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INTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATE AND REPORT
Diddlebury Parish Council

I congratulate the Clerk for, once again, keeping meticulous financial records, ensuring an adequate audit trail.

I certify that I have completed the Internal Audit for the year ended 31st March 2024 according to the books and records presented to me and in accordance with the Audit Commission requirements.

My audit included comprehensive examination of the Council's records, undertaking all tests as prescribed in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 3, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Council's affairs are properly conducted and are free from material mis-statement.

I note that the Parish Council now hold funds for the Corvedale Walking and Footpath Group amounting to a total of £700 (£600 cheque from the Footpath Group after their bank account was closed and a further £100 grant from Shropshire Council). This is ring fenced for use by the Corvedale Walking and Footpath Group.

I also note that the funds carried forward at the end of 2024 have increased by £7,052 (2023 year end the cash balance was £16,576 and at the end of the 2024 financial year the cash balance is £23,628). The increase is a result of the £5,731.09 Neighbourhood Fund payment received, the £860.05 VAT refund and the £700 held for the Corvedale Walking and Footpath Group minus £328 additional expenditure incurred for the Internal and External Audits required in 2023/24.

The work undertaken, as directed in the Internal Audit report which forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, included the following:-

Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the year?

The manual cash book was carefully checked, all payments for the period 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 were properly recorded and found to be accurate as recorded on the AGAR. The opening balance was correct as reported as a closing balance on the previous year's AGAR and the closing balance agreed with the total carried forward in April 2023 plus the income received during 2023/24 less expenditure incurred during 2023/24 and the bank reconciliation at the year end.