

YEAR ENDING 2017-2018

GREAT COXWELL PARISH COUNCIL – EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES FROM LAST YEAR

All Income and Expenditure variances greater than 10% from last year and which are over £100 in value:

Income

1. **Precept:** Increased by £2590 and was based on the prospective budget for the year. The decision was taken to raise the Precept because the Council had become aware that over the next few years there will be some very large maintenance and repair costs for the village play park and Parish Room. Funds must be available to meet these costs. In recent years monies raised by village fund-raising initiatives (Monthly Teas, Christmas Fares, Art Weeks etc.) have been used for the running costs of the park and Parish Room. Unfortunately, these funds alone are unlikely to continue to be large enough to meet these anticipated costs.
2. **Vale of White Horse District Council (CTRS) grant:** This reduced from £259 to £27. We have no control over this income.
3. **Verge cutting grant:** This is a new grant. The Gt C PC elected to take responsibility for some of the verge maintenance in the Parish in return for grant funding (c. £510) from Oxford County Council (OCC).
4. **Other grant income:** There was a one-off grant of £2000 awarded by OCC for the maintenance of a footpath.
5. **Fundraising:** Fund-raising income fell from c. £2270 to c. £1760. This is largely because the Art Week income (c. £585 in 2017-8) is now classed as a donation due to the changes put in place last year with the creation of a separate Community Fund to handle the collection and disperse of Art Week income.
6. **Donations and unrepresented cheques** – these inevitably vary randomly between years. This year donations increased from £140 to £970 largely due to Art Week income being reclassified (from 'fund-raising' to 'donations') as discussed above.

Expenditure

1. **Parish Room** – little maintenance was required this year and so the Council's contribution was reduced.
2. **Parish Clerk and RFO remuneration:** As a result of increasing workloads, it became apparent to the PC that the honoraria for the two Parish Council officials have fallen to unacceptably low levels in absolute and real terms - approximately £1.28 per hour. It was therefore decided by the Council to increase this to approximately £4 per hour with immediate effect (the total annual cost increased from £834 to £2400).
3. **Verge/hedge maintenance:** In recent years little maintenance of hedges and verges which are the responsibility of the PC has taken place. This has led to impaired 'sight-lines' on some of the roads which might compromise road safety; impingement of powerlines and reduced access to some footpaths. A systematic review was conducted with advice from an official from OCC and the work was undertaken at a cost of £3165 (funded in part by grants discussed above: c. £2510)
4. **Subscriptions:** During the year, due to the complexity of some of the planning and other matters for which it has responsibility, it became apparent that the PC would benefit from re-joining the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils for its support and guidance. Due to the timing of our joining the OALC, two subscriptions fell due in the year (a part year payment of c. £67 for 2017-8 and a full year payment [in advance] for 2018-9 of c. £135); this accounts for the difference in fees paid from last year.
5. **VAT:** the increase in VAT paid is a direct consequence of increased expenditure on tree work and verge maintenance.

One-Off Items of spending or income from last year to this year

Verge/tree maintenance on roads and footpaths as discussed above.

Increases in fixed assets disclosed in box 9 with no corresponding increase in other payments or loans

N/A

Notes:

The Park has reserves of £5263.45. The Parish Council manages the account for the Park. This money is all fund raised by the villagers and does not belong to the Parish Council.

Great Coxwell Parish Council is the Sole Trustee for the Great Coxwell Parish Room (Charity No.300155) and since the beginning of the fiscal year 2008-2009 the income and expenditure for the Great Coxwell Parish Room has been accounted for separately and not included in the Parish Council figures.