

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: Aymestrey Parish Council
County area (local councils are): Herefordshire

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 £6,500,000

	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	15,178	16,388					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	13,400	14,070	670	5.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	7,335	45,863	38,528	525.30%	YES		SEE All Other Receipts tab for breakdown in Excel. Herefordshire Council Lengthsman / Drainage Schemes for works in the Parish – grant received into the bank in 24/25 was £1,472.00 and in 25/26 £37,134.87 an increase of £35,662.87; as explained in All Other Payments , several grants relating to 24/25 were received in 25/26 and schemes agreed were for differing amounts each year. Income from an insurance claim in 25/26 (none in 24/25) shows an increase of £1,771.68; the claim was for a notice board destroyed in a bus fire. Donations towards printing costs were £578.24 in 24/25 and £622.16 in 25/26 an increase of £43.92; calculated as a percentage of the total cost of printing Aymestrey Matters each year. VAT claimed in 24/25 was £1,899.14 compared with £5,733.79 in 25/26 an increase of £3,874.65; again, this is due to additional invoices being paid for lengthsman/drainage works. A grant of £3,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner, towards the cost of a Speed Indicator Device was received in 24/25; no grants were received in 25/26, a decrease of -£3000.00. A £40 donation was received in 24/25 towards the cost of a defibrillator; £72 was received in 25/26 towards a tourist sign, an increase of £32. Bank interest, £345.20 was received in 24/25 and £488.41 in 25/26; an increase of £143.21 despite rate cuts, as the majority of funds are now held in an interest-bearing account having switched from Lloyds to Unity Trust bank.
4 Staff Costs	4,494	5,500	1,007	22.40%	YES		SEE Staff Costs tab for breakdown in Excel. Pay calculated thus. Annual salary ÷ 37hrs x weekly hours ÷ 12, with the result rounded up. 2024/25: SCP 12 £27,711 ÷ 37 = £748.9459 x 6 hrs = £4,493.676 ÷ 12 = £374.473. Rounded to £374.48 x 12 = £4493.76. 2025/26 months 1 to 6 SCP 12: £28,598 ÷ 37 = £772.9189 x 6 hrs = £4,637.514 ÷ 12 = £386.4595. Rounded to £386.47 x 6 = £2,318.82. September 2025 Minutes. RESOLVED to implement the 2025/26 pay award back dated to 1 April 2025. From October onwards, to increase the clerk's hours from 6 to 7 per week, and the Scale Point (SCP) from 12 to 20. 2025/26 months 7 to 12 SCP 20: £32,597 ÷ 37 = £881 x 7 hrs = £6,167 ÷ 12 = £513.9167. Rounded to £513.92 x 6 = £3,083.52. £2318.82 + £3,083.52 + Employers National Insurance on months 6 to 12, £98.02 = £5,500.36. The difference between £5,500.36 and £4,493.76 is £1006.60; 6p difference due to rounding in Excel. Calculation shown on tab "Staff Costs."
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	15,030	52,744	37,713	250.91%	YES		SEE All Other Payments tab for breakdown in Excel Printing costs: £917.70 for 3 editions of the magazine in 24/25 and £1,600.18 for 5 editions in 25/26 an increase of £682.48. Subscriptions in 24/25 were £599.22, in 25/26 £92.60; a decrease of -£506.62, due to membership of county association not being taken up in 25/26 and invoice for membership of Tree Warden Network not received. Payments under General Powers of Competence £1,586.88 in 24/25 and £1,882.44 in 25/26 an increase of £295.56 for a number of reasons - more spent this year than last on a notice board, defibrillator consumables bought last year but not this, more spent on a phone contract this year for the Good Neighbour Scheme. Traffic calming costs in 24/25 were £4,846.48 and in 25/26 £530.16; a decrease of -£4,316.32; a speed indicator device, village gates and two willow sheep were bought in 24/25 for £4,369.99. Training costs increased by £199 in 25/26, £0 was spent in 24/25. Expenditure refunded under the Herefordshire Council Lengthsman / Drainage Schemes for works in the Parish; £2,280 in 24/25, increased to £37,229.88 in 25/26 an increase of £34,949.88; several schemes relating to 24/25 were invoiced and paid in 25/26; schemes agreed were for differing amounts each year. VAT claims in 24/25 were £1,734.13 and in 25/26 £7,806.56 an increase of £6,072.43; more VAT was paid in 25/26 mainly due to invoices for drainage schemes. Differences listed total £37,376.41. Differences less than £200 (or -£200) are not.
7 Balances Carried Forward	16,388	18,077				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	16,388	18,077				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	15,395	16,305	910	5.91%	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