

South Hinksey Parish Council

Explanation of significant variations between 2015-16 and 2016-17

Box 3: Total other receipts

2015-16: £3,979

2016-17: £10,563

This represented a difference of £6,584 or 165%.

The factors which led to this variation, which was expected, were as follows:

1. The Council usually receives one year's VAT refund in each year's accounts but in 2015-16 it received none because the refund for 2015-16 was not claimed and paid in time.

The 2016-17 accounts include the refund for one outstanding amount from 2014-15, the whole of 2015-16 and almost all of 2016-17.

Contribution to variation: £2,784.

2. The Council budgeted to receive a grant in 2015-16 of £2,400 towards a project in the burial ground but the grant was only paid into the Council's account at the beginning of April 2016 so had instead to be included in the 2016-17 accounts.

Contribution to variation: £2,400.

3. The Council should receive an annual grant from the Forestry Commission but the grant for 2015-16 was not forthcoming until February 2017. The grant for 2016-17 was received soon after.

Contribution to variation: £463.

Sum of the above: £5,647.

Box 4: Staff costs

2015-16: £2,993

2016-17: £1,676

This represented a difference of £1,317 or 44%.

The Council's revised budget anticipated a large increase in this item due to the fact the Council increased the Clerk's monthly hours from 20 to 30 with effect from July 2016.

However, the Council's cheque for £2,359 for the Clerk's pay and expenses signed at its March 2017 meeting was refused by the Council's bank on the basis of what it regarded as an unacceptable

20a Harley Road, Oxford, OX2 0HR

☎ 07419 991623, ✉ parishcouncil@southhinksey.org

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difference between the signature of one councillor on the cheque and on the mandate. A replacement cheque was signed at the Council's April 2017 meeting.

The majority of the staff costs for 2016-17 will therefore fall in the 2017-18 accounts and a significant variation is likely in this respect between the 2017-18 and 2016-17 accounts.

Box 6: All other payments

2015-16: £14,326



2016-17: £7,410

This represented a difference of £6,916 or 48%.

The Council undertook a major project in 2015-16 relating to the Council's burial ground of which the total cost was £7,112.

There was no equivalent project undertaken in 2016-17. The Council has made provision in its 2017-18 budget for another significant project in the burial ground so there may well be a significant variation between the 2017-18 and 2016-17 accounts.

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