**Marton Parish Council – response to auditor’s report**

Point 1 – no comment to add.

Point 2 – The Council notes that it has moved from cheque-based banking to online payments, so the issue of late payments (where cheques have been written but payments have not been processed before year end) will not be a problem moving forwards. The Parish Council notes the auditor’s comments, but, as a different auditor and Clerk were both in post last year and it is unknown what was discussed as best practice for this situation, the AGAR for 2022 - 2023 has not been amended.

Point 3 – The Clerk has reviewed the figures and receipts and has amended the cashbook ahead of the Public Rights Inspection Period. This will be reviewed for a final time prior to the Clerk completing a VAT return towards the end of the calendar year.

Point 4 – The Clerk has produced a variations statement, which will be uploaded to the Council website alongside the AGAR.

Point 5 – The Council resolve to submit the audit promptly after their meeting in May 2024. In future, if no additional charges are requested by PKF Littlejohn, the Council will remove the line from their budget, as suggested by the auditor.

Point 6 – As no assets were included on the 2022 – 2023 AGAR, as agreed by the previous Clerk and auditor, the Council will only include the newly purchased speed signs on their AGAR submission for 2023 – 2024.

Point 7 – no comment to add.

Point 8 – a receipt was presented to the Clerk for £289.35; following discussions between Councillors, it was agreed that only c. 25% of this amount should be reimbursed. The receipt in question was for a ‘thank you’ meal for the departing Clerk and only their meal was covered by Council funds. As such, the amount quoted in the cashbook is correct and the receipt and original payment request detailed in the minutes are incorrect. The Clerk will amend the minutes for September 2023 to better reflect this.