

Hawkwell i

HAWKWELL
PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE 53
SUMMER 2023



What's been happening in Council's parks and open spaces...



In the early part of Spring, Council built a planter in Magnolia Park to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

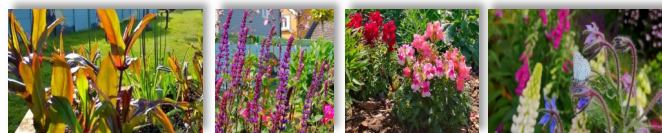


The planter is sited between the children's playground and the Magnolia trees which were planted last year to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Thanks go to some of the Councillors and friends for their excellent work in building the planter and for continuing to care for the beautiful pollinator plants that are blooming and becoming established.

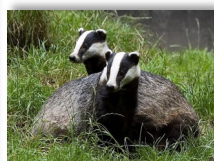
Thanks to the local Ecologist, the new over-wintering pond and new fence enclosure in Magnolia Nature Reserve is now complete.



This was created to help the Nature Reserve's colony of Great Crested Newts (GCNs) breed and survive. According to the Ecologist, the GCNs are breeding, and Council hopes the colony survives.



Earlier in 2023, the badgers who have an active sett under Bridlepath 35 (BR35) decided to make some 'home improvements'. BR35 runs from the entrance into Magnolia field from Magnolia Road, through the Nature Reserve and meets BR45 at the top end by Rectory Avenue. The badgers' activity caused part of BR35 to collapse, leaving it unsafe, especially for horse riders. Working together with a local landowner and Essex County Council Public Rights of Way (ECC PROW), a new diversionary route was established. Council asks the public to use this new route until further notice. As badgers and setts are protected by law under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the pathway cannot currently be repaired in case damage is caused to the sett.



COUNCILLOR VACANCIES; YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

Want to join Hawkwell Parish Council?

Hawkwell Parish Council currently has several Parish Councillor vacancies.

Please see inside this edition for more information

• info@hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01702 207710 •





Interested in joining us and becoming a Councillor?

~ *Get involved with the local community* ~

~ *Have a say about the local issues people care about* ~

~ *Decide how local money is spent* ~

Are you passionate about where you live? Would you like offer your skills and experiences?

Do you like being part of a team?

Hawkwell Parish Council has several Councillor vacancies and would love to hear from you!

Just contact the Parish Clerk on 01702 207710 or info@hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

WHO CAN APPLY?

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.



All you need is a desire to make a difference; to care for your community; to have a willingness to represent others; time available; to abide by the Code of Conduct and to register your interests.



Eco-Audit

You may remember from Council's last newsletter that an Eco –Audit had been carried out. Council is now working through the Eco-Audit report recommendations with the aim to

reduce Council's carbon footprint.

One of the recommendations was to consider PV solar installation for Council's Magnolia Park store roof. Quotations are currently being sought and Council will consider grant funding if the project gets approved.



Working with Essex Wildlife Trust

Council has now signed up to the Essex Wildlife Trust's Wilder Towns and Wilder Villages Scheme. The aim of this partnership is to improve the biodiversity in the parks and open spaces that Hawkwell Parish Council manage.

Over the last few months, Hawkwell's area Co-ordinator has kindly met with Members to undertake site visits around all three sites: Magnolia Park and Nature Reserve, Spencers Park and Glencroft Open Space. The visits have given the Co-ordinator the opportunity to provide feedback and offer ideas.

As part of this scheme, a few of Council's Members have also attended a Grassland Assessment Workshop where they have learned about meadow management. One of our Members has also signed up to become a 'River Champion'. Council have previously attempted to set up volunteer groups such as 'Friends of Hawkwell Parks', but it has proven difficult to get this initiative off the ground due to a lack of leadership and co-ordination. The Essex Wildlife Trust are willing to assist with setting up such a group and this is another initiative which Council will look to proceed with, if there is enough interest.





Civility & Respect Pledge



**A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council**

Hawkwell Parish Council signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge in March of this year. The Pledge aims to put this topic at the top of the Agenda for the Local Council sector and start a culture change for the local council sector. Under the terms of the Pledge, Hawkwell Parish Council will:

- ⇒ Treat all Councillors, Clerks and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- ⇒ Put in place a training programme for Councillors and staff.
- ⇒ Sign up to the Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- ⇒ Have good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work Policy.
- ⇒ Commit to seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- ⇒ Commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
- ⇒ Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council, e.g. via Local Council Award Scheme.
- ⇒ Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

A Gift for Christmas...

Council will be continuing its long-running initiative of gifting a food parcel or box of biscuits this Christmas to those who live alone in the Hawkwell Parish and are aged 70 and over.

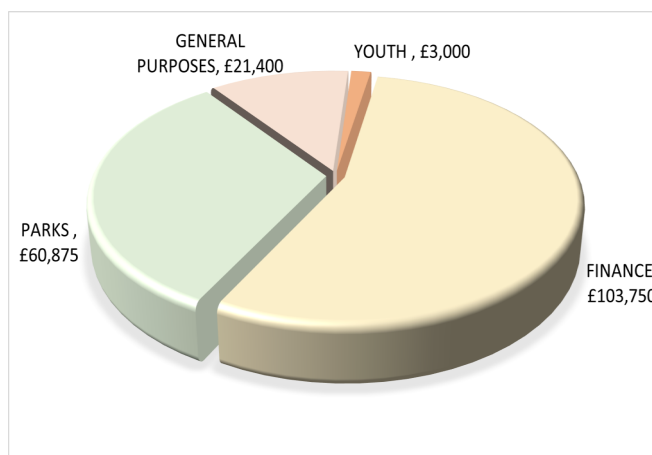
Despite having run this initiative for many years, some residents are still unaware they are eligible for a gift. Council is therefore keen to include all eligible residents, so when reading this please have a think if you know of anyone who fits the criteria. If you do, then please contact the Parish Office.



Your Council Precept for 2023-24

Hawkwell Parish Council set its Precept for 2023-24 at £188,404 and continues to try to keep costs down. Council operates within strict budgets and believes it provides Parishioners good value for money. New initiatives are carefully planned and external funding for capital projects is sought in many instances. Council is also mindful of the economic situation and the cost of living crisis. As a result, and through careful planning, Council was able to maintain the annual Parish Council charge for a Band D property at £39.54. Within that modest sum, Council maintains Magnolia Park and Nature Reserve, Spencers Park and Glencroft Open Space; two play areas in Magnolia Park and Elizabeth Close; an adult gym, also in Magnolia Park; 150 streetlights; 19 bus shelters and employs a private security company to add additional security to the parish.

Council's Precept for 2023-24 equates to just under **2%** of your total Council Tax charge, which is collected by Rochford District Council.



2023-24 Budget by Committee

Love Walking?

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex

The Walking in Essex website provides lots of walks to download and print, along with a wealth of information for walkers. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.



Want to know about traffic disruptions?

One.Network is a useful website which gives information about all active, past and future disruptions.

www.one.network/uk



USEFUL NUMBERS

NATIONAL GAS EMERGENCY SERVICE	☎ 0800 111 999	VICTIM SUPPORT	☎ 0808 178 1694
UK POWER NETWORKS (UKPN)	☎ 0800 316 3105	HOURLASS(ELDER ABUSE HELPLINE)	☎ 0808 808 8141
NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVICE	☎ 111	AGE UK ESSEX	☎ 01245 346 106
SAMARITANS	☎ 116 123	CITIZENS ADVICE (Rayleigh/Rochford)	☎ 0344 477 0808
CHILDLINE	☎ 0800 11 11	GOLDEN CROSS PHARMACY	☎ 01702 544 104
DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE	☎ 0808 2000 247	HAWKWEEL PHARMACY	☎ 01702 203 867
LGBT+ HATE CRIME HELPLINE	☎ 020 7704 2040		

DISTRICT COUNCIL & COUNCILLORS



ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL— 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

Mrs Deborah Squires-Coleman ☎ 07894 021414

✉ CllrDeborah-.Squires-Coleman@Rochford.gov.uk

Mr Elliott Mason ☎ 07561 100511

✉ CllrElliott.Mason@Rochford.gov.uk

Rochford District Cllrs for Hawkwell West

Mr Nicholas Booth ☎ 07545 842003

✉ CllrNicholas.Booth@Rochford.gov.uk

Mrs Julie Gooding ☎ 07720 053435

✉ CllrJulie.Gooding@Rochford.gov.uk

Mrs Christine Mason ☎ 01702 204377

✉ CllrChristine.Mason@Rochford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL & COUNCILLOR



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Highways: www.essexhighways.org / ☎ 0345 603 7631 Passenger Transport: passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk

General enquiries: ☎ 0345 743 0430

[Essex County Councillor for Rochford North](#) (which includes Hawkwell):

Mrs Laureen Shaw ☎ 01702 540398 ✉ Cllr.laureen.shaw@essex.gov.uk

HAWKWEEL PARISH COUNCILLORS



Parish Cllrs for Hawkwell East

Mrs Leanne Dalby ☎ 07956 411911

Roger Gardner ☎ 01702 548130

Tommy Hargrave ☎ 01702 207710

Andrew MacPherson ☎ 01702 207710

Mrs Lyn Massey ☎ 01702 549615

Parish Cllrs for Hawkwell West

Martin Strubel [Chairman] ☎ 01702 548313

Stephen May [Vice-Chair] ☎ 01702 547187

Royston Patient ☎ 01702 531462

Mrs Josephine Strubel ☎ 01702 548313

Mrs Myra Weir ☎ 01702 207764

HAWKWEEL 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

