

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Control and Internal Audit Procedure

Under the Accounts and Audits Regulations 2015, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is responsible for ensuring that the Council's day-to-day finances are run properly, but it falls to Council members to exercise a proper and reasonable degree of control over financial matters.

Sibford Gower Parish Council carries out the following ongoing internal control procedures:

1. The Clerk/RFO provides a bank reconciliation at the end of each quarter to the Internal Controls Councillor who checks and verifies the reconciliation. Bank statements are accessible by councillors who have access to online banking and can be provided to other councillors on request, and the bank statement values are declared on each agenda and verified at each meeting.
2. A list of payments that the clerk may make over the next year (delegated authority) without pre-approval from the council is agreed at the annually. These payments are set up via online banking and approved by a councillor before the payment is released.
3. A list of payments made since the previous meeting (under delegated authority) and payments to be made that require authorisation are listed on each agenda for approval by the council. The invoices are checked against the amounts stated on the agenda and signed by 2 councillors.
4. The Internal Controls Councillor (ICC), with the Clerk / RFO conducts a quarterly review of financial transactions and checks by sampling that transactions and balances are being properly recorded and reported to ensure that:
 - all anticipated income is received
 - payments are properly authorised before they are made
 - the record of receipts and payments is kept up to date
 - that a bank reconciliation is carried out at regular intervals and
 - any financial anomalies are resolved.
5. In October/November the Clerk reviews the financial position for the year to date and draws up a draft Budget as well as the precept demand proposed for the coming year. The Clerk ensures that the draft Budget and Precept are discussed and agreed by the Council at the December meeting.
6. The Clerk ensures that the Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment are reviewed annually, updated if required and re-adopted by the council.
7. The Council procures Internal Audit (IA) services annually. The IA visits the Council at least once per year.