**North Hinksey Parish Council**

**AGAR 2020-21**

**Explanation of ‘No’ answers in Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement)**

We provided a ‘no’ response to assertion 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’*

This was because the internal auditor made the following observations:

1. The period for the Exercise of Public Rights did not commence the day after the Announcement date. The Council signed and approved the Accounting Statement & Annual Governance Statement 25 June 2020 however the Announcement Date for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights was 7 July 2020 and the Exercise of Public Rights commencement date 10 July 2020.

**NHPC Explanation:**

The Period of Exercise of Public Rights started on 10th July due to the exceptional combination of circumstances ie the Clerk/RFO leaving post with incorrect dates list on the initial notice published, a locum clerk being in post who lived over 100 miles from the office and the Coronavirus pandemic affecting opening of the office, meetings and communications generally.

1. The period of the Exercise of Public Rights lasted for 31 working days and not 30 days. The Council to note that the period of the Exercise of Public Rights did not last for 30 working days this lasted 31 days. The Council must give a Negative response in respect of Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement

**NHPC Explanation**

Members of the public were afforded in excess of the statutory 30 working days and NHPC will ensure that the correct timings are used for the current year's notice.