

Metheringham, Sots Hole and Tanvats Parish Council

2024-25 AGAR Accounting Statements

Explanation of Significant Variances

Box 3 – Total Other Receipts

2023-24 Figure	£35,814
2024-25 Figure	£56,702
Difference £	£20,888
Difference %	58.32%

In the year 2024-25, the council received a VAT Refund £13,292.56 which related to 2022-23. This would not normally have been claimed in 2023-24 but was claimed late due to the Clerk leaving.

If this amount had been claimed “on-time”, the 2023-24 adjusted figure would have been £49,107 and the 2024-25 figure would have been £43,409.

The difference between the two adjusted figures is £5,698. This represents a variance of 11.6% on the 2023-24 adjusted figure.

In essence, this single VAT entry has resulted in the significant variance on this year’s AGAR.

Box 6 – Staff Costs

2023-24 Figure	£40,559
2024-25 Figure	£50,293
Difference £	£9,734
Difference %	24%

In the year 2023-24, the council was without a permanent Clerk from June to November inclusive.

The Clerk’s basic salary was £2,600 per month, resulting in a Staff Cost saving of £15,600. This was offset by the cost of a locum Clerk at £264 per month, total £1,584. The net saving of not having a permanent Clerk was £14,016.

Had a permanent Clerk remained in place, the revised Staff Cost for 2023-24 would have been £54,575. It should be noted that the Clerk employed in 2024-25 was on a lower NJC scale point than the one in 2023-24.

With an adjusted 2023-24 figure of £54,575, the variance to 2024-25 was -£4,282. This represents a 7.8% reduction on the 2023-24 figure, achieved through the recruitment of a Clerk on a lower pay point scale.

The residual difference between 2023-24 and 2024-25 is £418, which represents a 2.5% variance on the 2023-24 figure.

Box 9 – Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets

2023-24 Figure	£3,765,127
2024-25 Figure	£1,364,769
Difference £	-£2,400,358
Difference %	63.75%

The new Clerk to the council (appointed September 2024) is an experienced Chartered Surveyor and Estate Manager.

On inspection of the Asset Register they identified that much of the land owned by the parish council had been valued (by a previous Clerk) at development prices. i.e. if the land had planning permission for development.

These areas of land have been revalued at a more realistic land price of £30K per acre.

The land revisions are as follows:

Land Area	Previous Asset Register Value	Revised Asset Register Value	Reduction
Sports Field (6.23 acres)	£1,800,000	£186,900	£1,613,100
Star and Garter Paddock (2.92 acres)	£500,000	£87,600	£412,400
	Total Reduction		£2,025,500

In addition to the above reduction in land values it was also noted that the Village Hall had been valued at £449,000 on the Asset assets that had been gifted to the Council had been given a full value on the register, as opposed to a £1 gift value.

These items are listed as follows:

Asset	Previous Asset Register Value	Revised Asset Register Value	Reduction
Village Hall Car Park	£120,000	£1	£119,999
Swimming Pool	£100,000	£1	£99,999
War Memorial	£100,000	£1	£99,999
Allotments	£50,000	£1	£49,999
	Total Reduction		£369,996

The total reduction of the Asset Register, as itemised above, is £2,395,496.