**Explanation of variances – pro forma**

Name of smaller authority: **Barton Parish Council**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only: **Lancashire**

**Please provide full explanations, including numerical values**, for the following:

* variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
* a breakdown of approved reserves if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 2** | **2016/17**  **£** | **2017/18**  **£** | **Variance**  **£** | **Variance**  **%** | **Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)** |
| **Box 2**  *Precept or Rates and Levies* | 2000 | 2000 | 0 | 0 | No change |
| **Box 3**  *Total other receipts* | 1043 | 3545 | 2502 |  | The parish council received the verge maintennace grant late so this was accounted for in this financial year instead of last.  We successfully applied for a transparency Fund grant which was for £239.96, this is a one off grant.  The VAT return payment came in in 2017/18 instead of 16/17 and was for £1038. |
| **Box 4**  *Staff costs* | 2337 | 1718 | 619 |  | The current clerk no longer claims for stationary or printing costs so this has reduced the cost down. The authority has kept the same clerk for two years which has provided a more consistent amount of monies being paid out.  The clerk is now paid monthly by direct debit which allows for clearer accounting in the year.  The direct debit payment to the clerk of £156 for March 2018 was paid in April 2018 so this will be accounted for in the 2018/19 accounts. |
| **Box 5**  *Loan interest/ capital repayments* | NIL | NIL | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Box 6**  *All other payments* | 7353 | 4978 | 2375 |  | Payments are reduced in 2017/18 because the authority purchased a SPID in 2016/17 and this was a one off cost.  The authority no longer pays a website fee monthly as the clerk manages the website in house saving £24 a month.  The audit fee to BDO was paid in this financial year. |
| **Box 9**  *Total fixed assets & long term investments & assets* | 28010 | 28625 | 615 |  | The authority now owns a scanner and laptop and a Speed Indicator Device and the value of some of the assets has risen. |
| **Box 10**  *Total borrowings* | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | N/A |
| **Explanation for ‘high’ reserves** | Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year end:  Barton Parish Council still holds Community Infrastructure Levy payments in its National Savings Accounts. We are not yet at the end of the period in which we are required to spend this money and we are currently in the process of developing a neighbourhood plan and the monies will be used to progress this and action some of the key findings that come from it. | | | | |