

# North Mundham Parish Council

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I am writing this as Storm Ciara hits our parish, which will put another demand on our surface water drainage system. Over the last couple of months, with the guidance of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG) a small team of volunteers has been surveying the ditches and culverts in the whole parish. This is part of MWHG's FLOW project. FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) is a Heritage Lottery Funded Project to survey and improve the ditch network of the Manhood Peninsula, to prevent flooding and increase vital habitat for wildlife. When the surveying task is finished, we should have a better understanding of how the ditch network operates. We have already identified areas for improvement and a number of culverts that need to be re-built. Although maintaining culverts is the land-owner's responsibility, it is possible we may be able to use the results of the survey to make a case to West Sussex County Council's Operation Watershed for some grant funding support.

The FLOW Project is also responsible for the work on the Canal and at Camic Pond, and one outcome of the most recent volunteer's days at Camic Pond was the news that there were clear signs that a water vole had been feeding there.

You may recall that I have mentioned before that the Parish Council and the Playing Fields Trust were looking at alternative ways of managing the village hall. One option would be to transfer the operation, and perhaps the ownership, of the village hall to the Playing Fields Trust. The Parish Council does not normally meet in February, but we met last Tuesday (4 February) to discuss further details of the legal advice we have received about what this would involve. It was clear to us that we need to understand the financial value of the village hall, and so we have agreed to commission a valuation. Obviously we must be certain that the future of the village hall will be secure. It is important to emphasise that we will make no change in the present arrangements unless and until we are convinced that there is a better alternative. This is one of the topics for the Meeting of Electors on Thursday 5 March, in the Village Hall at 7 pm.

Finally, it appears that no-one has come forward to demand an election to fill the vacancy on the parish council, so we will be looking to co-opt someone. If there is anyone interested in this role, or would like to know more about what it involves, please contact me or the Clerk, Mrs Louise Chater, at:

[clerk@northmundham.org](mailto:clerk@northmundham.org)

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### Your Parish Council

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