



## **Hawkwell Parish Council**

### **Annual Report for the Civic Year 2023/24**

One of the tasks I perform as Chairman is to inspect the deeds, leases and asset register, annually. I also undertake quarterly financial checks to comply with Council's Financial Regulations and Internal Audit. I am pleased to report all were in order. My thanks go to Diane, Council's Clerk and Anna, the Clerk's Assistant, for all their hard work in ensuring that Council's finances are in good order and that clear external audits are achieved.

On behalf of Council, I attended Rochford District Council's annual civic service and charity dinner and garden party, a great charity function. I laid a wreath on Remembrance Day for the fallen soldiers. Being ex-military myself, I was honoured to undertake this duty.

Council continues to work through its Eco-Audit and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. The report covers all aspects of Council's functions and working practices. One aim is to gradually replace machinery with battery operated equipment used in Council's parks operations, with the latest piece of equipment replaced being a strimmer/brushcutter. Another recommendation from the report has been to install solar panels on the store roof at Magnolia Park, and this project will be completed shortly.

Thanks also go to our regular contractor who does a great job keeping Council's parks and open spaces looking so great.

At Christmas, Council again provided a gift of either a food parcel or luxury biscuits to its elderly residents living alone in the parish. This project is much appreciated by recipients, and I was delighted to assist in the distribution of the parcels, alongside several other Councillors and volunteers.

A new member joined Council in January, bringing new ideas. Consideration is always given to these, bearing in mind costs and value for money. Hawkwell Parish Council is proud to have the second lowest Precept per household in the Rochford district and ensures its precept is spent wisely and carefully.

All members who attend the meetings contribute, in one way or another, to Council. This, in turn, benefits the parish. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for giving up their time, voluntarily, to help make Hawkwell the very pleasant place to live in that it is.

Council would like to see more residents attend its meetings. There are also vacancies for new Councillors; so, if you are community spirited, perhaps have a look at Council's website, or email the Clerk for information about joining Council.

Lastly, Council unfortunately received some very sad news of the passing of Roy Patient, a long-standing Councillor on Hawkwell Parish Council. He served for 22 years and will be greatly missed by all. Rest in peace, Roy.

Good health to you all.

Cllr Martin Strubel  
Chairman

### **Summary of Income & Expenditure (2023/24 un-audited)**

|                          | <b>2022/23</b>  | <b>2023/24</b>  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Precept Income           | £189,155        | £188,404        |
| Interest Received        | £5,458          | £13,072         |
| Other Income             | <u>£360</u>     | <u>£160</u>     |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>£194,973</b> | <b>£201,636</b> |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b> | <b>£195,500</b> | <b>£182,247</b> |