

South Hinksey Parish Council

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

Explanation of significant variations between 2017-18 and 2018-19

Box 6: All other payments

2017-18: £9,843 (re-stated)

2018-19: £11,982

This represented an increase of £2,139 or 22%.

The All Other Payments figure for 2017-18 has been re-stated because the Council has for many years included staff travel costs within this total whereas *Governance and Accountability* (and its forerunners) stated that staff travel costs should be included in staff costs. Staff travel costs of £99.30 had been included in All Other Payments for 2017-18.

The £2,058 increase in All Other Payments was the net outcome of various factors. The largest increases in spending were in descending order as follows:

1. Maintenance

The Council had spent much less on maintenance in 2017-18 than in 2016-17, mainly because 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.

The price of the Council contract went up by £445 or 12% in 2018-19 compared with 2017-18 but the contract was awarded competitively with a private contractor's quotation slightly higher than the existing contractor's quotation.

Maintenance accounted for £1,242 of the increase in payments between 2018-19 and 2017-18.

2. VAT

The Council paid £1,031 VAT in 2018-19, a little more than in 2014-15 and 2016-17 but quite a lot less than in 2013-14 and 2015-16.

But the Council had 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.

20a Harley Road, Oxford, OX2 0HR

☎ 07419 991623, ✉ parishcouncil@southhinksey.org

South Hinksey Parish Council

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

In 2018-19 this contract was transferred to the City Council's new company Oxford Direct Services Ltd which did charge VAT on its invoices.

VAT accounted for £934 of the increase in payments between 2018-19 and 2017-18.

3. Venue hire

The Council did not make any payments for venue hire in 2017-18; it did not receive a bill for use of the Village Hall. But in 2018-19 the Council received and paid bills for both 2017-18 and 2018-19. It also paid one bill for hire of the Westwood Hotel

Venue hire accounted for £550 of the increase in payments between 2018-19 and 2017-18.

4. Purchase of laptop computer

In 2018-19 the Council purchased a laptop computer using a Transparency Grant received in 2017-18.

This purchase accounted for £367 of the increase in payments between 2018-19 and 2017-18.

These four substantial increases in spending totalling £3,093 were offset by many smaller falls in payments of which the two largest were £400 on traffic calming and £239 on training.

Geoffrey Ferres
Responsible Financial Officer
Tuesday 19th June 2019

20a Harley Road, Oxford, OX2 0HR

 07419 991623,  parishcouncil@southhinksey.org