

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Sothorn Parish Council**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

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);

* variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;

* New from 2025/26 onwards: variances of £500,000 or more in Box 3 require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year for smaller authorities with income and/or expenditure exceeding £8,500,000

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	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	65,297	79,391				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	30,900	29,900	-1,000	3.24%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	12,655	31,400	18,745	148.12%	YES		For the year 2025/26 £21,000 was received in Grant funding for new play equipment at the play park and £4996 was reclaimed from HMRC in VAT. Income received for advertising in the village newsletter was £1062. Reimbursed Multidata from WLDC for the internet supply at the village hall was £608 For the year 2024/25 £5800 in grant funding and £2234 was reclaimed vat from HMRC. Advertisnging income in village newsletter was £442. Reimbursed Multidata from WLDC for the internet supply was £575
4 Staff Costs	11,403	11,961	558	4.89%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	18,058	74,586	56,528	313.03%	YES		Payments in 2025/26 Extra purchases in this year include the purchase of the new play area equipment with surfacing & installation at the play park costing £36412 and £2500 was spent removing old play equipment and preparing the area for the new equipment. Grants given in this year totalled £4225 (£1487 more than the previous year) and the village newsletter cost £1785 due to the PC approving to print & deliver a paper copy to all 420 houses (£1331 more than the previous year) £1385 was spent investigating and jetting a surface water drainage pipe due to a blockage. Extra was spent on property/ground maintenance - £1354 footpath & carpark repair; £1242 to purchase and install a new notice board + name plaques; £850 for 2x tree safety surveys & reports resulting in 4x tree removals at £725. Village grass cutting cost £4911, (£775 more than previous year due to the weather and extra cuts required). VAT paid in this financial year - £10604 Payments in 2024/25 Grants given were £2738. The newsletter was mainly sent by email and paper copies to a small number that didn't have internet access costing £454 to print. Village grass cutting cost £4136. Vat paid in this year - £2114
7 Balances Carried Forward	79,391	54,144				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	79,391	54,144				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	42,608	60,782	18,174	42.65%	YES		During this year 2025/26, £8464 of assets have been disposed off including old play equipment removed from the play area totalling £8350, and 2 adjustments of the assets from past records of £114 - a filing cabinet was listed including vat at £55 now listed at £45.88 (- £9vat) and a telephone box with signs purchased in 2017 listed at £356, now updated to show £251 (-£105) The new play area equipment of 7 items - £25315 has been added to the assets along with a new bench at a cost of £495 for the play area. Litter picking equipment of hoops & pickers at £38.50 and a new notice board at £790.
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable