

Attachment 1.2

Explanation of significant variances in the accounting statements –
AGAR Section 2

Parish Council name: _____WILSHAMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL_____

Please explain any variances of more than 15% between the totals for individual boxes in Section 2. We do not require explanations for variances of less than £200; however, in some cases there may be ‘*compensating*’ variances which leave the overall total for a box relatively unchanged – e.g. where there was a major one-off project in one year (e.g. contribution to village hall extension of £30,000), but a totally different expense of a similar size in the next (e.g. purchase of playground equipment of £28,000). In such cases, it would be helpful to provide an explanation of movements within each box. We also ask you to explain any change where there is a movement to or from zero. Please either use the proforma below, or complete a separate schedule if more space is required.

Section 2	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Variance (+/-) £	Detailed explanation of variance (for each reason noted please include monetary values (to nearest £100))
Box 2 <i>Precept</i>	52500	55385	+2885	No significant variance
Box 3 <i>Other income</i>	66643	93894	+27251	<p>In 2023/24 Interest Received increased to 2244.43, Tenancies 1567.09, Burial Fees were 3080.00, Contributions received included VAT reclaim, grass cutting contribution from local authority totalling 11345.46, then other receipts such as Borough Councillor Ward Fund and CIL payments totalled 47306.24.</p> <p>In 2024/25 Interest Received was up to 5550, Tenancies were up to 3049, Burial Fees increased to 4020, Contributions received included VAT reclaim of plus grass cutting contribution from local authority totalling 13911. Then other receipts such as Borough Councillor Ward Fund and CIL payments totalled 67365 due to CIL payments from sizeable development in the village.</p>

Box 4 <i>Staff costs</i>	2258	0	-2258	In 2023/24 there was as usual a payment made to the Parish Clerk, in 2024/25 the payment was set up electronically expected to be made on 31 st March 2025, as it is just an annual payment made, however, it left the bank the following working day on 1 st April 2025 so fell into the new financial year, but it was made.
Box 5 <i>Loan interest/ capital</i>	0	0		No significant variance
Box 6 <i>Other payments</i>	84178	102370	+18192	<p>In 2023/24, administration was 19673.90, expenditure for the burial ground, churchyard and allotments totalled 25325.86 (a number of improvements made to these facilities over the year including fence and gate work), grass cutting was 8580.00. Environment expenditure was 7617.28, play area was 2969.90, general spend of 9058, with VAT paid being 10962.95.</p> <p>Whereas in 2024/25 administration was up to 24363, expenditure for the burial ground, churchyard and allotments totalled 4767, grass cutting was 18340 with the increase due to clearance of a new area in the parish the Council became responsible for named Huckle's Meadow. Environment expenditure was 8920, play area was 1273, general expenditure of 36428, with VAT paid being 8279.</p> <p>The main expenditure in the general heading was a £35,000 contribution to average speed cameras installed by Bedford Borough Council during the financial year to try and improve highways safety, the cameras are a Borough asset not a PC asset.</p>
Box 7 <i>Balances carried forward</i>	284667	331576	+46909	<p>If some of the year-end balances are earmarked for specific purposes rather than as a general reserve, please provide a breakdown. You do not need to explain the year-on-year variance for this box.</p> <p>See reserve breakdown below. Remaining funds need to be used to support the budget plan for 2024/25.</p>
Box 9 <i>Fixed assets & long-term</i>	116601	118661	+2060	<p>Explain <u>all</u> movements in this category and not just those above 15%</p> <p>Additional Christmas lights and power sockets 2060</p>

<i>assets</i>				
Box 10	0	0		No significant variance
<i>Total borrowing</i>				

As detailed above, the remaining funds are to support the increasing costs within the budget for 2024/25

Description Budget Insurance & General 50,000.00

Average Speed cameras 20,000.00

New Play Equipment 85,000.00

Landscape crossroads grassed area 5,000.00

Move and/or replace litter bin 2,000.00

Additional Xmas decoration 2,000.00

Jubilee Field drainage 5,000.00

Contribution to developing land off Bedford Road (Huckle's Meadow) 40,000.00

More public benches 2000.00

Recreational equipment 10,000.00

Potential legal advice regarding land transfer 10,000.00

Street Light Adoption 14,000.00

Allotment Legal Advice 10,000.00

Total 291,047.00

Any remaining unallocated is to support the 2025/26 budget