

## **Hawkwell Parish Council Annual Report for the Civic Year 2021/22**

As the Civic Year draws to a close, it is pleasing that Council has been able to function virtually unhindered as the impact of Covid has thankfully receded. Council meetings have been able to take place face-to-face and all statutory obligations have been met.

Council's parks and open spaces have continued to be extremely well used by residents for a variety of purposes; the most common being dog walking, exercising and gatherings of family or friends. Council receives many compliments about how its parks and open spaces are managed and Council is proud of how well-maintained they are.

During the year, Council installed identification plates on all its 150 parish street lighting columns to assist residents to be able to report any faults. In addition, it replaced all the litter and dog bins in Spencers Park and installed a new memorial seat in Magnolia Park recreation field. Council also funded a 6-month programme of detached youth worker sessions, which were primarily held in Magnolia Park.

Council is pleased to have been able to purchase two more community defibrillators for the Parish. These are in addition to the two devices installed in 2019. The two new defibrillators are located on the outside of Clements Hall Leisure Centre and the White Hart Service Station on the Main Road. Council obtained some grant funding from the ECC Locality Fund and RDC Community Safety Fund which helped fund the devices. The original two defibrillators are located outside the Jet Garage, Ashingdon Road and Hawkwell Baptist Church, Rectory Road. All the defibrillators are available 24/7 for community use.

Council's traditional annual Christmas Parcels for the Elderly initiative went ahead as usual and 100 food parcels and 97 boxes of biscuits were distributed to those aged 70+ living alone in the parish. Thanks are given to those who assisted staff in organising and delivering the parcels and biscuits. Following feedback from recipients in 2020 where due to Covid only biscuits were distributed, Council decided to ask whether food parcels or biscuits were preferred. The outcome was that while the majority preferred a food parcel, many others would prefer biscuits so it has been agreed that for Christmas 2022 those who expressed a preference for biscuits would receive them instead of a food parcel.

Council's Community Engagement Facebook Page has been live for over a year now and it is slowly gaining momentum and Council encourages residents to follow it. Council also maintains a website containing lots of interesting and current information: [www.hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk).

It is regrettable that there have been many instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Council's parks and open spaces this year and, particularly, in the last few months. Damage has been caused to various park signs, gates, play equipment and there

have been instances of arson to tarmac surfaces by the teen shelter and carpark within Magnolia Park. It is disappointing that a minority of people abuse the lovely open spaces which, in turn, affects the availability of some of Council's assets which are enjoyed by the majority of residents.

The Parish Council unfortunately continues to face ongoing challenges in the decline of its membership and sadly Covid has been a factor in this situation. Council continues, 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 its residents if it is fully constituted in its membership. Those who have a community spirit and a desire to make improvements in the local area are encouraged to contact the Clerk to take a look at what becoming a Parish Councillor means and how to go about it.

Lastly, I would like to thank the staff for their continued hard work and my fellow Members for their contribution during the Civic Year.

Cllr Roy Patient  
Chairman

### **Summary of Income & Expenditure (2021/22 un-audited)**

|                          | <b>2020/21</b>  | <b>2021/22</b>  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Precept Income           | £188,995        | £186,475        |
| Interest Received        | £418            | £261            |
| Other Income             | <u>£0</u>       | <u>£4,604</u>   |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>£189,413</b> | <b>£191,340</b> |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b> | <b>£164,485</b> | <b>£180,353</b> |