



Hawkwell Parish Council

Annual Report for the Civic Year 2024/25

My first year as Chair has passed by so quickly, here is my review of the year.

We as a Council have discharged our duties throughout the year, maintaining our open spaces and working towards the recommendations of our Eco Audit. We installed flower planters on the railings at the White Hart shopping parade and keep them stocked according to the seasons. Our thanks to Cllr Tommy Hargrave for his work on this project and to the ECC Locality Fund who awarded a grant towards this project.

Spencers Brook running along the side of Spencers Park has been clogged up for several years with a build-up of silt and vegetation. Council was advised that a freer flowing brook would be of greater benefit to the eco-system and works were carried out accordingly, the result being that the brook is now freely flowing and the water is clearer. Council will continue to monitor the brook and undertake pennywort clearance as and when required.

The Council has provided two Bleed Kits, one at Clements Hall Leisure Centre and another at the Hawkwell Baptist Church, these are unfortunately a necessary part of modern life but we hope these are never needed. Both kits are situated next to existing defibrillators. Thanks go to the ECC Locality Fund and the Community Safety Development Fund which awarded grants towards this project.

In October the Council erected a Remembrance Garden on the green close to the White Hart Pub and British Legion. Thanks go to the Hawkwell Men's Shed for constructing the figures and a local knitting group and children of Holt Farm Primary School who made the poppies for the display.

As Chair I have represented the Council at many Civic Functions during the year, starting with the lighting of the beacon to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D Day, the Summer Garden Party followed in July, it rained torrentially, and it was held indoors! I attended the Holocaust Memorial Day, Commonwealth Day, and St George's Day events. My wife and I also attended the Civic Dinner at The Mill arts and events centre in March. A busy year!

One of my most important roles, as Chair, was laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Parish at the Royal British Legion.

As a council, we once again distributed Christmas food parcels and biscuits to the elderly of the parish who are living alone. Thanks to all the councillors and staff involved in this initiative, which we know from all the cards and calls received, is much appreciated by the recipients.

I would like to thank Diane and Anna in the Parish Office, who have kept me updated and on target throughout the year. Thanks also to Colin, our regular contractor, for all his work keeping our parks and open spaces looking their best.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the support of my fellow Councillors, who have helped me fulfil the role of Chairman. We always welcome residents of the Parish to come along to our meetings to observe the workings of the Council and perhaps want to join us as Councillors; we usually meet for one or two evenings a month. Please contact the Clerk for details.

Cllr Steve May
Chair

Summary of Income & Expenditure (2024/25 un-audited)

	2023/24	2024/25
Precept Income	£188,404	£199,964
Interest Received	£13,072	£14,811
Other Income	<u>£160</u>	<u>£1,600</u>
Total Income	£201,636	£216,375
Total Expenditure	£182,247	£207,730