

# Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities\* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

## Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, following the end of each financial year, complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
  - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
  - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure **does not exceed** £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption **are able to declare themselves exempt** from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review **provided** the authority **completes**:
  - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2021**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
  - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Part 2)** which is made up of:
    - Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
    - Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
    - Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority.**NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.**
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2021**.

## Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21, page 4
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21, page 5
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

## Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Part 3 of the AGAR 2020/21 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be **£200 +VAT**.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

If it decides to certify itself as exempt, the authority must complete and return the Certificate of Exemption on Page 3 to the external auditor to confirm that it has certified itself exempt.

*The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.*

*\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.*



## Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2021. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority **must** comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2021**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed annual return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2021).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2021**.

| Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements |   | Yes | No |
|--|---|-----|----|
| All sections   | Have all highlighted boxes been completed?  | ✓   |    |
|  | Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?   | ✓   |    |
| Internal Audit Report  | Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?  | ✓   |    |
| Section 1  | For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?   | ✓   |    |
| Section 2  | Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?                | ✓   |    |
|  | Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published?  | ✓   |    |
|  | Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party? | ✓   |    |
| Sections 1 and 2   | Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? ( <i>Local Councils only</i> )      | N/A |    |

*\*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)*



## Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

Great Oxendon Parish Council

<https://www.greatoxendon.org/parish-council/>

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

| Internal control objective   | Yes | No* | Not covered**  |
|--|-----|-----|----------------|
| A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.   | ✓   |     |                |
| B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.  | ✓   |     |                |
| C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these. <i>No Internal Control</i>   | ✓   |     |                |
| D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.   | ✓   |     |                |
| E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.  | ✓   |     |                |
| F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.   |     |     | ✓              |
| G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.  | ✓   |     |                |
| H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.   | ✓   |     |                |
| I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.  | ✓   |     |                |
| J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded. | ✓   |     |                |
| K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")  |     |     | ✓              |
| L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.   |     | ✓   |                |
| M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).                    | ✓   |     |                |
| N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).   | ✓   |     |                |
| <b>O. (For local councils only)</b><br>Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee. <i>unknown</i>  |     |     | Not applicable |

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

26/05/2021 02/06/2021

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

JULIA THORNAIL

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

*MAJW*

Date

02/06/2021

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: if the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).



## Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2021, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2021 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2021** notifying the external auditor.

### GREAT OXENDON PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2020/21, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed **£25,000**

Total annual gross income for the authority 2020/21: £23,842

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2020/21: £19,461

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is **unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt** and it **must** submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of **£200 +VAT** will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2017
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2019/20), the external auditor **has not**:
  - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
  - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
  - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
  - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
  - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and that the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage\* before 1 July 2021.

**By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.**

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

S Smith

22/8/2021

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

13/09/21

Signed by Chairman

Date

X P Steadman

13/9/21

as recorded in minute reference:

21 IV III.

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

parishcouncil@greatoxendon.org 07834497724

\*Published web address

<https://www.greatoxendon.org>

**ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2021. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT**



## Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

GREAT OXENDON PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

|   | Agreed |    | Yes' means that this authority:   |
|---|--------|----|---|
|   | Yes    | No |   |
| 1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.  | ✓      |    | prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.   |
| 2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.  | ✓      |    | made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.   |
| 3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. | ✓      |    | has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.   |
| 4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.   | ✓      |    | during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.   |
| 5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.  | ✓      |    | considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.  |
| 6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.  | ✓      |    | arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority. |
| 7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.  | ✓      |    | responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.   |
| 8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.                                  | ✓      |    | disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.   |
| 9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.                         | Yes    | No | N/A has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.   |
|   |        | ✓  |   |

\*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

x 13/09/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

x 21 IV I

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

x  
Chairman

*[Signature]*

Clerk

*[Signature]*

### Other information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published. | Yes | No |
|   |     |    |

<https://www.greatoxendon.org>



## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

|   | Year ending        |                    | Notes and guidance  |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|
|   | 31 March 2020<br>£ | 31 March 2021<br>£ |   |
| 1. Balances brought forward   | 36,799             | 10,138             | Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.  |
| 2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies  | 14,870             | 15,310             | Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.   |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts   | 16,879             | 8,532              | Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.   |
| 4. (-) Staff costs  | 2,516              | 3,055              | Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments. |
| 5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments   | 1,830              | 1,830              | Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).  |
| 6. (-) All other payments   | 54,064             | 14,576             | Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).  |
| 7. (=) Balances carried forward   | 10,138             | 14,520             | Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).   |
| 8. Total value of cash and short term investments                                   | 10,138             | 14,520             | The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.   |
| 9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets                         | 23,350             | 24,199             | The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.  |
| 10. Total borrowings  | 11,171             | 9,926              | The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).  |
| 11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) | Yes                | No                 | The Council as a body corporate acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.   |
|   |                    |                    | N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.  |

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

*S Smith*

Date

22/8/21

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

13/09/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

21 IV II.

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

*RS Steedman*



## Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

|                           |                              |                         |               |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Name of council:          | Great Oxenden Parish Council |                         |               |
| Name of Internal Auditor: | Julia Tufnail                | Date of report:         | 2 June 2021   |
| Year ending:              | 31 March 2021                | Date audit carried out: | 26.5&2.6.2021 |

*Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and management and not left for internal audit. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out below.*

***The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.***

### To the Chairman of the Council:

I would like to thank your Clerk, Rhiannon, for her time and assistance during this year's audit which was conducted remotely using the NCALC checklist. It is noted that the Council uses a receipts and payments basis for its accounts and does not use the General Power of Competence.

I bring the following matters to Council's attention:-

1. The Council has no Internal Control procedure is in place as required by the Audit Regulations 2015 and I have referred the Clerk to the Practitioners' Guide, link below, for detail. NCALC will also be able to help here. It should be noted that Council are unable to make Assertion 2 in the affirmative on the Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR (p4). Personally I feel that all councillors should take responsibility for internal control on a monthly rota basis using a common check list with random testing. I have conducted an audit trail spot check and am happy to confirm that all no issues arose.
2. The Council does not appear to be compliant with the Transparency Code [Local government transparency code 2015 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) as it does not list the payments made in some of the minutes and October's minutes are missing from the website.
3. The manual finance system that Council uses is confusing and cumbersome. I am pleased that this is changing and a proper financial package will be used in future. It is noted that some of the Powers to Act, quoted in the accounts, are incorrect and I believe that NCALC will be able to provide a list of usual powers used by local councils to correct matters going forwards.
4. I would suggest that Council purchases a copy of the latest edition of Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration as an invaluable reference source.



Additionally, I make the following comments:

- The Clerk's salary is currently processed by the Clerk herself. I would recommend that *this is outsourced going forwards to not only to mitigate risk but to free up some of her time for her community council work.*
- It is noted that the VAT reclaim for the year is in hand.
- The council should be using its separate phone number as it is neither appropriate, nor professional to use the Clerk's personal number. Equally it is contrary to GDPR rules for Councillors to use their personal email addresses for Council business which should be separate.
- *The Council should have a training policy and provide the Clerk with relevant training as required. CiLCA training would ensure that Council has a qualified clerk in post. The SLCC are in the process of setting up FiLCA which is the financial side of the job. I would recommend that your Clerk enrolls on this course.*

Yours sincerely

*Julia Tufnail*

NCALC Internal Auditor

The figures submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are:

|  | Year<br>31 March 2020 | ending | Year<br>31 March 2021 | ending |
|--|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. Balances brought forward                | 36799                 |        | 10138                 |        |
| 2. Annual precept                          | 14870                 |        | 15310                 |        |
| 3. Total other receipts                    | 16879                 |        | 8532                  |        |
| 4. Staff costs                             | 2516                  |        | 3055                  |        |
| 5. Loan interest/capital repayments        | 1830                  |        | 1830                  |        |
| 6. Total other payments                    | 54064                 |        | 14576                 |        |
| 7. Balances carried forward                | 10138                 |        | 14520                 |        |
| 8. Total cash and investments              | 10138                 |        | 14520                 |        |
| 9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets | 23350                 |        | 24199                 |        |
| 10. Total borrowings                       | 11171                 |        | 9926                  |        |

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (2020)*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed. A copy of the guide is available for free download from:

<https://www.northantscalc.com/uploads/practitioners-guide-2020-2.pdf>



**Explanation of variances – pro forma**

Name of smaller authority: **Great Ouse Valley Water Council**  
 County area (local council and district): **Great Ouse Valley Water Council**

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: 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/ates & levies value (Box 2).

|   | 2019/20<br>£                              | 2020/21<br>£ | Variance<br>£ | Variance<br>% | Explanation<br>Required? | Explanation   |
|---|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Balances Brought Forward                                | 36,799                                    | 10,738       |               |               | NO                       | Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. <b>DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES</b><br>Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees  |
| 2 Precept or Rates and Levies                             | 14,570                                    | 15,310       | 440           | 2.96%         | NO                       |   |
| 3 Total Other Receipts                                    | 16,878                                    | 3,582        | -8,347        | 49.45%        | YES                      | In 2019/20 we received a grant from DDC for £9100 towards speed reduction island and bollards.  |
| 4 Staff Costs   | 2,516                                     | 3,055        | 539           | 21.40%        | YES                      | Change of Clerk during 2021. New clerk attended a two day Training programme which was paid as overtime, and the outgoing Clerk received a payment for accrued but unliken holiday in their final payment.  |
| 5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment                         | 1,830                                     | 1,830        | 0             | 0.02%         | NO                       |   |
| 6 All Other Payments                                      | 54,068                                    | 14,576       | -39,488       | 73.04%        | YES                      | £44,500 (total) spent on traffic calming islands and bollards during 2019/20. During 2020/21, we incurred the cost of website hosting £325 for the first time and Office 365 subscription for the first time. We also purchased a laptop for the Clerk £650 and a new bin for the village £658. We also invested in additional hedges and grass cutting and cleaned an overgrown footpath £3,000. We also commenced a project to replace all street lanterns in the village at a cost of circa £2000. |
| 7 Balances Carried Forward                                | 10,138                                    | 14,520       |               |               | NO                       |   |
| 8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments                   | 10,138                                    | 14,520       |               |               | NO                       |   |
| 9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and | 23,350                                    | 21,199       | 849           | 3.64%         | NO                       |   |
| 10 Total Borrowings                                       | 14,171                                    | 9,926        | -1,245        | 11.14%        | NO                       |   |
|   | Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable |              |               |               |                          |   |
|   | Variances of £200 or less are tolerable   |              |               |               |                          |   |



## **Notes to accompany Great Oxendon Parish Council's AGAR submission 2020/21**

### **AIAR Box K**

Minutes from October 2020 council meeting were not available on the website. Minutes have since been added to the website as required. This was an oversight of the Clerk. October 2021 being the month that a new Clerk took up the position.

### **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**

Section2 – Currently no system of internal control. A process of internal control will be developed and implemented as a matter of priority.