

Explanation of variances – Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

Name of smaller authority: **Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council**
 County area (local councils are): **Suffolk**

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);
- New from 2020/21 onwards: variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	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	347,956	375,293					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	122,000	123,300	1,300	1.07%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	87,023	99,213	12,190	14.01%	NO		
4 Staff Costs	62,690	72,466	9,776	15.59%	YES		Staff costs increased with £9,776 as a result of NALC cost of living increases for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk (and RFO) and step increases in the salary scales of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	21,331	21,331	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	97,665	172,282	74,617	76.40%	YES		All other payments were £74,617 higher in the 2023-24 financial year than the previous financial year. This was a result of largely a CIL grant that was paid for a traffic calming scheme for £45,200 during the 2023-24 financial year. Additionally expenditure included £150 for a streetfurniture application, £2,560 was spent on legal costs for transfers of land to the parish council, expenditure on playing fields and open spaces increased by £13,151 (this was because a wall at a play area needed repointing, play equipment had to be fixed and painted following the annual play area safety inspection), expenditure on VAT was £4,643.32 higher than the previous year, a youth club with youth workers in the parish was established with an expenditure of £7,580, expenditure on training increased by £759 in the 2023-34 year with the clerk signing up for his CILCA training during the financial year, several events/project were held/implemented during 2023-24 in the parish including the Coronation event, Remembrance events, Enchanted Tree Trail launch and development of the trail and Nature Watch launch and project with expenditure on these events and projects increasing events expenditure by £12,960. Expenditure on assets increased by £2,961, administration costs increased by £513, hire charges for meeting rooms and the parish office increased by £259, litter collection expenditure increased by £258 and the neighbourhood plan expenditure increased by £111. Expenditure on the lawn cemetery increased by £4,315 as a result of increased expenditure on digitising all the cemetery records and trimming of trees and planting of new flower beds at the cemetery. Expenditure at the allotments were £1,159 higher than the previous year. This is a result of improvements to the track at the allotments, hanging of gates and improvements to the water infrastructure. During the 2023-24 year a PSCO was no longer funded with a reduction of £6599 in expenditure on crime prevention, expenditure on pond maintenance reduced with £1,265, the newsletter was no longer produced, printed and delivered to each household reducing expenditure by £2,381. S137 expenditure reduced by £241, no expenditure occurred on litter stickers/ speeding stickers, quiet lanes or speed indicator devices or a jubilee event at Broke Hall Playing Field which totalled £9,552 in the previous financial year.
7 Balances Carried Forward	375,293	331,726			YES	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED EXPLANATION REQUIRED ON RESERVES TAB AS TO WHY CARRY FORWARD RESERVES ARE GREATER THAN TWICE INCOME FROM LOCAL TAXATION/LEVIES	The Parish Council has earmarked reserves totalling £275,710.52 and general reserves of £56,015.77. In the 2023-24 financial year the precept was £123,300. More information provided in the reserves worksheet of this document.
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	375,293	331,726				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	166,170	174,036	7,866	4.73%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	30,490	10,410	-20,080	65.86%	YES		20 year PWLB loan is now paying off increased capital each year. Final loan payment will be 10/05/2024. Yearly payments for the loan are £21,331 hence the decrease of £20,080 in total borrowings.

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)