

Explanation of variances

Name of smaller authority: **Nocton 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 £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	16,817	20,172				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	32,113	35,174	3,061	9.53%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	41,659	25,853	-15,806	37.94%	YES		In 2024/25, we received a one-off grant of £10,967.94 towards the cost of Solar Panels to be fitted to the roof of The Hub, along with a battery storage facility, and roof void insulation. Income from hiring out of facilities at the Hub (including Damage Deposits taken) has decreased by £2,196.94 on 2024/25 mainly due to the loss of a key regular commercial customer, together with less bookings from the general public. VAT reclaimed during the year totalled £3,249.40 less than 2024/25, mainly as a result of the VAT reclaimed on the aforementioned one-off purchases in 2024/25. The Litter Picking grant we received from NKDC during the year was £108.12 more than we were awarded last year. In this year we received a refund of Pepercorn field rent previously paid across several financial years amounting to £400.00, and £330.00 from a third-party as a 50% contribution towards the cost of legal fees associated with the transfer of a plot of land into Parish Council ownership.
4 Staff Costs	20,062	23,442	3,380	16.85%	YES		During the 2025/26 year, the Clerk, RFO, and Hub Manager all received pay rises of 3.2% as determined by the National Joint Council (NJ) Local Government Services pay agreement. This increased the cost of the Clerk's salary by 53p/Hour equating to an increase of £114.48 for the year (18 hours per month x 12), the RFO's salary by 52p/Hour equating to an increase of £112.32 for the year (18 hours per month x 12), and the Hub Managers salary by 44p/Hour equating to an increase of £147.84 for the year (28 hours per month x 12). In addition, the National Minimum Wage increased by 77p/Hour resulting in an increase in salary for the Village Keeper equating to £526.68 for the year (56 hours per month x 12). In April 2025, The Clerk received a one-off payment of £640.23 in lieu of Holiday not taken in previous tax years. A change in the employment contracts for the Clerk, the Village Keeper, and the Hub Manager resulted in increases to their salaries paid across the year for 'Rolled Up Holiday Pay' amounting to £397.95, £874.17, and £324.64 respectively. For the first time, the Parish Council incurred Employers National Insurance Contributions during the 2025/26 year. These amounted to £649.29 for the year.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	16,787	16,787	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	33,568	22,553	-11,015	32.81%	YES		As alluded to above, in 2024/25 we purchased Solar Panels and Battery Storage for The Hub at a cost of £13,420.80, and insulation for the roof void at The Hub at a cost of £1,203.12. During this year, we incurred several unexpected one-off costs, including £2,320.00 for urgent Tree Works identified during an NKDC inspection, £660.00 for the payment of legal fees pertaining to the transfer of land ownership to the Parish Council, £600.00 for a repair to the cellar floor in The Hub, and £1,170.00 for a replacement garage door at The Hub. Electricity costs for The Hub decreased by £2,219.43 on 2024/25, mainly due to savings achieved by having the Solar Panels installed on the roof at The Hub in December 2024.
7 Balances Carried Forward	20,172	18,417				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	20,172	18,417				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	599,999	600,359	360	0.06%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	465,647	459,364	-6,283	1.35%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable