

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The July meeting of the Parish Council was a valuable for the introduction of our new County and District Councillors, Jamie Fitzjohn and Chris Page. Chris needed little introduction having been very active in the parish especially with MARRA, Jamie now working at County level was until recently a Parish councillor at Fishbourne. Bringing a strong financial background to his role he will be able to guide us through the field of grants but has also promised to take up one of our particular concerns, the increasing heavy traffic through the parish.

Reports of meetings which concern the A27 emphasised again the increasing levels of public co-operation, seeking a solution which would take into account needs of small businesses on the Peninsular, a shift that could redirect the road in question. On a smaller scale is the permissive path alongside the canal to be developed by B&M Plant Hire, to give traffic free walking for Canal Mead residents to access the school and playing fields. It is expected that September when bird nesting is finished will be the starting time. A great boost to the cost of the development came from the Open Gardens monies raised by the generous hosts, who not only diligently prepared their gardens but provided teas as well. Sunday was not only sunny but the warm welcome of the gardeners helped to increase the donations to over £700 significantly more than last year. My thanks go out to those open minded friends of the Parish who have once more delighted us with their knowledge and artistic skill.

The increasing demands for the clerk to achieve Quality Council status have merited more hours of work, so after her bi-annual appraisal it was agreed to increase her scale points and back date that increment. Much work lies ahead if we are to follow our projects and plans identified in this quarter period, including a shared path from Merston cross roads to the farm shop.

On the practical level the Playing Field Trust reported the development of the pavilion toilet area, much needed while the Free School use the facilities -incidentally over used on their Monday July 3rd Sports Day. The Village Hall also claimed attention- a coat of rain resisting paint by the hand of a councillor-sixty new chairs have been added to the stock indoors while curtains are being replaced all adding to the updating of the hall's facilities.

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