

Explanation of variances 2020/21 – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: FITTLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all **Blue** highlighted boxes

Now, 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 £500);
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept value (Box 2).

	2020 £	2021 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	DO NOT OVERWRITE THE BOXES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED/GREEN	Explanation (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	25,992	22,233				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	20,900	25,080	4,180	20.00%	YES		The Parish council receives income from a licence fee for the Fittleworth Sports & Social Club to use the Sports Pavilion. This should be £3,600 per annum. For the last few years the club has been struggling and each year the Parish Council has supported the club by allowing the club not to pay the full licence fee. In 19/20 and 20/21 the licence fee was only £1,800 per annum. Therefore Parish Council needed to increase the precept to cover the loss of income that is normally used to help cover the ongoing costs of the Council (increase in precept of £1,800 - being 1/2 year licence fee). In addition in 2019/20 the, following an electrical hard wire check on the Sports Pavilion parish Council was required to pay for significant remedial work to bring the electrics up to code - increase in precept £1,000. There was also concern that the Sports Pavilion roof may need replacing so the 2020/21 budget included a PWLB loan repayment (£1,288) for potential works to the Sports Pavilion. Total Variance explained £4,088
3 Total Other Receipts	9,364	19,526	10,162	108.52%	YES		In 2020/21 there were two operation Watershed projects compared to 2019/20 when there were no such projects. The additional income received for the two projects was £9,860.92 . Total Variance explained £9,860.92
4 Staff Costs	12,879	16,912	4,033	31.31%	YES		The clerk received a pay rise from 1/4/20 from £15.40 per hour to £17.09, per hour and then NALC increased the new scale to £17.56 per hour wef 1/4/20. based on 12 per week, this is an increase of £1,347.84 . The clerk has claimed 143 hours overtime over the year. A further increase in staff costs of £2,511.08 . The majority of this overtime was spent on covid related additional work including setting up a covid working party, creating a database of all vulnerable residents, producing a new weekly newsletter, monitoring covid related information and reacting accordingly, being the point of contact for residents during the lockdowns for assistance and signposting, helping councillors to use remote meeting platforms and providing support with issues. The non covid work included additional work following a Freedom of Information request, website and email changes and support to councillors. Total Variance explained £3,858.92 .
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	21,144	24,579	3,435	16.25%	YES		There was no Operation Watershed expenditure in 2019/20 but in 20/21 Operation Watershed Expenditure was £4,862 . The costs for the Sports Pavilion were £2,392 in 2019/20 but on £260 in 20/21. A decrease of £2,132 . In 2020/21 there has been additional unplanned tree work - £490.00 . Total Variance explained £3,220
7 Balances Carried Forward	22,233	25,348	3,115	14.01%	NO		
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	22,233	25,348	3,115	14.01%	NO		
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	542,880	542,880	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
Excessive Reserves Ratio	1.06378	1.01069					