

**Statement with regard to Public Interest Report dated  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2025,**  
**including the Public Interest Reports of the 25<sup>th</sup> March  
2022 and the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024, covering the seven years  
ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021  
and 2022**

Firstly, the parish council wishes to reassure residents that there is no suggestion of financial irregularity made by the objector or indeed referred to by the External Auditor in any of the three Public Interest reports. The objector raised issues in relation to governance in each of the seven years. The auditor in their report dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 gave guidance to the parish council in the form of recommendations relating to governance. It was guidance only; the council has not been found to be in breach of any regulations in regard to governance.

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During this seven year period, two other Public Interest Reports were issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The first of these was issued because the External Auditor thought some of the objections, made by the objector, were of an urgent nature that could not wait until all of the seven years' audit was complete. Again, there was no suggestion of financial irregularity or a breach of the rules relating to governance. The second Public Interest Report was issued because the auditor thought the Parish Council was very slow in sending the documents they had requested. The documentation requested by the auditor amounted to sending 10 lever arch files filled to capacity. The auditor then requested that the council identify the items they were looking for in the 10 lever arch files, which council did and sent to the auditor. These 10 lever arch files can be seen in the council's office by making an appointment to do so.

The parish council held a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to consider the Public Interest Report issued on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025; three members of the public were in attendance; the objector did not attend. The parish council's response and record of that meeting can be found on the council's website and can also be obtained directly from the parish council office.

The parish council notes and draws the readers' attention to the document produced by the clerk for the meeting of the 29/1/2026 and approved by the parish councillors for submission to PKF with particular reference to:

- Page 1 Paragraph 1, 4, 5
- Page 3 Item 3
- Page 4-5 Item 2 and 3
- Page 9 Item 10
- Page 10 Item 2
- Page 11 Item 1
- Page 13 Item 1
- Page 14 Engagement with objector item 1

Council has now received (10<sup>th</sup> February 2026) from the external auditor, the notice of acceptance and signed off of the Public Interest Report, together with an invoice for the seven years of audit. These documents will be placed on the council's website and are available directly from the council office by appointment.

The following is an extract from that invoice:

The total charge of £52,133.10 plus VAT is made up of the statutory review fees and the challenge fee. We have not charged all the time spent dealing with the challenge correspondence over the last seven years – that would be a much higher number of hours but have charged time used to progress the work on the challenge file. The total charge for the challenge work is £47,933.10. This amount has been split across the seven years, and a detailed breakdown is below for reference.

Year	Statutory Fee	Challenge Fee
2015-16	600	4,317.30
2016-17	600	4,317.30
2017-18	600	7,859.70
2018-19	600	7,859.70
2019-20	600	7,859.70
2020-21	600	7,859.70
2021-22	600	7,859.70

This equates a total of 22.14 hours per annum at a charge of £195 per hour for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 years and £355 per hour for the 2017/18 – 2021/22 years in line with the relevant scale of fees.

Cost of standard audit	£ 4,200.00
Cost of challenge	<u>£47,933.10</u>
Total cost	£52,133.10

The objector has made similar objections to the parish council's accounts in relation to governance for the years ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and 2024, to our current External Auditors, which they can now audit.

Note: External audits have to be carried out sequentially. The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA) appoints External Auditors every 4 years.

**The current external auditor must consider the points made by the objector, unless of course the objector withdraws the objection documents.**

The council provides this further information:

The parish council has always submitted its completed internal and external audit documentation to the relevant authorities on time; that has never been an issue.

The reason for the years of delay in respect of completion of external audits, is due to the failure of the external auditor at that time not completing the audit for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and not carrying out audits for the years 2017 and 2018. The reason they gave for not carrying out the audits was due to them not having senior auditor available.

The objector has never been a parish councillor or sought to be a co-opted member and has never attended a parish council meeting. The parish council cannot reveal the identity or any information that would lead a person of sound mind to identify the objector due to the Data Protection regulations.

Kirby Muxloe parish council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026