4th October 2024

Dear Mr. Harries

Re Trefeglwys Community Council Audit 2022/2023

Trefeglwys Community Council is made up of ten Councillors from three rural villages and their surroundings.

Our precept is £5,000, largely used on employing a part-time clerk for approximately 18 hours a month. We are very conscious of the need to keep the financial burden of our constituents to a minimum, with all Councillors waiving their allowances. We have however, been forced to pay our clerks to provide duplicated and unheeded information to you. We estimate that this correspondence may have cost up to 10% of our precept.

During this audit we have had to deal with three separate auditors who don't appear to have consulted on the audit, requiring repeated answers to queries, even asking for copies of our correspondence with Audit Wales! It was made clear that during this period we had struggled to find a clerk, with two clerks resigning due to the increased bureaucracy and floods of paperwork imposed on local councils. Similarly, we informed Audit Wales that our website had irrecoverably failed, and a new one had to be built from scratch. At both the start of this audit and at the end a fully functioning and compliant website was available to all.

We attach copies of our correspondence with you and would particularly draw your attention to the Audit Wales Outstanding document which dealt with all the queries raised, but this doesn't appear to have been noted before you qualified our accounts.

We also attach the Audit completion form, sent by you to us, as we are not sure what to do with it as we have not had completion notices from Audit Wales for several years.

Under the circumstances, the Council is requesting an Internal Review into the Council's Audit 2022/23 on the grounds that we have sent extra information to you by Recorded Delivery on the 5th August 2024 which would resolve most of your concerns raised in the Qualified Accounts.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Cllr. David Jerman

Chair of Trefeglwys Community Council