**Chairman's Annual Report 2018**

Looking back through the minutes I feel a lot has happened again in the past twelve months.

We began the year welcoming two new councillors Pearl Adams and Matt Huxley.

At the same meeting we were made aware that we had been awarded a lottery grant of £6,916. 00 towards the toilet refurbishment and continued discussions also took place regarding taking over the freehold of the toilets.

In July councillors discussed setting up a Grants Award policy for organisations which apply for donations. This policy was agreed at the August meeting, with the focus on applications where the donation will be specifically beneficial to our community.

There have been several topics which have been on the agenda a lot since last year including:

 ● Speeding on the Military Road – Brighstone Parish Council are hosting a public meeting which other parish councils and the police will be invited.

●Planning enforcement – there are two sites in the parish which the Parish Council are in communications with the Isle of Wight Council Planning Enforcement Team regarding the appearance of the sites.

●Parking being the third main topic and there has been much discussion on how the parking problems could be solved or eased in some way.

Back in December the Christmas tree festival was again a great success and so we must thank Chris Goodman and all those that helped him for all their hard work to make it the well supported event it now is.

In recent months the Parish Council have successfully taken over the freehold of the public toilets from the Isle of Wight Council and since January monthly discussions  have taken place regarding taking over the legal responsibility of the Community Library  following Community Action IW’s announcement that they  cannot continue in that role.

It was agreed in principle at the April meeting to take on this responsibility once all the relevant documentation is in place and certain requests to Community Action have been full filled.

Most of you will be aware that the toilet refurbishment was completed recently and I am sure parishioners and visitors will be pleased with the finished article.   
Our maintenance person has been busy this year refurbishing the notice boards, painting street furniture and refurbishing the main bus shelter in Brighstone outside the Wilberforce hall.   
We are very fortunate also to have a number of parishioners who regularly go round the parish voluntarily collecting litter, tending to the planters and empting the bins in the recreation playground and parish cemetery in Limerstone.   
I would like to thank them for their willingness to help maintain our parish to be one where we are all proud to live and share with the many visitors we receive.

 As in previous years I would like to thank fellow councillors for their hard work throughout the year and a special thank you to our parish clerk Susannah for the extra work load put upon her this year with the extra responsibilities taken on by the Parish Council.

John Cirrone Chairman Brighstone Parish Council