ORLETON PARISH COUNCIL

EXPLANATIONS TO ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

AGAR 2022/23 SECTION 1

CONTEXT:

For wider background and detailed explanations regarding each AGAR objective please refer to the *Explanations to the Internal Auditor's Report, AGAR 2022/23* document (EIAR).

Having considered the Internal Auditor's Report, its findings and recommendations, the PC have conducted a robust assessment of its past financial governance arrangements and legacy issues. In order to foster positive change and strengthening of its procedures the Council undertook a thorough review of procedures and processes in place. Most of the issues identified have already been addressed and remedies put in place. The reminder of instruments designed to strengthen its operations is written into the Council's annual plan and will be considered and introduced in the following months.

EXPLANATIONS:

BOX 1:

Errors occurred in the process of preparation and approval of AGAR 2021/22. All issues have been addressed and correct procedures followed for AGAR 2022/23. For detailed information please refer to the EIAR document.

BOX 3:

Lack of budget monitoring procedures, as detailed in the EIAR. Proper procedures have been established.

BOX 4:

Notice of the exercise of public rights for AGAR 2021/22 has been published without notes. All required documents have been displayed and publicised correctly for AGAR 2022/23.

BOX 5:

Risk Register has not been compliant with Practitioners Guide and not reviewed during the previous financial year. Please refer to the EIAR for details. The Council will be reviewing the Risk Register in line with recommendations in July 2023.

BOX 6:

It is doubtful that the PC's arrangements for an objective review in previous years have met the independence test. The PC has remedied this by appointing appropriate Internal Auditor for the FY 2022/23 and received a robust assessment of its arrangements and needs. The Auditor's recommendations have been taken on board and remedies introduced. The arrangements for internal audit will continue. The PC has also appointed an RFO after a prolonged period of the post remaining vacant.

Olena Barrett

Clerk & RFO

Orleton Parish Council

16th June 2023