

**Draft accounts: principal variances**

1. There are major differences between the draft accounts for 2016-17 and the original budget which have been explained before but this report concentrates on the differences between the draft accounts and the last, fully revised budget put to the Council's November 2016 meeting.
2. These differences are fewer but, relative to the Council's turnover, massive. Firstly, total expenditure was only just over £9,000, the lowest for many years and there were three large variances:
  - The Council's bank refused to honour the £2,358.95 cheque for the Clerk's salary and expenses signed at the March 2017 meeting. The bank was not satisfied the signatures both matched the mandate. This expenditure will now fall in 2017-18, dramatically altering the new budget also.
  - The Council allowed itself £1,000 for grants as a precaution but not a penny of it was used.
  - The Council amended the revised budget at its January 2017 meeting to allow itself £1,250 for work in the woodland, not all of which was used, but still allowed itself £1,300 for the burial ground as a precaution, not a penny of which was used.
3. On the other hand, the amount of activity in the burial ground in Quarter 4 exceeded estimates: there were three interments, all of non-parishioners, where one had been anticipated.

Given the application of double fees, income from the burial ground ended the highest it has ever been. This produced a significant increase in total income.

Geoffrey Ferres  
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017