

Lower Withington Parish Council

Notice of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 27th April, 2026

Time: 7:30p.m.

Venue: Lower Withington Parish Hall



Dr. E. M. Maddock PSLCC, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Dated: 21st April, 2026

In order to keep councillors and other members of the public safe, please do not attend the meeting if you are feeling unwell for any reason or if you have been in contact with anyone who has Covid, flu or Covid/flu symptoms.

All attendees will be expected to respect social distancing preferences of other attendees.

Agenda

To Members of Lower Withington Parish Council,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Parish Council Meeting, as shown above, to consider and determine the following business:

1. Apologies for absence
 - a. To receive and consider apologies for absence received in respect of the meeting.
2. Declarations of interest
 - a. To receive declarations of interest in any items on the agenda.
3. Minutes
 - a. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 30th March, 2026 as a correct record and approve signing by the Chairman.
4. Public forum for questions
 - a. To receive questions from members of the public.
5. Cheshire East Ward Member: Cllr. L. Smetham
 - a. To receive a report on items of interest to the Parish Council.
6. Finance
 - a. To receive and consider the financial statement 2026/27 as at 27th April, 2026. (Appendix A)
 - b. To note receipts listed at Appendix B.
 - c. To approve the payments listed at Appendix C.
 - d. Internal Audit 2025/26
 - i. To receive the Internal Audit Report contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. (Appendix D)
 - ii. To receive and consider the Internal Audit Action plan.
2025/26 Report states: "No issues arising – a robust set of accounting records have been maintained with a comprehensive audit trail to supporting information and all internal control objectives have been met. Recommendations in respect of 2022/23 have been

Lower Withington Parish Council

implemented in full. In addition, the council has provided comprehensive evidence for the aspects of Assertion 10 compliance reviewed by internal audit.”

- e. Final Accounts and Audit Arrangements 2025/26
 - i. To consider and approve the signing of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return). (Appendix E)
 - ii. To approve and adopt the 2025/26 Final Accounts and Supporting Notes. (Appendix F)
 - iii. To approve the signing of the Accounting Statements 2025/26 (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return). (Appendix G)
 - iv. To approve the signing of the Certificate of Exemption from Limited Assurance Review contained within the Part 2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for submission to the External Auditors. (Appendix H)
 - f. To confirm the actions of the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer in submitting a VAT reclaim to HMRC in the sum of £202.90.
7. Planning
- a. To receive and consider recent planning decisions issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish and any updates relating to outstanding applications. (Appendix I)
 - b. To consider the following planning applications:
 - i. 26/0983/DSC: Welltrough Hall Farm, Lower Withington. SK11 9EF
Discharge of conditions on approval 25/2477/FUL - The proposed development is to apply for 7 extra hard standing pitches connected to existing touring caravan site and to use existing toilet/shower block. This application is to replace existing glamping pods on the site.
 - ii. 26/1259/HOUS: Farmgate Cottage, Farm Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DU
The creation of a front dormer (to match the other dormer at the front of the house) and create a new master bedroom suite and also introduce a rear facing cottage window to match the first floor window arrangements at the rear of the property.
 - iii. Any applications received following issue of Agenda may be included for discussion if required.
8. Highway maintenance and enhancements
- a. To consider updates relating to reported highway matters listed at Appendix J.
 - b. To receive new highway maintenance matters for attention from Members.
 - c. To receive [notice of surface dressing works on A535](#).
 - d. To receive and consider the outcome of speed monitoring survey at Trap Street.
 - e. To receive and consider update relating to proposed village gateways and white lining re-fresh at Salters Lane.
 - f. To consider updates and any further concerns about matters affecting A535, including: general speeding, motorbike and car racing and traffic conflicts near to junction with Catchpenny Lane.
 - g. To consider updates and any further concerns about use of Parish highways for events and event diversions.
 - h. To receive and consider quotations for the replacement of the speed indicator devices.
9. Assets and Parish Council Projects
- a. To receive and consider updates relating to the community newsletter.
 - b. To receive and consider updates relating to the defibrillators.
 - c. To receive and consider options relating to future Christmas lights displays.
 - d. To receive and consider any updates relating to boundary treatment at Dicklow Cob Village Green.

Lower Withington Parish Council

- e. To receive an update relating to the oiling of the owl carving.
- 10. Meetings of external organisations
 - a. To receive updates from the Jodrell Bank Observatory World Heritage Site Steering Group.
- 11. Correspondence
 - a. To consider specific correspondence received by the Parish Council since the date of the last ordinary meeting and determine such actions as Members consider appropriate thereto:
 - i. Cheshire & Warrington Combined Authority: Invitation to Town and Parish Councils meeting. (1st July, 2026, 5:30p.m., Sandbach)
 - ii. ChALC: Invitation to Peak Cluster Meeting. (30th April, 2026, 6p.m., online)
 - iii. ChALC: Invitation to submit motion for debate at the Annual Meeting.
- 12. Parish matters
 - a. To receive a report on matters of interest/concern within the Parish from the Gawsworth Ward Policing Team.
 - b. To receive and consider any updates available relating to empty properties at Jodrell Bank.
 - c. To receive a report on the recent the village litter pick.
- 13. Parish councillor vacancies
 - a. To consider co-opting individuals (2) to fill current vacancies.
- 14. Annual Parish Meeting 2026
 - a. To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting 2026 to be held on 18th May, 2026.
- 15. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda
- 16. Dates of next meetings
 - a. 18th May, 2026 – Annual Parish Meeting (7:30p.m.) immediately followed by Annual Parish Council meeting.
- 17. Exclusion of public and press
 - a. To consider passing a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.
 - b. Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items (as required)

E.M.Maddock

Dr. E. M. Maddock, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Dated: 21st April, 2026

For further information email clerk@lowerwithington-pc.gov.uk or visit www.lowerwithington-pc.gov.uk

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix A: Financial Statements

Financial Statement – 2026/27 as at 27 th April, 2026					
Actual 2025/26 £	Details	2026/27 Budget £	Actual to Apr. 26 £	Agenda Apr. 26 £	Budget Balance £
	Receipts				
11,499.00	Precept	12,092.00	0.00		12,092.00
0.00	Balances	3,500.00	0.00		0.00
659.35	Investment interest		0.00		0.00
0.00	Sale of assets		0.00		0.00
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds		0.00		0.00
145.96	VAT refund		0.00		48.80
12,304.31	Total receipts	15,592.00	0.00	0.00	12,140.80
	Payments				
4,901.04	Salary (Clerk)	5,283.00	0.00	418.60	4,864.40
51.90	National Insurance (Employer)	42.00	0.00	0.24	41.76
312.00	Allowances (Clerk)	337.00	0.00		337.00
190.06	Administration	300.00	0.00		300.00
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
232.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	450.00	0.00	244.00	206.00
300.00	Insurance	350.00	0.00		350.00
1,013.67	Grants/Donations (inc. s.137)	2,650.00	0.00		2,650.00
540.00	Website	405.00	0.00		405.00
225.62	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	290.00	0.00	183.20	106.80
200.00	Room hire	325.00	0.00		325.00
0.00	Training	210.00	0.00		210.00
0.00	Professional Services	750.00	0.00		750.00
61.68	Assets – purchase	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
231.62	Assets – maintenance	2,100.00	0.00		2,100.00
615.75	Newsletter	600.00	0.00		600.00
3,013.71	Contingency	500.00	0.00		500.00
148.10	VAT	0.00	0.00	48.80	
12,037.15	Total payments	15,592.00	0.00	894.84	14,745.96

Cash/Bank reconciliation	01/04/26	01/04/26	27/04/26	31/03/27
Balance B/Fwd	35,505.20	35,505.20	35,505.20	34,610.36
Add total receipts	15,592.00	0.00	0.00	12,140.80
Less total payments	15,592.00	0.00	894.84	14,745.96
Balance C/Fwd	35,505.20	35,505.20	34,610.36	32,005.20
Cumulative balances	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	01/04/26	01/04/26	27/04/26	31/03/27
General funds	10,081.54	10,081.54	9,186.70	6,581.54
Earmarked reserves	25,423.66	25,423.66	25,423.66	25,423.66
	35,505.20	35,505.20	34,610.36	32,005.20

Lower Withington Parish Council

Lower Withington Parish Council Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 27th April, 2026

Cash

Balance brought forward 01/04/26	
Current Account	1,943.24
Business Reserve Account	6,651.47
Liquidity Manager Account	26,910.49
	<u>35,505.20</u>
Plus receipts	0.00
Less payments	894.84
Balance carried forward 27/04/26:	<u><u>34,610.36</u></u>

Bank (NatWest)

Current Account	3,223.35		02/04/26
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>0.00</u>		
	0.00		
Less unrepresented cheques			
2025/26	-1,280.11		
For approval	<u>-894.84</u>		
	<u>-2,174.95</u>	1,048.40	27/04/26
Business Reserve Account	6,651.47		02/04/26
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>0.00</u>		
	0.00		
Less unrepresented cheques			
	<u>0.00</u>		
	<u>0.00</u>	6,651.47	27/04/26
Liquidity Manager Account	26,910.49		02/04/26
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>0.00</u>		
	0.00		
Less unrepresented cheques			
	<u>0.00</u>		
	<u>0.00</u>	26,910.49	27/04/26
Total bank balances 27/04/26		<u><u>34,610.36</u></u>	

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix B: Receipts

2025/26

NatWest Bank plc	£5.18	Gross interest: Jan. 2026 (BR)
NatWest Bank plc	£4.84	Gross interest: Feb. 2026 (BR)
NatWest Bank plc	£41.77	Gross interest: Feb. 2026 (LM)
NatWest Bank plc	£5.13	Gross interest: Mar. 2026 (BR)
NatWest Bank plc	£47.00	Gross interest: Mar. 2026 (LM)

Appendix C: Payments for approval

Cheque No 000650	E. M. Maddock	£355.00	Salary: Apr. 26 [A]
Direct Debit	HM Revenue & Customs	£83.84	PAYE payment [B]
Cheque No 000651	JDH Business Services Ltd.	£292.80	Internal audit fee 2025/26 [C]
Cheque No 000652	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	£183.20	Affiliation fee 2026/27 [D]

[A] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.112, Local Government Act 1972 s.111]

[B] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.111 - The Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 2003 s.67G]

[C] The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2025 s.5

[D] Local Government Act 1972 s.143(1)(a)

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix D: Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Lower Withington Parish Council

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		*See 1 below
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed). Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

DD/MM/YYYY 09/04/2026 DD/MM/YYYY

JDH BUSINESS SERVICES LTD

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date 09/04/2026

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 2
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities

1. Disclaimer – scope limited to checking appropriate policies and council-owned domain and email address in place

Page 4 of 6

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix E: Annual Governance Statement

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.			<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.			<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.			<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.			<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.			<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.			<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.			<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.			<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			<i>has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.			<i>has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.</i>

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

	Yes	No
The authority website is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.		

ENTER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix F: Final Accounts and Supporting Notes

Summary Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2026

2024/25 £.	<u>Receipts</u>	2025/26 £.
11,142.00	Precept	11,499.00
887.04	Investment Interest	659.35
0.00	Grants & Donations	0.00
95.75	V.A.T. Refund	145.96
<u>12,124.79</u>	Total Receipts	<u>12,304.31</u>
	<u>Payments</u>	
4,625.40	Salary (Clerk)	4,901.04
0.00	National Insurance (Employer)	51.90
325.00	Allowances (Clerk)	312.00
177.27	Administration	190.06
0.00	Member Allowances	0.00
220.00	Audit Fees (internal & external)	232.00
300.00	Insurance	300.00
3,000.00	Grants / Donations	1,013.67
245.00	Website	540.00
221.04	Subscriptions / Affiliation Fees	225.62
200.00	Room Hire	200.00
0.00	Training	0.00
0.00	Professional Services	0.00
110.95	Assets - Purchase	61.68
674.33	Assets - Maintenance	231.62
542.39	Newsletter	615.75
560.18	Contingency	3,013.71
200.76	V.A.T.	148.10
<u>11,402.32</u>	Total Payments	<u>12,037.15</u>

34,515.57	Balance B/Fwd. 01/04/25	35,238.04
12,124.79	Add Total Receipts	12,304.31
<u>-11,402.32</u>	Less Total Payments	<u>-12,037.15</u>
<u>35,238.04</u>	Balance C/Fwd. 31/03/26	<u>35,505.20</u>
	<u>Analysis of Cumulative Funds</u>	
6,583.75	NatWest Business Reserve Account	6,651.47
2,335.43	NatWest Bank Current Account	1,943.24
<u>26,318.86</u>	NatWest Liquidity Manager Account	<u>26,910.49</u>
<u>35,238.04</u>	Total	<u>35,505.20</u>
	<u>Above Funds held for the following purposes:-</u>	
9,814.38	General Funds	10,081.54
25,423.66	Earmarked Reserves	25,423.66
0.00	Capital Reserves	0.00
<u>35,238.04</u>		<u>35,505.20</u>

The above Statement represents fairly the financial position of the Lower Withington Parish Council as at 31st March, 2026 and reflects its receipts and payments during the year.

Lower Withington Parish Council

Lower Withington Parish Council – Supporting Notes 2025/26

Assets

During the year the following assets were purchased at the cost shown:-

Christmas lights and accessories	61.68
	<u>£61.68</u>

During the year the following assets were disposed of for the amount shown:-

Christmas lights	£0.00
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At the 31st March, 2026 the following assets were held:-

Notice Boards (3)	1,000.00
Village Nameplate Signs (2)	107.44
Speed Indicator Device (SID) (2)	4,035.00
Defibrillator (1)	1,378.00
Plaque - Defibrillator (1)	52.64
Owl Tree Carving	600.00
Laptop Computer	332.50
Parish Boundary Signs (2)	154.28
Football Goal Posts (2)	116.58
Notice Board (1)	1,222.64
Litter picking equipment	220.93
Defibrillator & Cabinet	1,583.50
Christmas tree	40.00
Fruit trees (4)	70.95
Christmas lights	61.68
	<u>£10,976.14</u>

Leases At the year end the following leases were in operation:- None.

Borrowings

As at close of business on 31st March, 2026 the following loans to the Council were outstanding:- None.

Debts At the year end debts of £202.90 (VAT reclaim) were outstanding and due to the Council.

Capital Reserves None.

<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>	Democratic Services Fund	5,000.00
	Transparency Code Grant	118.00
	Dicklow Cob Pathway Project Grant	2,205.66
	Highway Safety Schemes Fund	5,000.00
	Local Organisation Investment Fund	5,000.00
	Footpath improvements	600.00
	Village Gateway project	7,500.00
		<u>£25,423.66</u>

Tenancies During the year the following tenancies were held:- None.

Section 137 Payments

The limit for spending under Sect. 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for this Council in the year of account was £4,972.80 and payments made were:- None

Agency Work During the year the Council undertook the following agency work on behalf of other local authorities:- None.

Advertising and Publicity

The following costs for advertising and publicity were incurred during the year:- None.

Pensions For the year of account the Council made no contribution to staff pensions.

Contingent Liabilities None.

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix G: Accounting Statements 2025/26

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	34,516	35,238	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	11,142	11,499	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	982	805	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	4,625	4,953	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	6,777	7,084	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	35,238	35,505	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>

8. Total value of cash and short term investments	35,238	35,505	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	11,279	10,976	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11. Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions?	✓		<i>For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

EMMaddock REQUIRED

Date **10/04/2026**

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix H: Certificate of Exemption

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2025/26 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2026 and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2026 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2026** notifying the external auditor.

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2025/26, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2025/26:

£12,304 R AMOUNT £00,000

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2025/26:

£12,037 R AMOUNT £00,000

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority **is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£210 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2022
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2024/25), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2026.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DD/MM/YYYY

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

Signed by Chair

Date

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

clerk@lowerwithington-pc.gov.uk> GENERIC EMAIL ADDRESS

01477571444E NUMBER

*Published web address

https://lowerwithington-pc.gov.uk/ PUBLISHED PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2026 Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix I: Planning applications

(a) Recent planning decisions

26/0768/PRIOR-1AA Boundary Farm, Whisterfield Lane, Siddington. SK11 9DB
Prior approval for enlargement of the dwelling by one additional storey.
Decision: Prior approval granted with conditions (07/04/26)

(b) Outstanding applications

25/1975/HOUS Oak Lea, Salters Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9LL
Erection of a prefabricated oak-framed wooden garage on a concrete base slab (retrospective).

25/3685/DSC Bank View Farm, Hodgehill Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9LU
Discharge of conditions 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 on approval 24/1276M.

26/0748/CLPUD Boundary Farm, Whisterfield Lane, Siddington. SK11 9DB
Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey side extensions and two-storey rear extension to the existing dwellinghouse.

26/0923/PRIOR-1A Dairy House Farm, Catchpenny Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DG
Prior approval for a single-storey rear extension to original dwelling, extending 8 metres beyond the rear wall, maximum height of 4 metres and eaves height of 3 metres.

26/0925/PRIOR-1A Oakwood Farm, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AB
Prior approval for a single storey rear extension to original dwelling, extending 8.00m beyond the rear wall, maximum height of 4.00m and eaves height of 3.00m.

26/0926/CLPUD Oakwood Farm, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AB
Certificate of lawful development for proposed single storey side extensions and two-storey rear extension to the existing dwellinghouse.

26/0975/CLPUD The Cottage, Macclesfield Road, Jodrell Bank. CW4 8BU
Certificate of lawful development for proposed double garage.

Lower Withington Parish Council

Appendix J: Updates on reported highway matters

- a. Dislodged coping stone and fallen tree on bridge at Catchpenny Lane.
Update: “Unfortunately, funds have been really tight this year [2023/24], however, this will be prioritised in the new year, for replacement.”
- b. Holes in road at junction of Whisterfield Lane and Chapel Lane.
Update: “Unfortunately no available resource at the moment, we will only repair actionable defects collected by our routine safety inspectors.”
- c. Proposal for double white lines on A535 near to junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: “The enquiry has been assessed and does not present a risk to highway users at this time.”
- d. Blocked drains/gullies at Trap Street.
Update: “This is still in the system to be checked by our Drainage Team, we are currently working to get through a large back log of drainage and flooding enquiries due to recent weather events. You should receive the system notification when it has been actioned.”
- e. Flooding at A535 near junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: Gullies vary in the speed they can drain water away and some will overflow during heavy rain even if there is no blockage. This does not necessarily mean the gully requires cleaning. We will not visit overflowing gullies during heavy rainfall unless the water is causing a risk to life or property.
- f. Surplus temporary signage warning of mud at Catchpenny Lane.
Update: No update.
- g. Verge damage at Catchpenny Lane (near junction with A535)
Update: No update – report closed by Cheshire East Council 24/02/26.
- h. Pothole at Salters Lane (near to No. 1 Dicklow Cob)
Update: Work complete (01/04/26).
- i. Cats eyes not replaced on A535 during resurfacing work (near junction of Catchpenny Lane)
Update: “Will be fulfilled by planned works.”
- j. Cats eyes not replaced on A535 during resurfacing work (near junction with Long Shoot Road)
Update: “Will be fulfilled by planned works.”
- k. Lighting at Thorntree Bungalows not working
Update: Awaiting requested information from Members.
- l. Broken stile and footbridge on Lower Withington FP3
Update: Cheshire East Council arranging for repair work to be undertaken.

Signage which has been reported for repair:

- Broken sign along A535 (near to The Old Cheshire Hunt).
- Broken sign along A535 (junction warning sign), north of junction with Catchpenny Lane.
- Uprooted street sign (Longshoot Road), at junction of Longshoot Road with A535.

Note: Cheshire East Council advise that non-emergency sign repairs are not currently being progressed due to lack of available budget.