

CONCLUSIONS OF AMPC ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT (2019)

The Parish Council's overall performance in its operations (both internal and external) is second to none: The policies and safeguards that are in place- to ensure the Parish Council runs smoothly, protect public funds, keep statutory requirements and remain a paragon of excellence- are robust and followed diligently by AMPC Members and the Parish Clerk. AMPC's transparency and drive towards public service are without fault.

Accounting records are comprehensive appropriate and up to date, VAT is properly accounted for, Bank Reconciliation and Invoicing records are kept up to date. The Assets register, Title Deeds/ Land Registry documents, Insurance are also updated regularly. With regard to the few exceptions already noted in the main Audit Report, all Accounting records are accurate and clear- with all transactions supported by invoices, cheque stubs and subsequent bank statement entries. Issues pertaining to missing Invoices are not strictly the fault of AMPC Members or the Clerk but of suppliers who need to be reminded to provide invoices before receiving payment. It is fair to recap here the fact that the Parish Council Invoicing file could do with some changes- so that it is clearer for anyone needing to just check AMPC-related invoicing.

The Parish Council has gone to great lengths to foster a transparent and Public Service- friendly reputation through the publishing of a wealth of useful (and timely) information and putting it on the AMPC Website: It is much more comprehensive with useful (and timely) information compared to this time last year: There are now uploaded Policy documents covering everything from Health and Safety to Employment Rights, Financial Regulations and Internet Communications. New Policy documents are regularly put onto the Website whilst other Policy documents are updated.

There is now relevant, useful and updated information on AMPC Members and Staff (including Alston Town Hall staff), which includes e-mail and telephone contacts. There is also detailed information on AMPC's finances online- including Budgets for the past and up-coming financial years and Annual Reports for the last three years. The Minutes of Council Meetings are published on the AMPC Website within a month of the relevant meetings happening. The only two small issues with AMPC's website, which I have covered in the main Audit Report, are technical.

Ian Pennell

May 2019