

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Sharnford Parish Council**
 County area (local councils and ESSEX)
 Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes
 Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:
 • variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
 • New from 2020/21 onwards: variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year.

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	19,482	19,632			NO	Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	15,134	16,814	1,680	11.10%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	6,999	5,376	-1,623	23.19%	YES		Income receipts were lower than previous year due to - £360 less recreation lettings as only one football team and some matches cancelled due to weather - The majority of difference from earmarked funds with less received from Neighbourhood plan and more from CANS fundraising plus S106 money, as follows: - £3427.50 less for the neighbourhood plan grant as the plan is almost complete so less funding allowed in the year - additional £748 for S106 funding via BDC - £1354 fundraising by CANS that was not in place last year - £59.50 more interest earned at bank - remaining difference is due to a creditor refund of 7.17 in 2023 accounts with no corresponding amount in 2024 This explains all the income difference, with the majority of the shortfall on neighbourhood hood plan funding
4 Staff Costs	5,542	6,267	725	13.08%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	15,441	18,342	2,901	18.75%	YES		There was £781 less expenditure on general funds and an additional £3683 on earmarked funds as follows - £1072.5 spend on neighbourhood plan (from a specific grant) compared with £0 in 2023. - additional £1370.6 on projects compared with 2023, due mainly to the cost of installing LED street lights, this was of benefit due to large future reduction in electricity charges, extra £450 spent on training to use the earmarked, as new clerk and councillors. More was spent but bursters received to offset, additional £526.92 spent compared with previous year on street reserve as cost of clerk salary when litter picking was booked to the task plus liability insurance costs. CANS spent an extra £81.99 on seeds, turf, signs etc The total underspend compared to 2023 of £781 on general reserves was made up of many small items with the larger ones being: - increase spend of £180.41 on insurance due to escalating premiums, additional £504 on training for new chair and councillors, additional £261.25 on electricity for street lights due to increased unit rates from suppliers, £170.10 spent on a new mobile phone for clerk. There were additional office expenses of £91.14 for ink and paper for printer - reduced spend of £714.10 on play equipment repairs as still awaiting advice from ROSPA on whether to repair or replace and cost will fall later in 2024, £480 less on grass cutting as the contractor did one less cut than anticipated, street lighting maintenance was £403 less than 2023 as there had been a repair as well as monthly contract in 2023 but only the monthly contract in yr 2024, £350 less was awarded in grants than the previous year as no award made to the village hall and awards were smaller due to limited funds All of these amount come to £2860 additional spend compared to the previous year with the balance being made of numerous very small items
7 Balances Carried Forward	19,632	17,213				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	17,614	16,045				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Invest	69,716	71,181	1,465	2.10%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable
 Variances of £200 or less are tolerable