

South Hinksey Parish Council

<https://southhinksey.org/parish-council/finance/>

Explanation of significant variations between 2016-17 and 2017-18

Box 3: Total other receipts

2016-17: £10,563

2017-18: £2,521

This represented a difference of £8,042 or 76%.

The factors which led to this variation were as follows:

1. Burial ground: The Council received record income of £4,120 in 2016-17, which included five burials and one interment of cremated remains. By contrast, there was only one burial in 2017-18, the lowest figure for a year ever recorded, and income totalled only £845.

The Council has consulted Oxford City Council and been advised this does not match any national trend. No explanation is yet available to the Council as to why there was only one burial.

Contribution to variance: £3,275.

2. VAT: The Council received a VAT refund of £2,784.08 in 2016-17 which represented one outstanding amount from 2014-15, the whole of 2015-16 and most of 2016-17.

By contrast, the Council received a VAT refund in 2017-18 of only £289.83, covering a period of 11 months. The Council paid an exceptionally low amount of VAT in 2017-18 because its maintenance contract (typically second only to staff costs in the Council's budget) had been awarded to Oxford City Council who did not charge VAT on their invoices.

Contribution to variation: £2,494.

3. Grants: The Council received substantially less in grants in 2017-18 than in 2016-17.

Several factors were involved, the largest being the difference in what might be called one-off grants: the Council received a £2,400 grant in 2016-17 for work in the burial ground in 2015-16. By contrast, the Council had only one, one-off grant in 2017-18, a Transparency Fund grant of £542.47.

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Other factors were:

- The Council received two annual payments of grant from the Forestry Commission in 2016-17 but the usual one in 2017-18
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant more than halved in 2017-18, its final year, compared with 2016-17

Contribution to variation: £2,273.

Sum of the above: £8,042.

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