

FENTON & TORKSEY LOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Explanation of negative responses to Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Introduction

During 2025/26 fiscal year Fenton & Torksey Lock Parish Council were still struggling to form a full Council and eventually formed a Council of new Councillors with little experience.

The previous Clerk had failed to hand over proper control of the Parish Council emails and the Council were unable to access any emails sent to the clerk email address. This meant that emails from the External Auditor were not received by the Council.

The Council had insufficient knowledge as to what was required of them in relation to the AGAR and who they should contact.

The Acting Clerk was struggling to get the information required due to their having been an insufficient handover, and found the whole situation overwhelming.

Fenton & Torksey Lock failed to appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 AGAR and the accounts, procedures and governance of the Council was not audited.

The Council has now appointed a new Clerk who has experience and knowledge of the AGAR process and the requirements thereof.

The New Clerk has conducted an unofficial audit in line with the audit service from LALC and the Council are working towards compliance.

Fenton & Torksey Lock Parish Council have subscribed to the LALC Audit Scheme for a two year period.