
Donations	£ 300	£ 1,000	£ 802	£ 1,368	£ 993	£ 1,400	£ 1,500	£ 475		
Subs	£ 136	£ 183	£ 183	£ 188	£ 270	£ 281	£ 320	£ 310		
Playing Field	£ 154	£ 361	£ 156	£ 1,270	£ 46,900	£ 177	£ 1,500	£ 45		
Insurance	£ 375	£ 1,336	£ 1,356	£ 413	£ 437	£ 827	£ 1,000	£ 934		
Training Courses	£ 165	£ 261	£ 108	£ 90	£ 72	£ -	£ 250	£ -		
Cllr & Clerk Expenses	£ 545	£ 126				£ -	£ 20	£ -		
Stationery & Postage		£ 272	£ 79	£ 29	£ 64	£ 22	£ 100	£ -		
Rents	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50	£ -			£ 150	£ -		
Website & Email Hosting	£ 178	£ 178	£ 898	£ 256	£ 645	£ 216	£ 320	£ 231		
Grounds Maintenance	£ 1,359	£ 933		£ 3,203	£ 36	£ 4,699	£ 4,500	£ 1,485		
Audit		£ 216	£ 120	£ 63	£ 71	£ 70	£ 85	£ 586		
Defib		£ 663		£ -		£ -	£ 95	£ 57		
Software Subs	£ -	£ 237	£ 7	£ 7	£ 144	£ 7	£ 10	£ -		
Elections					£ 300		£ 300	£ -		
Total	£ 6,982	£ 10,663	£ 7,924	£ 11,855	£ 54,989	£ 11,921	£ 16,680	£ 10,078	£	-
Income										
Precept						£ 14,350.00	£ 16,986.00	£ 16,896.00		
Interest						£ 79.00	£ 100.00	£ 58.88		
CIL						£ -	£ -	£ 10,274.90		
Other						£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 10,581.68		
Total						£ 15,429.00	£ 17,086.00	£ 37,811.46	£	-
Reserves										
Recreation Fund & Youth Club	£ 694	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ 3,489		Play Area refurb		£10,291.00		
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945		£945.00		
CIL	£ 568	£ 1,830	£ 1,916	£ 1,917	£ -	£ -		£10,274.90		
Defib funds	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 400	£ 400		£400.00		
Elections		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ 300		£600.00		
Rec Ground maintenance		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ 1,000		£2,000.00		
Ringfenced reserves	£ 2,394	£ 6,450	£ 6,536	£ 6,538	£ 1,345	£ 2,645		£ 24,511	£	-
Bank Balance	1st Apr 25	£ 10,029								
General reserves			£ 7,660	£ 8,242	£ 6,752	£ 7,384		£13,251.47	£	37,762
Precept										
Total Precept	£ 7,400	£ 7,622	£ 10,258	£ 11,200	£ 12,068	£ 14,350		£16,896.00		
Tax base households	271.0	269.0	265.0	265.0	261.0	263.0		£267.00		
per Band D Household per year	£ 27.31	£ 28.33	£ 38.71	£ 42.26	£ 46.24	£ 54.56		£ 63.28		

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Chair Initials

Appendix B 2025-26 Annual Accounts

Aylesbeare Parish Council					Statement of Accounts		1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026																																																																																																								
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Prepared by <u>J.R.</u> Jim Roberts Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Aylesbeare Parish Council Date 17-May-26				Signed <u>[Signature]</u> Cllr Anna Thompson, Chair Date 3.6.26 Minute ref 2026-06 p3 para 9.2																																																																																																											

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Chair Initials

Appendix C Internal Audit

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26			
AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL www.aylesbeareparishcouncil.gov.uk			
During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority. The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this 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 authority.			
Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This 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. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 19/05/2026

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: P. CLAPHAM (SA/HONS)

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: [Signature]

Date: 19/05/2026

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Chair Initials

Appendix C Internal Audit Supplementary Report

Penny Clapham BA (Hons) PSLCC, PIALC
Clerk/RFO to Colebrooke Parish Council & East Allington Parish Council
Penton Chapel
Christow
Exeter EX6 7NP

Pennyclapham35@gmail.com

Internal Audit Report for Aylesbeare Parish Council dated 25th May 2026

The internal audit was carried out on the 19th May 2026 examining all pertinent documents after checking the website of the Parish Council.

Internal control objectives A to N were checked alongside other items pertinent to good governance of the council – comments as follows.

- i. Your clerk is on SCP8 – this is a very low rate considering his experience. Consideration should be given to an uplift to SCP 13, £15.06 pr hour.
- ii. It is mandatory to be registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). Please register and it is cheaper if this is paid by direct debit.
- iii. Also mandatory is a publication scheme and an IT policy.
- iv. .co.uk email address is not compliant for a parish council. This needs to be .gov.uk or .org.uk. Councils are not companies.

These findings are attached to the Internal Audit report and should be published on the council website.

Penny Clapham

Penny Clapham PSLCC
BA (Hons) Community Governance.

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Chair Initials

Appendix D Governance Statement

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

Aylesbeare Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for 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 2026, that:

	Agreed		Yes	No	Yes means that this 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 have assured 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 authority to conduct its business or manage 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 authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓				considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and 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 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	N/A		has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓				has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

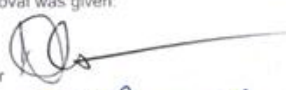
This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

Weds 3rd June 2026

and recorded as minute reference:

2026-06 p3 para 9.4

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair 

Clerk 

www.aylesbeareparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Chair Initials

Appendix E Accounting Statements

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for
Aylesbeare Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	8,098	10,030	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	14,350	16,896	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	1,079	20,915	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	5,621	5,746	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	7,876	4,332	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	10,030	37,763	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	10,029	37,762	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	56,693	56,693	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments 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).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No
11. Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?	✓	

For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

J.P.R.
Date *19 May 2026*

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:
Weds 3rd June 2026

as recorded in minute reference:
2026-06 para 9.4p3

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

[Signature]

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Chair Initials

Appendix F Notice for the Exercise of Public Rights

Smaller authority name:

Aylesbeare Parish Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION
OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE &
ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement30th June 2026(a) 2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2026, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to: (b) Jim Roberts, Parish Clerk 10 The Glebe, Thorverton EXETER EX5 5LS 07768 457590 commencing on (c) Wednesday 1st July 2026 and ending on (d) Tuesday 11th August 2026 3. Local government electors and their representatives also have: - The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and - The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only. 4. The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice 2024. The appointed auditor is: PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 30 Churchill Place London E14 5RE (sba@pkf-l.com) 5. This announcement is made by (e) Jim Roberts	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below (b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts (c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and exactly 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below (d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July. (e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

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Chair Initials