

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Cholmondeley- Chorley Parish Council 2025/26

Name of smaller authority:

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

| | 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 | £8,356 | £7,944 | | | | Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees | No explanation required. Brought forward balance agrees. |
| 2 Precept or Rates and Levies | £3,156 | £3,300 | 144 | 4.56% | NO | | The precept was increased to reflect the new Clerk/RFO's contracted hours (2 hours per week), and to support continuity and future planning. |
| 3 Total Other Receipts | £258 | £174 | -84 | 32.56% | YES | | Interest received decreased marginally as a result of lower interest rates during the year. The amount of VAT reclaimed also reduced, reflecting lower overall expenditure and therefore fewer VAT-recoverable items |
| 4 Staff Costs | £2,549 | £1,868 | -681 | 26.72% | YES | | The Clerk, appointed in January 2024, initially undertook additional hours during 2024/25 to support system implementation. For 2025/26, systems are now fully embedded and the workload has stabilised. The Clerk/RFO is now working to the contracted 2 hours per week. |
| 5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | NO | | No loans taken – no explanation required. |
| 6 All Other Payments | £1,276 | £1,310 | 34 | 2.66% | NO | | N/A |
| 7 Balances Carried Forward | £7,944 | £8,240 | 296 | 3.73% | NO | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED | Variance under threshold – no explanation required. |
| 8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments | £7,944 | £8,240 | 296 | 3.73% | NO | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED | Variance under threshold – no explanation required. |
| 9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments an | £2,802 | £2,502 | -300 | 10.71% | NO | | Disposal of a freestanding notice board located at the Post Office, Cholmondeley. |
| 10 Total Borrowings | 0 | £0 | 0 | 0.00% | NO | | No borrowings held – no explanation required. |

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)