

South Hinksey Parish Council

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

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

Box 6: All other payments

2016-17: £7,411

2017-18: £9,942

This represented an increase of £2,531 or 34%. It was the net outcome of various factors. The two largest increases in spending were:

1. Traffic calming: The Council part-funded construction of a dividing island in the road at the entrance to the village from the A34 as a means of discouraging HGVs from proceeding into the village and causing damage to buildings in St Lawrence Road. This cost the Council £3,000.
2. Burial ground: The Council spent £1,710 in 2017-18 compared with nothing in 2016-17, where there was only one invoice (recorded under Maintenance) which directly related to the burial ground.

The largest single item in 2017-18 was £950 for a memorial inspection, followed by the £400 cost of digging the one grave required in 2017-18, the result of the Council's decision to take responsibility for arranging grave digging away from the undertakers.

Spending of £360 on the wildflower meadow, now separately identified as a result of a Council resolution, included £160 from 2016-17 due to a delay in a contractor issuing an invoice.

These two substantial increases in spending totalling £4,710 were offset by three smaller but important falls in spending:

1. Maintenance: The Council spent £824 less on maintenance in 2017-18 than in 2016-17, the main reason for which was that the Council withheld a £746.74 cheque written in 2016-17 to its (then) contractors after they failed to reinstate the new hedge of native species in the burial ground which they had carelessly cut down with a strimmer.
2. VAT: The 2017-18 accounts show expenditure of only £97.22 on VAT compared with £886.55 in 2016-17. 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 reducing variation: £789.

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3. Woodland: The Council spent £900 on maintenance of the community woodland in 2016-17 compared with only £190 in 2017-18.

Contribution to reducing variation: £710.

Net result of the above: £2,387.

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