

North Thoresby, Grainsby & Waithe Parish Council's response to 2024/25 AGAR objections

Objection	Council's response
<p>(1) There is no record in any agenda or minutes of meetings of the appointment of the Internal Auditor, Steve Fletcher, nor his scope, remuneration etc, nor how his independence was assured in consideration that he is also clerk to LALC itself and employed by them, that the financial documents in the 2024/25 period were "recreated" by XXXX XXXX who is also an employee of LALC, that the council employs the services of LALC as Webmaster and the Webmaster administrator is XXXX XXXX, and that the council had paid XXXX XXXX for locum clerk services when there is actually no record of him being appointed by the council and that the clerk during that time was Cllr XXXX who had been voted into the position of Acting Clerk</p>	<p>The Council has responded to a separate Freedom of Information Act request. This is attached. FOIA 004/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment has been made by the Clerk/RFO in accordance with paragraph 3.7 of the Council's Financial Regulations and delegated powers under S.101 Local Government Act 1972. • The appointed Internal Auditor is an experienced, respected and qualified Town Clerk in Lincolnshire who has no other connection to this Parish Council's operations or financial arrangements consistent with paragraph 3.8-3.10 of the Council's Financial Regulations.
<p>(2) With the exception the NPR, none of the attached audit and AGAR documents were made available to the public until the 15th October 2025 - 5 days before the NPR was due to expire</p> <p>Requests have been submitted, both with regard to this AGAR and as Freedom of Information Requests, to try and determine what is happening in the parish council and why so many regulations are being wilfully broken and false documentation created.</p> <p>Please note that because of the overwhelming weight of evidence already available, sample examples of objections only to each objective have been lodged within the NPR period, and further details will be supplied when requested by the EA.</p> <p>For reference, the council's .gov.uk website has been archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20250000000000*/https://north-thoresby.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/</p> <p>And the official website on the 14th October shows the attached AGAR documents were not available to the public, but were then uploaded within 22 hours (this has been pointed out to Cllr XXXXXXXX and the attached were downloaded before they could be deleted).</p>	<p>All documents are available 2024-25 Audit of Accounts – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p>

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<p>Objections:</p> <p>Objective A</p> <p>This should be a “No”. The minutes of the meetings that are available show that during the 2024/25 period the offices of the Chair and the Proper Officer was at one time held simultaneously by a single person - Cllr XXX. Also during this period, following their deletion by Cllr XXXX accounting records carrying over from the 2023/24 period were “recreated” by a member of the public (XXXX XXXX), Cllr XXXX and Cllr XXXXXXXX</p> <p>The minutes of the council meetings show that from March 2024 to 4th July 2024, Cllr XXXX was the Acting Proper Officer, but that XXXX XXXX was also simultaneously the Locum Proper Officer (although no record exists of his employment). The attached expenses summary written by Cllr XXXXXXXX on 6th October 2025 shows £1,385.98 was paid to LALC, although other documents show this was paid to XXXX XXXX (this also carries over from the 2023/24 AGAR)</p> <p>As evidenced, and carried over from the 2023/24 AGAR objections, the financial records of 2023/24 were unlawfully deleted by Cllr XXXX commencing 31st January 2024 and false ones “recreated” in 2024. The original signed minutes have been supplied but they have not been reinstated. In October 2024 the minutes of the July 2023 meeting were reinstated with an unauthorised statement attached. An FOI response from the council state they have no record of who uploaded this unauthorised statement, but the Webmaster was XXXX XXXX, they have made no attempt to question this or access the website log, and the unauthorised statement is still attached to those minutes.</p>	<p>‘Objective A’ refers to the Annual Internal Auditors Statement 2024/25....</p> <p>Which states that appropriate financial records have been properly kept throughout the year.</p> <p>The Council has financial records for all transactions and this has been reconciled between the bank account statements and the invoices and other payments produced.</p> <p>As an example the payment for £1,385.98 was for LALC screenshot of the page below and spreadsheet attached and can provide all invoices that make up this figure.</p> <p>expenditure-summary-2024-25</p> <p>Audit of Accounts Archive (PDF) – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p> <p>The external audit is auditing the 2024/25 financial year and 2023/24 financial year objections are outside the scope of this audit.</p>
<p>Objective B</p> <p>This should be “No”. The regulations do not allow the council to simultaneously have 2 Proper Officers, and there is no record of XXXX XXXX being employed PAYE or on a contract, or issued with any letter of authorisation (this also carries over from Objections to the 2023/24 AGAR).</p>	<p>Objective B refers to the Annual Internal Auditors Statement which is about financial controls and accounting for VAT.</p> <p>The internal auditor has not identified a weakness in that area. The payments made in respect of the locum contracts appear in our accounts.</p>

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<p>The meeting on 5th August the council approved “up to 10 hours handover from the previous locum clerk to support XXXX XXXXX when/if required &170.00” but there is no record of the employment of a locum clerk and the official holder of that office previously was Cllr XXXXX XXXX as Acting Clerk.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting where the councillors were talked through the AGAR by the “locum clerk” does not say which councillors were present, who the “locum clerk” was, or who was taking the minutes (it states the minutes would be created from a recording, but there is no record of who created these minutes)</p> <p>The income summary records a payment from “Viking Events”, a private business that the council was supporting in breach of its own regulations (this is a complex matter that requires a copy of the council’s full financial records to understand)</p> <p>See also Objective B regarding XXXX XXXXX as locum clerk.</p>	
<p>Objective C</p> <p>This should be “No” as the records show gross mismanagement and there is no evidence of any financial risk assessment being undertaken</p>	<p>This refers to the Annual Internal Auditors Report and the auditor did not find that the Council failed to consider these areas of risk.</p> <p>0725/36i</p> <p>October minutes yet to be ratified</p> <p>2025 Minutes – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p>
<p>Objective D</p> <p>This is correctly marked as “No”. Until the council supplies documentation and an explanation, the extent of this failure to meet the objective cannot be quantified</p>	<p>Auditors Report 2024/25 2024-25 Audit of Accounts – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p>
<p>Objective E</p> <p>This is correctly marked as “No”. Until the council supplies documentation and an explanation, the extent of this failure to meet the objective cannot be quantified</p>	<p>Auditors Report 2024/25 2024-25 Audit of Accounts – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p>
<p>Objective F</p> <p>This should be “No”. The village hall manager keeps a petty cash book. This is not available online, but records payments of cash. The attached Income summary 2024-25 authored by Cllr XXXXXXXX instead</p>	<p>No petty cash</p> <p>Cash amounts form events have been banked as per income noted 2025 Minutes – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council</p> <p>September 2025 minutes surely this falls into next year objections?</p>

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of the RFO on 6/10/25 shows "Private hire & Petty cash £2,434 (the "& petty cash" is in a different colour that is difficult to see in greyscale)	The £2424.20 is an example the income for private hire of the village hall screenshot of the page below and spreadsheet attached and can provide all invoices that make up this figure.
<p>Objective G</p> <p>This should be "No". There are no records of the appointment of XXXX XXXX, but he was paid £1,385.98 and given access to the council's confidential records. It is unknown what his form of employment was and the council have failed to respond to requests for this</p> <p>Cllr XXXX resigned from the council on 4th July 2024. Someone outside the parish named XXXX XXXXX called a meeting for 5th August, signing the summons as the locum Proper Officer and dated 31st July 2024. The summons was actually written on the 12th July and posted on the 12th July and one of the items was to approve the appointment of XXXX XXXXX as locum Proper Officer. An FOI request shows that this summons was sent to the Chair from the clerk's official email account on 12th July, evidencing that he summons was fraudulent, XXXX XXXXX was not the locum Proper Officer, she had been given access to confidential council documents while still a member of the public, the legality of her appointment is therefore questionable, along with all the council's subsequent financial and governance business while she was "locum clerk"</p>	<p>Already explained that £1385.98 was not paid to named individual but to LALC in respect of expenses of various services.</p> <p>XXXXX XXXX resigned 4 July 2024</p> <p>XXXX XXXXX was appointed on 15 July 2024 confirmation email from Payroll services attached new starter form. – has personal details.</p> <p>July meeting july-2024-minutes-1st-last meeting for XXXXX XXXX</p> <p>August Meeting august-2024-minutes-5th- first meeting for XXXX XXXXX</p>
<p>Objective H</p> <p>This should be "No". The asset register as attached does not match that as of 31st March 2024 and the subsequent purchases. For example, according to the previous asset register and subsequent minutes there are 4 defibrillators: one is hired, one is in the private residence of Cllr Butters (the vice Chair), one is somewhere "on Station Road" (believed to be Cllr XXXXXXX's house/gym) and the other is unknown.</p>	<p>The RFO felt that the register was not in an appropriate format and needed revising therefore a new asset register was created.</p> <p>There are four defibrillators. Three under council. One is at Waithe, DN36 5PR Sited on external wall on right hand side of the front door. Second one is in the village hall in the caretakers office, third one is hired and outside of the village hall and the final one is privately owed on Station road but is registered to be used by residents</p>
<p>Objective I</p> <p>This should be "No": bank reconciliations have not been done, and when resignations of councillors and clerks has taken place there are</p>	Bank reconciliations have been undertaken in order to complete AGAR and steps that been taken to improve for 2025/26 as per internal audit report.

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only occasional accounts of the council voting new inputters and signatories (one Cllr and XXXX XXXXX resigned in December 2024, with the councillor complaining that Cllr XXXXXXXX was appointing signatories without the approval of the council)	
Objective J This is correctly stated as “No” but the council have not supplied or issued any statement of variance or explained why. To date, this information has still not been made available.	2024-25 Audit of Accounts – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council
Objective L This is correctly listed as “No” but no explanation as to the variance has been provided or reason why unlawful minutes carried over from the 2023/24 AGAR submission had not been taken down and the correct ones reposted.	2024-25 Audit of Accounts – North Thoresby, Waithe and Grainsby Parish Council

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LACL expenses total £1385.98

EXPENSES								
Ref	Date	Invoice No.	Payment to	Expenditure details	Nett	VAT	Amount	
3	09.04.24	14749	LALC	WMS (web master services)	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00	
4	16.04.24	14760	LALC	Training support	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00	
6	25.03.24	14678	LALC	Annual subscription	£310.86		£310.86	
7	04.08.23	13910	LALC	Annual membership 23/24	£109.12		£109.12	
32	31.05.24	14905	LALC	Advertising Vacancy	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00	
58	29.07.24	15054	LALC	2 conference delegates	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00	
64	10.06.24	14941	LALC	WMS	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00	
65	01.07.24	14980	LALC	WMS	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00	
90	08.01.25	15323	LALC	Advertising Vacancy	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00	

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Private Hire income £2424.20

Date	Name	Name2	Ref	Amount
02.04.24	Private Hire	Jarvis	123	£36.00
09.04.24	Private Hire	Jarvis	123	£36.00
23.05.24	Private Hire	Jarvis	123	£36.00
15.04.24	Private Hire	Pilkinton	133	£25.00
09.04.24	Private Hire	Marshall	134	£45.00
17.04.24	Private Hire	D.Lawrence	137	£17.50
02.05.24	Private Hire	Davie	138	£45.00
04.06.24	Private Hire	Davie	146	£45.00
19.06.24	Private Hire	Gale	147	£30.00
18.06.24	Private Hire	Strawbridge	149	£50.00
03.07.24	Private Hire	Davie	151	£102.50
05.07.24	Private Hire	Gale	152	£30.00
16.07.24	Private Hire	Davie	153	£45.00
06.08.24	Private Hire	Hippisley	156	£75.00
01.08.24	Private Hire	Jarvis	159	£12.00
06.09.24	Private Hire	Stones	161	£50.00
09.08.24	Private Hire	Green	162	£30.00
12.09.24	Private Hire	Gibson	164	£30.00
02.10.24	Private Hire	Bennett	167	£75.00
30.09.24	Private Hire	Krohn	169	£50.00
01.10.24	Private Hire	Benford	171	£50.00
15.10.24	Private Hire	Gibson	172	£30.00
15.10.24	Private Hire	Weston	174	£60.00
22.10.24	Private Hire	Stones	179	£10.00
11.11.24	Private Hire	Johnson	181	£50.00
18.11.24	Private Hire	Gibson	183	£30.00

**North Thoresby, Grainsby & Waithe Parish Council's response to 2024/25
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27.12.24	Private Hire	McKinney	191	£75.00
21.02.25	Private Hire	Virgin	203	£50.00
17.03.25	Private Hire	Gibson	211	£30.00
19.06.24	Private Hire	Gale	145 148	£90.00
03.06.24	Private Hire & petty cash	Gale	Cash hire &	£684.70
01.08.24	Private Hire	Wells	Party	£2.50
03.06.24	Private Hire	Wells	Party	£50.00
07.03.25	Private Hire	Mered	Yoga	£120.00
11.09.24	Private Hire	Lovely		£75.00
19.06.24	Private Hire	Pricop		£50.00
22.11.24	Private Hire	Bowling		£45.00
25.06.24	Private Hire	Pricop		£25.00
25.09.24	Private Hire	Astor		£32.00