

Hawkwell Parish Council
Annual Report for the Civic Year 2016/17
Chairman`s Summary

At the completion of another Civic Year we can be proud of our continuing success in obtaining further external funding for capital projects with an £11,000 award from the ECC Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) towards footpath improvements in Spencers Park which will commence this coming summer. During 16/17 Council saw the completion of the part refurbishment of the children`s playground in Magnolia Park. Despite an early incident of vandalism to one of the new pieces of play equipment, we are very pleased to report that the equipment is very well-used and we continue to receive positive feedback from members of the public.

Another substantial capital project we are undertaking is to make improvements to the Magnolia Park pond and surrounding banked areas. This is a big project that is being budgeted for on a yearly basis by the Parish with a view to completion in at least three phases across the period of 2016-2019, supported by external professionals. The first phase was completed during the winter of 2016 which involved the clearance of large amounts of the vegetation along the west bank of the pond; this was undertaken to reduce the debris entering the pond as well as allowing some much needed light onto the water surface which greatly increases the oxygen levels. Further work will commence during this year to encourage a healthier pond environment and create new marginal planting borders, together with redefined pond edging.

We are very delighted that our ongoing yearly initiative to issue around 200 Christmas parcels to the elderly residents who live alone in our community continues to be a huge success and is so greatly welcomed by the recipients, with donations from Marden Homes, Waitrose and two residents who kindly gave up their winter fuel allowance to contribute to the cost of the parcels.

One of the many ongoing challenges that the Parish Council face is the decline of its membership, so once again we are seeking new members to join. It goes without saying that the Parish Council is far stronger in supporting its community to grow and develop services for our residents if it is fully constituted in its membership. So if you have, or you know anyone who has, a community spirit and a desire to make improvements in the local area then why not contact our Clerk and take a look at what becoming a Parish Councillor means and how to go about it.

Finally, the Parish Council members and staff alike were extremely saddened about the passing of its long-standing Chairman Vic Leach who had served on this Parish for over 30 years. Vic was a very well-known and respected member of the community and will be greatly missed by all. I personally thank Vic for his continued support and mentorship during the eight years I was fortunate to serve alongside him on Hawkwell Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs P Young
Vice Chairman

Summary of Income & Expenditure (2016/17 un-audited)

	2015/16	2016/17
Precept Income	£163,064	£172,675
Interest Received	£52	£544
Other Income	<u>£20,030</u>	<u>£20,300</u>
Total Income	£183,146	£193,519
Total Expenditure	£169,914	£188,581