

Hawkwell i

**HAWKWELL
PARISH COUNCIL**

**ISSUE 49
WINTER 2020**

Our Parks and Open Spaces

We have been working hard to maintain our Parks and Open Spaces throughout this challenging year. We are proud of how they look and we have worked to adhere to the government Coronavirus guidelines.

Just prior to lockdown, we replaced the vandalised item of playground equipment in Magnolia Park with a Rocking Horse, a modern version of an old playground favourite. Unfortunately, then came lockdown which meant this along with other play areas in the Parish could not be used!



During lockdown, we followed Government advice and locked the playgrounds and fenced off the adult gym in Magnolia Park. Notices were erected where needed and the car park was also locked. Social Distancing signs were put up to remind park users to stay safe.

We progressed the work to replace areas of the safety surfacing around and under the swings which meant that the play area was safe for our youngsters to use once the lockdown eased.

In July, we were allowed to open the playgrounds and adult gym again. Following Government guidance, we have tried to make them Covid-Secure; signage and one-way systems are in place and we ask users to follow the guidelines.

Unfortunately, since re-opening our spaces we have seen an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), especially within Magnolia Park. There have been reports of members of the public being verbally abused by young people. The new safety surfacing was also damaged within a week of the playground re-opening which is extremely disappointing. Signage has also been destroyed and removed on several occasions. We also continue to receive reports of dogs off leads in the Nature Reserve and remind users to please ensure their dogs are kept on their leads while in the Reserve.

We have continued to carry out regular mowing and tree works in all our parks throughout the year. We realised how important it was, especially during lockdown, to ensure that people wishing to enjoy some fresh air and exercise in our parks and open spaces could do so in a pleasant and safe environment.

We ask that people use our parks and open spaces considerably and continue to follow the guidance to keep safe. We will continue to follow government guidelines to ensure safe operation.



Various 'Covid-Secure' signs have been placed around our playgrounds and parks.

Christmas Parcels

Our Christmas Parcels Working Group has been carefully considering how it can undertake its Christmas Parcels for the Elderly initiative this year, particularly given the ever changing restrictions, logistical difficulties in obtaining the food and packing and delivering the parcels in a safe way.



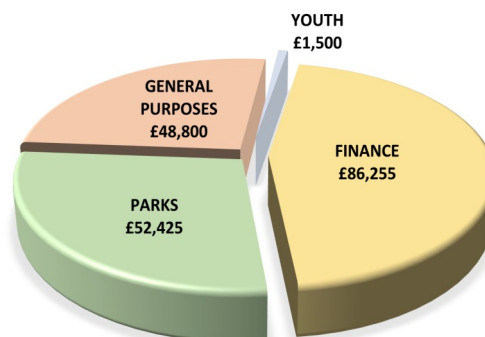
It has been agreed this year recipients will receive a luxury box of biscuits instead of a food parcel. These will be distributed by Councillors and volunteers from early December and they will follow safe delivery guidelines. We are grateful for the support of Waitrose again, as without their assistance the project may not have been able to go ahead this year.

Council Precept 2020-21

Hawkwell Parish Council set its Precept for 2020-21 at £188,995. Council continues to try to keep costs down and operates within strict budgets. We believe we provide Parishioners value for money and we remain the third lowest charging parish in the Rochford District. New initiatives are carefully planned and external funding for capital projects is sought in many instances, although access to such funds is becoming more restricted.

The increase for 2020-21 for the average Band D property is £1.70 per annum. The annual Parish Council charge for a Band D property for 2020-21 is therefore £39.49. For this modest sum Council maintains three parks, two play areas, an adult gym, 148 streetlights and 19 bus shelters. This also includes the cost of emptying 21 dog and litter bins within its parks. HPC continues to save money in its parks budget by using contractors and excellent feedback has been received about the standard of maintenance in all the open spaces. These savings have allowed the Parish

streetlighting LED upgrade project to go ahead. HPC's Precept for 2020-21 equates to just over 2.1% of your total Council Tax charge which is paid to Rochford District Council.



HPC's Budget by Committee

The total Council Tax charge is split as follows: Essex County Council (65%); ECC Adult Social Care Precept (6%); Essex Fire Authority (4%); the Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex (11%); Rochford District Council (12%) and the Parish Council for the area in which you reside (average 2%).



Parish Streetlights

We are pleased to report that the project to upgrade all 148 parish streetlights to LEDs was completed in September. Council began this capital project during 2018-19. Now that all the lights are LED, our energy costs will be approximately 49% less, together with a 57% carbon emissions reduction. Energy consumption reduction is estimated to be also around 57%.

Parish streetlights stay on all night, providing safety and security to the area. We are the first Parish Council in the District to make the switch to LED lights, which are long lasting and kinder to the environment.

The street lights that Essex County Council (ECC) are responsible for within the parish are part-night lights and are turned off typically between 1am and 5am. To find out if a faulty ECC street light has been identified or to report a new fault please visit:

www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/tell-us-SL-All-Lights-out-in-an-area.aspx

Parish Defibrillators

Last year, Council's Defibrillator Working Group's recommendations were passed at Full Council. The first defibrillator was installed at the Jet Garage along the Ashingdon Road in January 2020 and a second defibrillator was installed at the Hawkwell Baptist Church along Rectory Road in March 2020.

It had been Council's intention to host two separate training events with the Community HeartBeat Trust, who would have provided a qualified trainer and given information on how to use the defibrillators. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the local restrictions imposed, these meetings have not been able to take place. However, once restrictions lift, we will be sure to arrange these training sessions!



Please remember to always call 999 in the case of an emergency. If a defibrillator is needed, they will explain what to do, where to find the nearest defibrillator and how to use it.



Watch this space... With Social Media an ever-growing communication medium in today's world, Hawkwell Parish Council has decided to set up its own Facebook page. The page will soon be live, so watch this space!

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

We currently have several vacancies and are seeking volunteers to be co-opted onto Council. To be eligible, you must be a British subject or a Citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union and be at least 18 years old. Additionally, you must be able to meet **one** of the following:



- ♦ Be registered as a local government elector for the parish; or
- ♦ During the whole of the 12 months preceding the date of co-option, have occupied as owner or tenant land or premises in the parish; or
- ♦ Your principal or only place of work during those 12 months has been in the parish; or
- ♦ During the whole of the 12 months, resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it.

What is a Parish Council?

The first tier of Local Government and your representation at a local level. It is a statutory authority responsible for your community.

How can you make a difference to your Parish?

Get involved with your community. Have a say about the local issues people care about. Decide how local money is spent.

Do Councillors need special skills ?

No, all you need is: a desire to make a difference; to care for your community; a willingness to represent others; time available; to abide by the Code of Conduct and to register your interests.

To find out
more contact
the Clerk

Passionate about our Parks?

Council are considering setting up 'Friends of Hawkwell Parks' - a voluntary group who could help look after our parks and open spaces by getting involved with things like general litter



picking or light maintenance work. Before setting up the group, we would like to gauge who may be interested. Therefore, if you feel this is something you would like to become involved in, please call the Parish Office, or email us to register your interests.

December Church Services

Hawkwell Baptist Church:

www.hawkwellbaptistchurch.co.uk

St Mary's & Emmanuel:

[www.sites.google.com/
site/hawkwellparishchurch](http://www.sites.google.com/site/hawkwellparishchurch)

Estuary Elim:

[www.estuaryelim.
church](http://www.estuaryelim.church)

St Teresa's:

[www.rcrochford.
org](http://www.rcrochford.org)

With the Coronavirus pandemic and the changes we all continue to face, Christmas services at our local churches have either been cancelled, scaled down or new 'virtual' ideas have been established. To see what some of the local churches may be doing this year, please check out their websites.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE & INFORMATION : www.gov.uk/coronavirus

SUPPORT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS:

www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support



USEFUL NUMBERS

NATIONAL GAS EMERGENCY SERVICE	☎ 0800 111 999	DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE	☎ 0808 2000 247
UK POWER NETWORKS (UKPN)	☎ 0800 316 3105	AGE UK ESSEX	☎ 01245 346 106
NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVICE	☎ 111	CITIZENS ADVICE (Rayleigh/Rochford)	☎ 0344 477 0808
SAMARITANS	☎ 116 123	GOLDEN CROSS PHARMACY	☎ 01702 544 104
CHILDLINE	☎ 0800 11 11	HAWKWELL PHARMACY	☎ 01702 203 867

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILS & COUNCILLORS

ROCHFORD COUNCIL'S KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Planning & Community:	☎ 01702 318 191
Street Scene & Environment:	☎ 01702 318 111
General Switchboard:	☎ 01702 546 366



Rochford District Cllrs for Hawkwell East

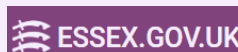
Mrs Lesley Butcher	☎ 07872 937552
✉ CllrLesley.Butcher@Rochford.gov.uk	
Mr Phil Shaw	☎ 540398
✉ CllrPhil.Shaw@Rochford.gov.uk	
Mr Mike Webb	☎ 07714 916263
✉ CllrMike.Webb@Rochford.gov.uk	

Rochford District Cllrs for Hawkwell West

Mrs Toni Carter	☎ 205648
✉ CllrToni.Carter@Rochford.gov.uk	
Mrs Julie Gooding	☎ 07720 053435
✉ CllrJulie.Gooding@Rochford.gov.uk	
Mrs Christine Mason	☎ 204377
✉ CllrChristine.Mason@Rochford.gov.uk	

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Highways: www.essexhighways.org	/ ☎ 0345 603 7631
Passenger Transport: ✉ passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk	
General enquiries: ☎ 0345 743 0430	



HAWKWELL PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish Cllrs for Hawkwell East

Mr Royston Patient [Chairman]	☎ 531462
Mrs Eileen Gadsdon	☎ 741859
Mr Roger Gardner	☎ 548130
Mr Martin Strubel	☎ 548313
Mr Stephen May	☎ 547187

Parish Cllrs for Hawkwell West

Mr Tino Manyika	☎ 07882 454308
Mrs Nicola Shaw	☎ 207710
Mrs Myra Weir	☎ 207764

HAWKWELL PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Parish Office, rear of Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, SS5 4EH

☎ 01702 207710 ✉ info@hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk



www.hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk