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Our Ref: C197 / JK

Your Ref:

28th June 2022

Clay Cross Parish Council, Council Office, Social Centre, Market Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, S45 9JE.

Dear Councillors

As part of my duty as internal auditor to the Parish Council I set out below my findings resulting from my work on the accounting records and system of internal control for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Council continues to manage its financial affairs in a fit and proper manner. The main administration office has now relocated during the year to the former offices of Rykneld Homes at the front of the Social Centre. The opportunity has been taken to update equipment and procedures and I consider the office and its management of financial affairs have improved as a result.

The website continues to be improved and is a great digital resource for any member of the public wishing to keep up to date with the Council's activities. It has improved transparency and minutes of all Full Council meetings are readily available to view.

The organisational structure and routine procedures are of a high standard. The regular Finance Sub-Committee meetings have resumed following the coronavirus outbreak. Full Council Meetings have now also resumed in the Council Chamber and continue to follow the set pattern ensuring proper financial control.

I have attended one Full Council meeting during the year and confirm that it was properly convened. It was the accounts 2021 meeting and came at a time when lockdown restrictions were finally easing.

Having reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022 and also having been in attendance I can confirm that the calculation of the precept for 2022-23 is the result of a properly constructed budget giving consideration to reserves.

Following on from last year the Council has continued to use the computer programme provided by Edge I T Systems Ltd. for all its accounting processes. I am pleased to report that the system continues to work

well. I am also pleased to report that on reviewing the minutes of council meetings that income and expenditure is regularly reported to and scrutinised by the Council.

The covid pandemic has brought about changes to our world some of which are welcome and others not so welcome particularly the reluctance for social gatherings. The Parish Council has resumed its social events in the Social Centre with a keen eye on the finance. The recommencement of the bar run by and for the Parish Council is a useful way of generating extra funds at a time when costs for utilities are rising. I do not need to remind anyone that continued vigilance and adherence to the laid down procedures for budgeting and regular monitoring of income and expenditure is no less important now than it ever has been.

John H. F. L'

Yours faithfully