

## Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of **Waddingham Parish Council – LI0395**

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not provide** the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

### 2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2024/25

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR has not been signed in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015:

- Section 2 was not signed by the Chair.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review.

- Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets purchased in the prior year were not included in the prior year Section 2, Box 9.

Section 1, Assertion 3 has been incorrectly completed and should have marked "No" since the authority has not complied with HMRC regulations. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective G. We acknowledge that this issue has been subsequently addressed.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

In the prior year, the smaller authority was exempt from our review, thus we have not reviewed any evidence to support the prior year comparatives on the AGAR.

The smaller authority has typed in the signatures in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR submitted for review. However, it has been possible for us to conclude that the AGAR has been properly approved. Please ensure that the signatures on all AGARs submitted for review in future years are clearly visible.

### 3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

External Auditor Name

**PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP**

External Auditor Signature

*Plur Littlejohn LLP*

Date

10/08/2025