

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

Nicola Glading, Parish clerk, 6, Albert Rolph Drive Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9DA

Tel: 01842 337488 Email: BradfieldCombustwithStanningfieldpc@outlook.com

Website: <http://bradfieldcombustwithstanningfield.suffolk.cloud/>

DRAFT MINUTES

of the Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council Meeting held on 15th
JULY 2024 at Stanningfield Village Hall

Present:

Cllr A Langan (Chairman)

Cllr J Clark

Cllr R Duchesne

Cllr S Mayhew

Cllr S Tyrell

In attendance:

N Glading, Parish clerk, Jane Spenser and five members of the public

2024/22	CHAIRMANS WELCOME and RECORDING OF MEETING	
a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) No recording (ii) The current clerk, Nicola Glading, has resigned. The Chairman paid tribute to her hard work during the last six years. She has always addressed her tasks with good humour and given good advice, she will be missed. Jane Spenser has expressed an interest in taking up the post. She manages a shoe repair shop and knows the area well, having attended school in Culford. 	
2024/23	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Broad and Cllr A Clarke. b) The Councillors consented to accept the apologies received. 	
2024/24	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
a.	To receive Members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None (
2024/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<p>Members of the public may speak about specific items on this agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Insurance issue about the Hall – need to go back as soon as possible. Clive Mears, who had been a parish councillor several years ago when the building was first envisaged, had brought to the meeting a copy of the documents about the Hall building design and construction. It was thought that it would be prudent to scan this into parish records and place the document in the safe. Clerk to scan in. Meeting to discuss to be arranged. (ii) Davis Staff had received a West Suffolk Food Hygiene form, which was given to Cllr J Clark for completion. (iii) Assault/ disturbances reported- a resident has camera footage. Gunshots heard. Clerk to inform Police and the District Councillor 	
2024/26	UPDATES FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
a.	To receive an update from County Councillor K. Soons: not present	
b.	To receive an update from the District Councillor S Mildmay-White: not present	

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2024/27	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS held MAY 3rd 2024																																																													
a.	The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on May 3 rd 2024 were unanimously AGREED to be an accurate record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.																																																													
b.	Business remaining from the meeting not on this agenda: None																																																													
2024/28	MATTERS RELATING TO BRADFIELD COMBUST VILLAGE GREEN																																																													
a.	Cllr Langan reported that the saga continues. He has enquired at SCC Highways legal dept. but received no reply. Cllr Langan has suggested that SCC Highways produce a paper which details our obligations and rights regarding the Green. The next step will be a request for a definite response from SCC Highways legal Dept.																																																													
2024/29	MATTERS RELATING TO FINANCE																																																													
a.	The Accounts Payable June/ July 2024 were considered and unanimously AGREED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE JULY 2024 BCS <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Payee</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Item</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> <th style="text-align: right;">VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ayuntee Accountancy</td> <td>Internal audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£150.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Jun-24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">316.26</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office allow</td> <td>Apr May June 2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£79.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Connect</td> <td>Service Stanningfield Village Hall carried out on 05/06/2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£185.70</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gallagher Insurance</td> <td>Outstanding payment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tops Garden Services</td> <td>02/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invoice 2246</td> <td>16/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>30/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£324.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invoice 2294</td> <td>13/06/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>27/06/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£216.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invoice 2245</td> <td>21/03/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>04/04/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>18/04/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£324.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICO</td> <td>Annual fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Item	Amount	VAT	Ayuntee Accountancy	Internal audit	£150.00	£25.00	Staff costs	Jun-24	316.26		Office allow	Apr May June 2024	£79.00		First Connect	Service Stanningfield Village Hall carried out on 05/06/2024	£185.70	£30.95	Gallagher Insurance	Outstanding payment	£50.00		Tops Garden Services	02/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00			Invoice 2246	16/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00				30/05/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00	£324.00	£54.00	Invoice 2294	13/06/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00				27/06/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00	£216.00	£36.00	Invoice 2245	21/03/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00				04/04/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00				18/04/2024 Grass Cutting 90.00	£324.00	£54.00	ICO	Annual fee	£40.00		
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b.	The signatories were authorised to sign the relevant cheques.																																																													
c.	The final signed 2023-2024 AGAR was received and it was confirmed that the Certificate of Exemption has been sent to PKF Littlejohn.	Appendix																																																												
2024/30	MATTERS RELATING TO THE ALLOTMENTS																																																													
a.	(i) To consider allotment boundaries (on site meeting): An updated Plan of the allotments will be produced. (ii) It was RESOLVED to hold the allotment charges with effect from October 2024 at £7.50 half plot and £15.00 for a full plot. (iii) It is believed that the wild garden is to be established elsewhere.																																																													

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	(iv) It was RESOLVED to agree to the proposed work by UKPN. Clerk to inform.	
2024/31	MATTERS RELATING TO STANNINGFIELD PLAYGROUND and STREET FURNITURE	
a.	<u>The playground report</u> for May 2024 was received. Cllr Langan commented that this latest inspection itemises only minor deficiencies. A bench in inside the playground was suggested (next meeting)	
b.	<u>Purchase of a replacement bench at the corner of Beechcroft</u> : Cllr Tyrell told the meeting that a new bench will be purchased and installed by the Village Society. The old bench to be broken up for kindling as it is rotten. Cllr Tyrell further confirmed that the bench will be maintained by the Village Society.	
2024/32	EMERGENCY PLAN	
a.	<u>The Emergency Plan template</u> was considered with a view to the production of an updated Emergency Plan. This is a lengthy document, it is thought to apply to all councils, regardless of size. BC&S can take advantage of some of the advice – there are some benefits in terms of communications but a lot of it is more appropriate to bigger councils. The current Emergency Plan is on the website Next meeting	
b.	<u>Complaints about grass cutting at Bradfield Combust</u> <i>Cllr Duchesne took no part in this item</i> Cllr Langan told the meeting he thinks that the service has deteriorated a bit. He can understand why, as they don't waste any time tidying up and cut regardless of weather. The problem probably arises because the land is undulating at Bradfield Combust Village Green, making it difficult to cut. Mr Staff commented that Tops do a good job in Stanningfield, there is no control over weather. It would be prudent to talk to Tom and explain. Cllr Langan confirmed that Tom came out when he last complained. Overall the grass is presentable. It is thought that people are complaining as it's along a main road. BC&S have been using Tops for about 5 years. Cllr Langan commented that he believes he can find somebody in Bradfield Combust who will do the job, and that he may be able to get rid of some of the undulations, as he was successful in getting Highways to put a curve on the turning circle. Clerk to approach Tom Duchene to ask if he could fill in the undulations	
2024/33	MATTERS RELATED TO PLANNING	
a.	The Chairman allowed an application that arrived two days prior to the meeting, a heat source pump This had only been received on the preceding Friday The decision was No Comment	
2024/34	CHAIRMAN'S ITINERARY, REPORTS and CONSULTATIONS	
a.	Chairman's report (i) Progress of EV charger project	

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	<p>Cllr Langan reported that he feels we are finally getting somewhere - SCC has invited a contractor to install the points. Clerk to inform insurers once values are known Cllr Langan will email tomorrow £value tomorrow Will be installed by end of year BCS will get a percentage from the net income from the chargers, which should more than cover the outlay. The Councillors AGREED that Cllr Langan could Indicate to SCC that there is no issue with the project implementation</p>	
b.	<p>Clerk & Councillor`s reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Update on claim ref: 9440515U The PC are not in a position to give permission to take down the hedging (ii) Update to Asset Register: It was AGREED to add the bus shelter at £6,000 (iii) Update on cutting of footpaths from Fox Row to Old Lane and Norse Ave to Old Lane update: Cllr Duchesne will message her contacts/ workmen messaged the boys- no-one has spoken to the boys (iv) Cllr Langan suggested a £300 grant to All Saints Church. Clerk to prepare a report for the next meeting on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Basis of equity/ precedent setting (ii) Legalities of giving money to Churches (v) Community Speedwatch: the police have volunteered to provide training in speed gun use. A report was produced by A Tucker 7-8 years ago (vi) To locate red paint for Stanningfield telephone box, go onto Post Office website and follow links or google Brewers in Bury 	
2024/35	EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION	
a.	<p>To exchange any relevant information at the discretion of the meeting (Chairman) None</p>	
	<p>Next meetings September 9th 2024, November 11th 2024</p>	

Meeting closed 21.35

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APPENDIX A

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure **does not exceed** £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption **are able to declare themselves exempt** from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review **provided** the authority **completes**:
 - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2024**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2)** which is made up of:
 - c) **Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4)** must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - d) **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - e) **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** must be completed and approved by the authority.

NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement **before** approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2024**.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24, page 4
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24, page 5
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2023/24 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be **£210 +VAT**.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

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Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2024**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2023) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2024).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2024**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	✓	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	na	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (<i>Local Councils only</i>)	na	

* *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

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Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2024, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2024** notifying the external auditor.

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2023/24, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2023/24: £14,903

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2023/24: £10,032

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is **unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£210 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2020
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2022/23), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2024.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer	Date	I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:
<i>N. Glading</i>	03/05/2024	03/05/2024
Signed by Chair	Date	as recorded in minute reference:
<i>A. R. Longan</i>	3.5.2024	2024/19e
Generic email address of Authority	Telephone number	
bradfieldcombustwithstanningfieldpc@outlook.com	01842 337488	
*Published web address		
http://bradfieldcombustwithstanningfield.suffolk.cloud		

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2024. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

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Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, 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 2023/24 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. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty 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 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>	✓		
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 <i>(during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).</i>	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).</i>	✓		

O. (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

11/06/2024

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

ANTHONY JOHN PEELE

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

12/06/2024

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

Nicola Glading, Parish clerk, 6, Albert Rolph Drive Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9DA

Tel: 01842 337488 Email: BradfieldCombustwithStanningfieldpc@outlook.com

Website: <http://bradfieldcombustwithstanningfield.suffolk.cloud/>

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield 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 2024, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure 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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
			✓

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

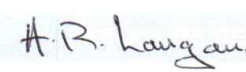

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

03/05/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

2024/19e.

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

Chair 
Clerk 

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.	Yes	No
	✓	

<http://bradfieldcombustwithstanningfield.suffolk.cloud>

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
1. Balances brought forward	24,219	19,771	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	14,559	14,559	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,051	316	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	3,845	3,968	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	20,213	6,064	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	19,771	24,614	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	19,771	24,614	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	628,985	628,890	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	N/A
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓ The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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

N. Glading

Date

02/05/2024

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

03/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

2024/19e

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

A.R. Langran