

The Hollies, Great Asby, Appleby, Cumbria CA16 6HD

'phone: (017683) 53433

email: johnbevan@compuserve.com

3 November 2015

**To: The Clerk to Asby Parish Council
for the attention of Asby Parish Council**

Internal Audit 2015-16

I have just carried out my half-yearly check of the Council's accounts & procedures etc for the financial year 2015-2016. In accordance with the plan agreed for this year's work:-

(a): I have checked the Council's account balances and bank reconciliation: and I have examined a small random sample of transactions and the related paperwork. Everything was satisfactory.

(b): I have discussed with the Clerk a range of governance & governance related matters on some of which I report below.

(c): And finally, I note that there were no other matters which the Clerk specifically wished to bring to my attention, or which have been raised with me by the Council itself since I last reported.

Financial Regulations: Banking

The Council has recently adopted a new, much revised, set of Financial Regulations – one of the purposes of which is to allow the Clerk to manage the Council's Bank accounts on-line, while providing appropriate checks and authorisations. It is now clear that although the Council need not move its Bank accounts for this reason, the new dispensation does offer the Council the opportunity to consider with whom it wishes to hold its accounts.

One aspect of this which the Council may wish particularly to have in mind is the question of the interest to be earned on its reserves. At the moment, the Council is not actively managing its reserves, and it has a reasonable sum of money earning markedly less than 0.1%. But it should be possible for the Council to earn at least 0.5% on its reserves. While this is not the only consideration for the Council to bear in mind, it is clearly a relevant one.

Although the Council will obviously wish to give this matter careful consideration, I strongly recommend that all its new banking arrangements should be fully operational for the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year.

The Council's Web Presence

The Council is now moving forward to secure its own web presence, with a target of completing that process within the current financial year. At the same time, it has expressed the intention of effectively taking over the current GAB (Great Asby Broadband) messaging service for the parish, and this will clearly best be done by appropriately integrating the management and operation of these two internet operations. It will be important that these matters are carried forward with due diligence.

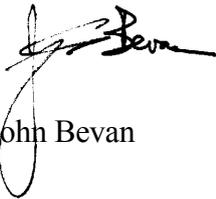
/over

Appleby Horse Fair

Within the current year, the Council has accepted a somewhat greater responsibility in respect of the presence in the parish of visitors to the annual Fair. In this context, it has already made some representations to those managing the Fair, and it has undertaken to hold a further meeting for parishioners well in advance of the 2016 Fair in order to enable it to take account of local views as to how the presence of those visitors might best be managed in the future.

Looking at the timing of the consideration and implementation of any matters which the Council might wish to put forward to the Multi-Agency Strategic Coordinating Group, or on which it might wish to seek advice from, or action by, Eden District Council or the Police, it is clear that a public meeting will be required quite early in 2016. I recommend that the timing of the planned meeting (and of the subsequent Council discussions and decisions) should be an item on a very early Council agenda.

There are no other items that I need to bring to the Council's attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bevan', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards from the end of the signature.

John Bevan