

# EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit Committee held in the Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

**Present:** Councillors Dunn, Maclagan and Woods

**07/08/317 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Resolved: That Councillor Dunn be elected Chairman for the next twelve months.

**07/08/318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**07/08/319 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Resolved: That Councillor Woods be elected Vice-Chairman for the next twelve months.

**07/08/320 THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2006**

Consideration was given to the following Regulations:

Regulation 4: Requires the findings of the review of the system of internal control to be considered by a committee of the relevant body, or by members of the body meeting as a whole.

Regulation 6: Requires bodies to review the effectiveness of the system of internal audit once a year, and for the findings of the review to be considered by a committee of the body, or by the body as a whole, as part of the consideration of the system of internal control referred to in Regulation 4.

Recommended:

- (1) That, following consideration of the review of the system of internal control, carried out at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, the Parish Council be advised that the findings of this Committee were that the review was carried out satisfactorily and left no outstanding matters requiring attention.

- (2) That, following consultation with the Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer, the Audit Plan, as set out below, be approved:

**Audit Plan**

- (a) The Internal Auditor will:
- understand basic accounting processes
  - understand the role of internal audit in reviewing systems rather than undertaking detailed checks that are more appropriately the responsibility of management
  - be aware of risk management issues
  - understand accounting requirements of the legal framework and powers of local councils.
- (b) The Internal Auditor should work to the requirements contained in the suggested approach at Appendix 5 of the “Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales – a Practitioner’s Guide.” His work should take into account the whole of the Parish Council’s system of internal control, including risk management. Other work may be required from time to time.
- (c) Where fraud by an officer is suspected, the Internal Auditor must report to the Chairman of the Parish Council. Where fraud by a councillor is suspected, the Internal Auditor should report to the Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer.
- (d) The Internal Auditor will have direct access to the Clerk to the Council and Chairman.
- (e) The Internal Auditor will report in his/her own name to management.
- (f) The Internal Auditor will have no other role within the Parish Council.
- (g) Internal Audit will be carried out ethically, with integrity and objectivity.
- (h) The Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer will be consulted on the Audit Plan and on the scope of each audit.

- (i) The Risk Assessment Policy will define responsibilities for officers and members in relation to internal control and risk management. Training should be provided as appropriate. If an officer suspects fraud or corruption by a member, he shall first discuss the matter with the Internal Auditor. If a member suspects fraud or corruption by an officer, he shall first discuss the matter with the Internal Auditor.
- (j) The Internal Auditor will report in accordance with the Audit Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> May annually.
- (k) The Internal Auditor's report will be considered by the Parish Council at the first opportunity.