

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

External audit provision and application for exemption, and public access rights

Parish Councils receive and spend public money and are therefore subject to scrutiny of how they conduct their business and financial affairs.

The first stage of scrutiny is an internal audit by an independent examiner (in 2021/2022 Anne Stoye undertook this rôle, but will not be eligible to do so in future years). A further safeguard is the publishing of the accounts and the provision of details of all payments of £100 or more. This information is included on our website.

Larger Councils are also subject to external audit (officially described as a limited assurance review) by qualified accountants. Smaller Councils may also be subject to this external examination but may apply for exemption. As in preceding years since these provisions came into force, Enmore Parish Council has applied for an exemption from this external audit (we are well under the threshold for income and expenditure and no financial irregularities have been reported). A copy of this exemption application form is published on the website. PKF Littlejohn LLP currently undertake external audits for Somerset where required. (Postal address 15 Westferry Circus, London E14 4HD, website www.pkf-littlejohn.com).

In addition, any member of the public may ask for access to the accounts and their supporting documentation during a period of at least 30 consecutive working days, which must include the first 10 working days of July. In 2023 the official period for public access will run from Monday 5 June to Friday 14 July. However, Enmore Parish Council has no wish to restrict public access to this period and will be happy to arrange access at any reasonable and convenient time. The relevant financial records are currently held by Anne Stoye who may be contacted for this purpose on financeenmorepc@gmail.com.