

# Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:	
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	
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.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.	
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.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's 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.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.	
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.	
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.	
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.	
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓			has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so. SEE ATTACHED NOTE ON

\*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

WEBSITE DEV & INTERNET COMPLIANCE

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

17-06-2026

and recorded as minute reference:

26-06-10-4

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

## Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

	Yes	No
The authority website is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HIGH BUCKINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - WWW.HIGHBUCKINGHAMPARISHCOUNCIL.COM

HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
PROPOSALS TO MEET WEBSITE COMPLIANCE AND E-MAIL SECURITY

JUNE 2026

Throughout the year 2025/26 we have sought an effective, practical and economic route to achieving compliance in the areas of website and IT compliance in accordance with the change in regulations.

We have taken three steps to finalise these efforts in 2026.

- 1: Council have adopted a new IT Compliance document effective June 2026 as approved at the council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026.
2. We have contracted with Hugo Fox to reformat and update our website on the gov.uk domain
3. The contract with Hugo Fox will supply us with 10 free e-mail addresses at @gov.uk. This is sufficient to accommodate one for the parish clerk, 8 for the maximum number of councillors with one spare to handle any change of council members.

Council has commissioned support at their Silver level to ensure ongoing compliance.

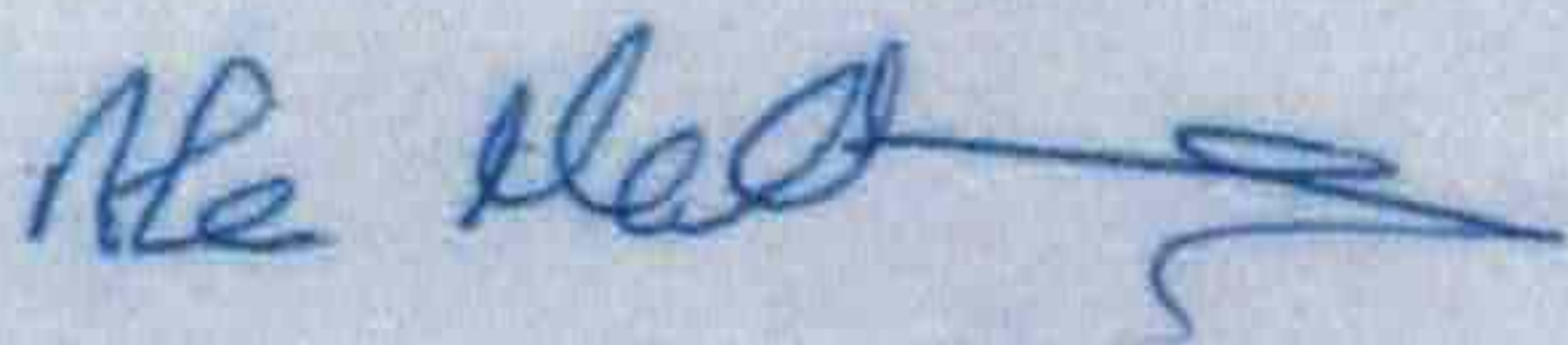
Alan Matthewman

Parish Clerk

Agreed at Council Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026

Minute Ref: 26-06-08-4



ALAN MATTHEWMAN

PARISH OFFICE 2 OUTPOST.