

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **YARDLEY HASTINGS PARISH COUNCIL**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Please provide **full explanations, including numerical values**, for the following:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- a breakdown of approved reserves if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

Section 2	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 <i>Precept</i>	14,092	14,198	106	+0.75	The tax base increased. The Parish Council element of the Council Tax was unchanged.
Box 3 <i>Total other receipts</i>	16,001	2,944	-13,057	-81.6	<p>In 2017/18 the Council received a grant of £480 from the Government's "Transparency Fund".</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council received a "New Homes Bonus Grant" of £10,955 from the South Northamptonshire Council towards the cost of its new street lanterns.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council received a compensation payment of £98 from the company whose lorry had damaged a street light column, and a refund of Land Registry fees amounting to £7.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council received £805 from its insurers in settlement of a claim arising out of malicious damage to its skateboard ramps in the Recreation ground.</p> <p>The Council submits a claim for refund of VAT once a year. In 2017/18 this amounted to £3,649, but in 2018/19 it was £1,185. In 2017/18 there was more vatable expenditure, e.g: on thirty seven new street lanterns.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council received £1,141 from its insurers in settlement of a claim arising out of malicious damage to the wooden gates in the Recreation ground.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council received a "Capital Development Grant" of £585 from the South Northamptonshire Council towards the cost of a new vehicle security barrier at the entrance to the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council received interest on its reserves of £33. In 2017/18 this was only £6.</p>
Box 4 <i>Staff costs</i>	2,729	3,076	347	+12.7	<p>The Clerk's hourly rate of pay was increased in January 2019, backdated to 1st July 2018, taking into account the agreed NJC pay award w.e.f. 1st April 2018. This resulted in an increase for the whole year of £133.</p> <p>The total wages paid to the Clerk in 2018/19 also included a sum of £214 for 20 hours overtime.</p>

Box 5 <i>Loan interest/ capital repayments</i>	Nil	Nil			
Box 6 <i>All other payments</i>	27,597	13,816	-13,781	-50	<p>In 2017/18 the Clerk's "Office Expenses" were £65. In 2018/19 these were £115.</p> <p>The cost of Hall hire increased from £104 in 2017/18 to £140 in 2018/19</p> <p>The Council's Insurance premium increased from £709 in 2017/18 to £751 in 2018/19.</p> <p>Subscriptions decreased by £2, and the cost of legal compliance increased by £5.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the cost of training was £117. In 2019/19 it was £49.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council incurred legal fees of £691 in order to acquire some land.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council made a donation of £25 to South Northants First Responders</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council purchased some computer hardware and software at a cost of £665.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the cost of street light repairs was £82. In 2018/19 it was nil.</p> <p>During 2017/18 the Council replaced thirty-seven street lanterns and three brackets at a cost of £12,150.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the cost of electricity was £1,478. In 2018/19 it was £1,354.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the total cost of repairs to play equipment in the Recreation Ground (inc. the Playground area) was £1,485. In 2018/19 the cost of repairs was only £149</p> <p>In 2017/18 the cost of general repairs, including repairs to the village sign, was £66. In 2018/19 the Council spent £47, which included maintenance on its defibrillator.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council had to replace some railings in the Pocket Park at a cost of £215</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council purchased some wildflower seeds (Millennium Triangle) for £80</p> <p>In 2017/18 the Council spent £1,455 on tree surgery. In 2018/19 the Council spent £720.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the VAT paid by the Council was £3,181. In 2018/19 it was £1,196.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Council purchased a litter bin for £176, some "Neighbourhood Watch" signs for £42, and a "There but not there" silhouette (using its S.137 power) for £647.</p>

					<p>In 2018/19 the Council had to install a vehicle security barrier and new wooden gates at the entrance to the Recreation Ground at a cost of £3,064.</p> <p>The Council's contracts for services with its Village Handyman and its Grass Cutting Contractors were both renewed at increased rates, resulting in an increase in fees of £174 in 2018/19 over 2017/18.</p>
Box 9 <i>Total fixed assets & long term investments & assets</i>	75,106	79,145	4,039	+5.4	<p>The Council purchased some computer hardware and software at a cost of £665.</p> <p>The Council had to install a vehicle security barrier and new wooden gates at the entrance to the Recreation Ground at a cost of £3,064. The old wooden gates were scrapped: - £555</p> <p>The Council purchased a litter bin for £176 and some "Neighbourhood Watch" signs for £42</p> <p>The Council purchased a "There but not there" silhouette (using its S.137 power) for £647</p>
Box 10 <i>Total borrowings</i>	Nil				
Explanation for 'high' reserves	The £10,000 windfall "Community Benefit Payment" received in 2016/17 has been allocated as a Special Reserve towards the cost of a new Sports Pavilion.				