VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Variance notes on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for Financial Year 2025/26

		£s 2024/25	£s 2025/26	£s var.	% var	Comment
Box 2	Precept	14,000	17,000	3,000	21	The Parish Council had not increased its precept for over 10 years so from the 2024/25 budget, it agreed to begin increasing the precept to cover the budget and business running costs of the Parish Council as a whole.
Box 3	Total Other Receipts	8,372	15,100	6,728	80	The VAT reclaim for 2024/25 totalled £1,236 opposed to £1,715 for this year. There were no grants received this year. Bank interest rates increased from £544 to £900 owing to better investment. Pavilion hire charges were £609 in 2024/25 and £1,390 this year. The summer fete takings were £5,175 in 2024/25 opposed to £11,095 this year. This included a donation from a local landowner of £5000.
Box 4	Staff Costs	3,734	4,526	792	21	The only employee is the clerk/RFO. There was a small annual pay increase (as agreed by the NJC) and additional costs as the clerk was new in post from February 2026.
Box 6	Other payments	22,294	29,632	7338	33	See breakdown below

2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Diff.	Explanation (Ensure each explanation is quantified)
183	0	**-183**	General projects - right of way project 2024/25, none in 2025/26
779	527	**-252**	PC was exempt from external audit for 2022/23 AGAR
303	327	**24**	Increase in HALC/NALC fees
1785	1841	**56**	Increase in insurance cover
37	107	**70**	Stationery/consumables
3371	4008	**637**	Increase in grass cutting costs
479	1247	**768**	Difference in maintenance costs to play equipment
756	582	**-174**	Additional dog waste bin installation previous year
609	651	**42**	Increase in charges for speed indicator devices
533	617	**84**	Defibs
1550	1900	**350**	Increase in grants awarded locally
557	827	**270**	Increase in pavilion utility charges
2271	1230	**-1041**	Decrease in pavilion maintenance/increase in cleaning. Consumables same.

5079	9296	**4217**	Difference in expenditure on summer fete
1300	1990	**690**	Increase in general admin expenditure - new laptop
178	64	**-114**	Training
0	336	**336**	Tree removal works - none in 2024/25
0	340	**340**	General repairs - none in 2024/25
2521	3492	**971**	Difference in expenditure on pavilion assets
0	200	**200**	Refund given to pavilion hirer (no such payments made 2024/25)
4	51	**47**	Increase in bank account charges
22295	29633	**7338**	

Box 9	Fixed Assets	311,714	315,451	2025/26 purchases - new picnic benches