

BRANSTON & MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Mrs Sarah Stead

Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

With reference to Accounting Statement 4, the response of NO has been entered because I inadvertently failed to comply with Regulation 15 in 2019 by advertising the start of the public consultation period as two days before the Parish Council had approved the Annual Return.

In 15 years, it is the first time that I made the mistake caused by focussing on complying with the need to include the first two weeks of July and my annual leave.

The Parish Council was advised of the error in October and it was minuted as below:

16199 The audit had been completed by PKF Littlejohn.

Under 'matters not affecting their opinion' they had noted the following:

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2019-2020 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2020-21.'

The notice displayed to announce the public inspection of the accounts had been dated 29th May for inspection between 1st June and 12th July. However, the accounts were not approved and signed off by the Parish Council until 3rd June.

There had been no requests to view the accounts and no elector had been affected by the mistake.

The error was noted.

Parish Clerk
Branston & Mere Parish Council

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