PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL CHAIRMANS REPORT
YEAR ENDING APRIL 2026

This year again has been a busy year for councillors and the parish clerk with the need to upgrade all policies, website and email addresses to fall in line with the ever increasing government legislation.

Other topics on the agenda during the year have included the construction and installing of the new mosaic in the grounds of the Wilberforce Hall. This superb item is to recognise the past history of smuggling in the village and surrounding area. The mosaic was made by the Brighstone Mosaic Group and sponsored by the Parish Council.

Atherfield Camp has several planning applications summitted by the applicant with the intention of completing all the rectification work to open the camp this year. Both Brighstone and Shorwell have collectively submitted robust responses requesting measures to improve the visible appearance of the camp and ensure that the lighting is kept to a minimum.

The financial future of the library is now looking brighter going forward following the installation of a new electric meter and new heaters reducing the electricity costs dramatically over the winter period. Also many generous donations were made last year to help secure the library's future. A new lease on the library building is to be discussed later this year between the National Trust and the Parish Council.

Councillors felt there was a need for an additional defibrillator towards the western end of the village. The Social Club were good enough to house the new defibrillator, which was installed recently on the outside of the building.
There are also new defibrillators on the Recreation Ground Pavilion and on the rear of the Three Bishops Pub.

It is hoped that there will be a conclusion to granting a lease to the Tennis Club for the land they occupy on the recreation ground later this year.

The Christmas tree festival was again a great success even though the weather wasn't so good on a couple of days during the festival period. I would like to thank all involved in bringing forward this well supported and attended annual event.

With a grant of £35,000 from the Parish Council plus generous donations from the local developer and a local parishioner the total amount to spend on new play equipment in the play area on the recreation ground will total £50,000.

Two design options have been put forward which will be decided at the April meeting hopefully this will allow enough time for installation before the main summer holidays.

As I will be retiring from the Parish Council along with Councillor Frost at the Annual Parish meeting later this month, this will be my final Chairmans report. I would like to take the opportunity to thank past councillors and clerks, Avice and Susanna, who all worked hard and supported me during the past 20 years. Thank you to our current councillors for their hard work during the past twelve months
A special thank you to Joy our current Parish Clerk who works extremely hard coping with the ever-increasing workload.

And a final thank you must go to all those parishioners who continue to volunteer maintaining the displays in the planters and around the war memorial, look after the parish cemetery, litter pick around the parish and form the committees who keep the halls and other organisations going for the benefit of us all.

John Cirrone.
Chairman Brighstone Parish Council.