

Alresford Parish Council

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Explanatory statement for Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 box 4

The council was unable to publish its 2021/22 Annual Return by 1st July 2022 as it required approval in the July meeting held on 6th July. It was not approved in an earlier meeting as the internal auditor was unable to perform the internal audit before the June meeting, and it is a requirement that the internal audit be completed before the Annual Return is approved by the council. At the usual time of booking the auditor our Parish Clerk was suffering from Covid and so the earlier appointments were taken.

The council did appraise the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) of the delay in advance of the deadline and requested additional time to submit its Annual Return. This was given, but no additional time for publishing the return was allowable. The Annual Return was published on 8th July, a week after the deadline and for the full 30 working days as set out in legislation.

The authority will ensure that the internal audit is booked earlier in the year in future in order to meet the submission and publication requirements.

