

Hawkwell Parish Council Annual Report for the Civic Year 2017/18 Chairman`s Summary

The Civic Year draws to a close and once again we can be proud of our continuing success to complete a number of significant projects for the benefit of our Hawkwell residents; not least we saw the installation of a new 'bonded surface' footpath in Spencers Park which enables all to enjoy the park and has made a significant improvement both practically and visually.

Following on from the Magnolia Park Children's Playground refurbishment in 2016/17, we are delighted to have been able to replace the small Springy Bike with the installation of a new 'Mini Basket Swing', which has additional soft play surface beneath it and is an all-inclusive play piece. The Basket Swing is a piece of equipment that was greatly favoured by our late Chairman Vic Leach and his family. While the swing is not a memorial to Vic, it is something he was keen to have in one of our Parish Playgrounds and Council felt it was fitting and agreed it was an excellent item to have installed.

For those of you who are regular visitors to Magnolia Park you will have noted that its well-used and much-loved Adult Gym has now been relocated. Council hope that the new position is more tranquil and considered to be better located with views across both the rose garden and the park. As a result of the relocation we have also purchased three new pieces of equipment: a new replacement Spacewalker; a Cycle and a Rower.

It is unfortunate that our improvements to the Magnolia Park pond and surrounding banked areas have taken a protracted amount of time; the planned works for this year to encourage a healthier pond environment and create new marginal planting borders, together with redefined pond edging areas, has been delayed due to the unprecedented low water levels within the pond. We always knew this project would be a challenge for us and may have given us a few unexpected delays, so in order to proceed further we are now exploring the possibility of having a water bore hole installed to maintain the water levels within the pond.

We are again very delighted that our traditional yearly initiative to issue 190 Christmas parcels to the elderly residents who live alone in our community and the delivery of 93 tins of biscuits to those elderly residents who live in sheltered accommodation continues to be a huge success. The Christmas parcels are so greatly welcomed by the recipients who regularly relay their gratitude to Council. Donations from Keymed, Waitrose and Tesco, together with two residents who kindly gave up their winter fuel allowance, contributed towards the cost of the parcels.

One of the many challenges that the Parish Council faces as an ongoing issue is the decline of its membership. We are therefore thrilled to announce that this year we have had 4 new Members join us, but sadly had 3 Members step down so we continue as always to seek 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 or anyone you know has a community spirit and a desire to make improvements in the local area then contact our Clerk and take a look at what becoming a Parish Councillor means and how to go about it. If you're not sure what your Parish Councillors do, or whether this is something for you, then you could always pop along to one of the Parish Council meetings which are normally held on the first two Mondays of the month and are open to the public.

Finally, I would like to say a personal thank you to all Parish Council Members and staff for your ongoing support and involvement with projects this year to ensure a better community environment for all our residents within the Hawkwell Parish.

Cllr Mrs P Young
Chairman

Summary of Income & Expenditure (2017/18 un-audited)

	2016/17	2017/18
Precept Income	£172,675	£181,775
Interest Received	£544	£470
Other Income	<u>£20,300</u>	<u>£11,495</u>
Total Income	£193,519	£193,740
Total Expenditure	£188,581	£179,885