

Fornham All Saints Parish Council
AGAR supporting statement – May 2025

The Council continues to be aware of a number of shortfalls in performing its duties over the last financial year. We were aware that there was work to be done from the previous years, to tighten up processes and update procedures, much of which was started, but then in the space of four months the Council lost the Vice Chair, the Chair and a long standing Councillor, leaving a greatly reduced team, over half of which were fairly new and inexperienced, the Clerk included.

Momentum was lost, and for a period, Council operated with no designated Chair or Vice Chair. These roles have since now been appointed and the Clerk is undertaking the CiLCA qualification – with the hope that as things settle down, significant improvements can be achieved.

5	Operational and financial risks were not considered or documented fully throughout the year	Risk Management documents have been drafted to be approved at a future meeting. Council to carry out a full review of all risk management documents and policies, including online banking
6	Non consistent controls throughout the year	Internal control statement drafted and council to carry out own internal control checks and report back findings
7	Council aware of previous failings from past two audits	Some considerable work has been done to improve efficiency and rectify issues, but some work still outstanding

Restate Figures for 2023/24

The figures for year ending 31st March 2024 have been amended to incorporate a payment of £480 which was double accounted for.

A cheque was raised in 23/24, which was wrongly included an expenditure as well as an unrepresented cheque at the end of the year. The actual payment was made in the 24/25 period as a bank transfer, after the original cheque went missing.