

Spexhall Parish Council 2015-2016:

Explanation of Variances +/- 10% for Boxes 2-6 and Boxes 9-10 (where applicable):

Box 3:

Although it was less than £100 and in case it is deemed material, this is to clarify that 2015-2016 had no receipts other than the two precept payments of £637-50 equalling £1275 whilst last year had a VAT Repayment of £8-80 hence the £9 in Box 3 for 2014-2015.

Box 6:

The Payments have risen by 195% from £615 to £1816 because the Parish Council decided to part-buy with other local Parish Councils a Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS). The Council's contribution was £1265-28 and the invoice had to be settled in March before the First Precept Payment of 2016-2017 arrived in April 2016. The VAS was not accounted for when the precept for 2015-2016 was set but the 2016-2017 precept amount was set in view of this payment. Therefore at the year end on March 31st 2016, the Parish Council had a surplus of £57-76 in the Cash Book. The Parish Council will therefore look now to always have at least £600 in its Current Account as recommended by the Internal Auditor.

Box 9:

The large increase in Fixed Assets is the addition of the Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) which cost £1265-28 to the Parish Council. However as the Internal Auditors have noted, the Asset Register was not satisfactory so I have gone back through the council records and found the invoices for as many of the Fixed Assets as possible and recorded their cost price to the council excluding VAT where applicable.

This is why I have restated the cost value of the Council's Total Fixed Assets to £2372. This is made up of two Salt Bins at £136 each which were bought in November 2000 giving a value of £272; a Dog Bin was bought in April 2007 costing £325 and in October 2012, a Noticeboard costing £280 plus two Noticeboard Posts (at £35 each) costing £70 were bought. I cannot find any invoices regarding a seat currently valued at £100 and a Noticeboard at £60. As I have no reason to change these valuations, I have accepted them which means with the new VAS (£1265) added in as well, the Total Assets on March 31st 2016 are restated as £2372.

Using the same basis, the Total Assets on March 31st 2015 were therefore £1107 instead of the £870 stated on the 2014-2015 Annual Return. I have therefore entered two figures as the Total Assets on March 31st 2015 on the 2015-2016 Annual Return. I have entered £870 as this was the amount entered on the 2014-2015 Annual Return and £1107 with 'Restated' above as this is the revised figure. If I have acted incorrectly, then I apologise.

Internal Audit Report – Other Issues:

In view of there being no Standing Orders, Financial Regulations nor a Code of Conduct mentioned in the Minutes, the following Parish Council Meeting on May 12th adopted the Suffolk Association of Local Councils Model Standing Orders (which includes a Code of Conduct) and Financial Regulations. These will be further refined and reviewed later this year.