**Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council**

**Year ending 31 March 2014**

Significant variations are used to explain differences of more than 5% or £500 - upwards or downwards - between the figures shown on the Annual Return for the current year and for the previous year.

**Significant Variation - Other Receipts**

Line 3: Variation of £4755 due to the following reasons:

2012/2013 2013/2014 Difference

1100 Limited general grant from Borough Council 1100 0

940 Grass cutting grant from Borough Council 940 0

390 Allotment rents 360 (30)

375 Grant for new website 0 (375)

0 Council tax grant from Borough Council 904 904

5 Donations received 0 (5)

0 VAT reclaimed 300 300

0 Payment from church re grass cutting 293 293

0 Litter grant from Borough Council 3668 3668

9 Bank interest 9 0

**2819**  **TOTAL**  **7574 4755**

**Explanation**

There was no grant for the website from the Borough Council as this was a one-off grant received last year.

The Council Tax grant was not received last year; this is a new grant, following changes in the tax base.

VAT was claimed back this year; none was claimed last year.

There was a payment from the PCC for grass cutting at the old churchyard; no payment was received last year.

The litter grant was received from the Borough Council this year; there was no grant last year as the payment was made at the end of the previous financial year.

**Significant Variation - Other Payments**

Line 6: Variation of £3061 due to the following reasons:

2012/2013 2013/2104 Difference

592 Setting up new website 0 (592)

307 Audit charges 270 (37)

696 Parish insurance 480 (216)

1032 Admin costs 2745 1713

222 Meeting costs 256 34

2793 Open spaces 4782 1989

300 Other payments 150 (150)

600 Allotment costs 898 298

273 Subscriptions 295 22

**6815 TOTAL 9876 3061**

**Explanation**

There was no cost involved in setting up the website, as this was a one-off cost last year.

The audit charge is lower following the introduction of the new audit arrangements.

The insurance charge is lower as we removed from our policy the gates and the wall at the old churchyard, which it was determined that the PC does not own. (The fixed assets value is accordingly reduced.)

The admin charges are higher largely because they include £1248 for the refurbishment of notice boards.

Open spaces costs are higher largely due to paying two years’ grass cutting grants of £550 each to the Village Hall; they did not claim a grant last year. We also paid £660 for necessary work at the trees around the pond.

Other payments are lower because last year we made donations to two village events to celebrate the Jubilee, whereas this year we only made one donation, to the May Fair.

Allotment costs are higher because we spend money on repair work to the water system and we bought some equipment for use on the site. (This has been added to the fixed assets.)

**Significant Variation - Fixed Assets**

Line 9: Variation of £21595 due to the following reasons:

2012/2013 2013/2104 Difference

2572 Bus shelter 2572 0

1666 Seat at war memorial 1666 0

5391 Five notice boards 5391 0

935 2x Oak bench 935 0

21795 Brick wall at churchyard and fence at war memorial 1000 (20795)

1382 Old churchyard gates 0 (1382)

10837 War memorial 10837 0

1850 2 x Map boards 1850 0

0 Strimmer 90 90

0 Hedge Trimmer 237 237

0 Mulcher 255 255

**46428 TOTAL 24833 (21595)**

**Explanation**

The brick wall at the churchyard and the old churchyard gates have been removed from our policy as it was determined that the Parish Council did not own the old churchyard. The fence at the war memorial remains on our policy.

Three items of equipment were bought for use on the allotment site.

**Significant Variation – Precept**

Line 2: Variation of (£500) due to the following reason:

For the first time this year we received a Council Tax Grant of £904 from the Borough Council. The Councillors therefore took the opportunity of reducing the precept by £500 while maintaining the level of services provided to residents. The balance of the Council Tax Grant was used in allowing for inflation increases in costs and providing a sum towards future projects.