Lacock Parish Council

Explanations for 'No' responses to assertions on section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

Assertion	**Reason for 'No' response**
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	The Parish Council was unable to approve its AGAR for the 2025-26 financial year before 30 June 2026 and was therefore unable to meet its statutory requirements for the year.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	The Parish Council engaged in activities not compliant with its currently adopted Financial Regulations such as making electronic payments to creditors throughout the 2025-26 financial year and making payments unilaterally from the Parish Council's current bank account.
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.	The Parish Council was unable to provide evidence to support its 2026-27 precept increase based on the level of retained General Reserve held by the Parish Council. The Parish Council was unable to provide sufficient evidence of formal budget monitoring during the 2025-26 financial year. The Parish Council's standing orders and financial regulations are not current and do not reflect current laws, regulations and Proper Practices. The Parish Council's agenda and minutes did not meet the required standards during the 2025-26 financial year.
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.	The Parish Council did not post the Notice for the Exercise of Public Rights for the 2024-25 financial year AGAR and accounts.
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.	The Parish Council was unable to provide evidence of a risk management or mitigation process being in place during the 2025-26 financial year.