

I note below explanations of quantified significant variances in Section 1 of the Annual Return.

Box 3 – This is much lower than the previous year. This is due to a grant in 2013-14 of £18,160 from Natural England for the creation of the Stoke by Nayland Village Path P4C (Paths for Communities Grant Scheme). The total cost of the footpath was £21,792 including VAT of £3,632. In addition the Local Council Tax Grant reduced in 2014-15 and in 2013-14, a sum of £321 was received from the Locality Budget whereas nothing was received from this source in 2014-15.

Box 4 – Staff costs reduced in 2014-15. This is due to a change of clerk on 1 February 2015. The new clerk is being paid quarterly and her first salary payment was not made until May 2015 so did not appear in these figures. Also, the previous clerk started in mid November 2013 at a lower rate than her predecessor, due to less experience.

Box 6 – The substantially higher expenditure in 2013-14 relates to the footpath referred to under Box 3 above. The only expenditure in 2014-15 which increased significantly was a higher audit fee due to the higher turnover in 2013-14 (explained again by the footpath costs) and additional training costs due to the co-option of new councillors.

Box 9 – The total fixed assets have increased from £38,372 to £39,372. This is due to the inclusion of 2 streetlights valued at £500 each which have been identified as belonging to the Parish Council and therefore added to the asset register.

Anita Robinson

Responsible Financial Officer

June 2015