

therefore the posting took place at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Under Regulation 15(2) of the *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015*, the requirement is that the AGAR be published “as soon as reasonably possible after approval”, and the Council is therefore satisfied that the statutory duty was met. The Clerk will confirm this interpretation and respond formally to the auditor.

It was further noted that the auditor had commented on the non-disclosure of individual staff pay and salary increases within the Council’s minutes. The Council’s established policy is that individual staff members are not named in relation to salary matters, in accordance with data protection principles and accepted employment confidentiality standards under the *Data Protection Act 2018*. The auditors also suggested that staff pay should be aligned with the NALC salary scale, whereas Sandgate Parish Council has adopted a local pay structure reflecting the Clerk’s dual role as Parish Clerk and Librarian — a combined post not directly comparable with other local authority or parish roles. The Clerk will review this matter and provide supporting evidence regarding the unique nature of the position.

It was agreed that the Council will prepare a formal response to the external auditor, addressing each of the points raised and setting out the Council’s reasoning and compliance with the relevant legal parameters.

- 7. **Correspondence:** There was none
- 8. **Information:** There was none.
- 9. **Date of next meeting:** 17th November 2025

Signed by Chair of Finance Committee Dated