

Hawkwell Parish Council Annual Report for the Civic Year 2018/19 Chairman`s Summary

As the Civic Year draws to a close we must stand proud in having continued to fulfil all our statutory obligations within the Parish. This includes maintaining all of our Parks and Open Spaces and working with contractors to produce a highly commendable standard of works, following the retirement of our Groundsman at the end of 2017/18.

Many residents will be aware that there are 150 street lights within the Parish which are owned and maintained by the Parish Council. These lights are old and, in support of improving our environment, we decided to upgrade them to LEDs with a phased program which commenced this year and should see all street lights replaced by 2021.

For those of you who are regular visitors to Magnolia Park and in particular the frequent users of our Adult Gym, you will have noted the three new pieces of equipment which were installed early in the year: a new replacement Spacewalker; a Cycle and a Rower. All three pieces are proving to be great additions to the Gym.

You may recall the Magnolia Park pond improvements were stalled last year due to unprecedented low water levels within the pond. I am delighted to say that the water level has risen within the pond this year through natural processes and therefore negated the need for us having a water borehole installed, which was looking to be an expensive option. With the rise in water levels we were able to continue with our improvements to the pond and surrounding banked areas; the works completed this year have included the relevant treatments to reduce silt and encourage a healthier pond environment.

The year has also seen many challenges and debates within Council which have subsequently provided a number of new project decisions going forward for 2019/2020. These include the participation in the 'Community Specials' Project which will, in time, see volunteer police officers on dedicated patrols within Hawkwell, partly funded by the Parish Council. Other projects will be the provision of a number of defibrillators in key locations across the Parish, and the installation of a new 'bonded surface' footpath in Glencroft Open Space which will enable a more inclusive environment for all to enjoy the area, whilst making a significant improvement both practically and visually.

Our traditional yearly Christmas Parcels initiative continues to be a huge success and has once again delighted the elderly residents who live alone in our community. We delivered 146 parcels and 92 tins of biscuits to those elderly residents who live in sheltered accommodation. The Christmas parcels are greatly welcomed by the recipients who regularly relay their gratitude to Council. This year saw great support from Waitrose who worked closely with Council to source the provision of all items in

one package, along with dedicated staff support from the store for which we are extremely grateful. Members and staff delivered the parcels in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Further donations from Tesco's, together with two residents who once again very kindly gave up their winter fuel allowance, contributed towards the cost of the parcels.

The Parish Council continues to face ongoing challenges in the decline of its membership. Whilst we are thrilled to announce that this year we have had two new Members join us, again we have to report that sadly two Members stepped 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.

It is with heavy heart and great sadness for me that I have to report this too is my final year with Council; I have been a Member for just over nine years and the Chair of Council for two years. My decision to step down is purely down to changes in personal circumstances and taking a wonderful opportunity to relocate my family to the rural County of Suffolk, where I will spend my time with them enjoying our new farming venture.

On leaving, I would like to say a personal thank you to all past and present Parish Council Members and staff for your ongoing support provided to me over the years. Your continuing, dedicated involvement with projects year-on-year to ensure a better community environment for all residents within the Hawkwell Parish is something that I hope will long continue.

And lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to the next Chair and future Council.

Cllr Mrs P Young
Chairman

Summary of Income & Expenditure (2018/19 un-audited)

	2017/18	2018/19
Precept Income	£181,775	£182,753
Interest Received	£470	£850
Other Income	<u>£11,495</u>	<u>£1,145</u>
Total Income	£193,740	£184,748
Total Expenditure	£179,885	£155,419