

# North Mundham Parish Council

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## **You are invited to the Annual Meeting of Electors**

**North Mundham Village Hall, School  
Lane, North Mundham**

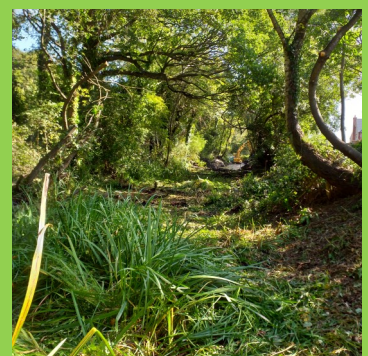
**On Thursday 5th March 2020 at 7pm**

**Do you want to find out about.....**



### **Your Neighbourhood Plan**

**Manhood Wildlife & Heritage  
Group's work in the Parish**



**Followed by refreshments**

**We seek your views and ideas for the coming year**



## **Spring Greetings** Welcome to our community newsletter

### **Chairman's Report**

The most significant theme in the past year has been our involvement on producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Parish Council is very grateful to the volunteers who have come forward to help us in this task, especially John Ashley who chairs the Steering Group. You will find more detail about this project in a separate supplement to this newsletter.

During the year we have formed a very useful relationship with the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG). You can see some of the results where a team of volunteers has helped clear the route of the old canal, letting in light and making it a better habitat for wildlife, as well as a nicer place to walk. We are still working to clear Camic Pond; this should help to make the local drainage system more effective as well as making it more attractive to look at. So far, much of the effort has come from MWHG volunteers from outside the parish. In the longer term we will be looking at recruiting some local volunteers to help maintain these improvements in the future. A less obvious aspect to the Group's work is a project to survey all the ditches in the parish. This work is still going on; when it is completed we should have a much better understanding of how the drainage system works, and we hope this should help us alleviate some of the flooding in the parish.

During the year we have been looking at the way we manage the village hall. Our aim has always been to ensure it covers its costs. But it has not always been easy to integrate the activities of the Village Hall Management Committee, who run the hall, with the Playing Fields Trust which runs the playing field and the pavilion. One of the solutions for consideration is to pass the management of the village hall, and the village hall itself, to the Playing Fields Trust. But we will only do this if we are convinced it is legally possible and makes best sense for all parties.

One of the duties of the Parish Council is to set a budget for the coming year, and this in turn sets the level of precept which forms part of your Council Tax. We anticipate that we will face some increased costs next year, for the Neighbourhood Development Plan in particular, even though we plan to make the maximum use of any grants that are available. But we believe it would be irresponsible to run down our reserves, and so we have budgeted for a small increase in the precept which will amount to just eight pence a week for a Band D property.

If you would like to know more about what we do and what we plan to do, especially in terms of the Neighbourhood Plan, you will have an opportunity to hear more, and ask questions, at the Meeting of Electors on Thursday, 5 March, at 7pm in the village hall.



The Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group have carried out some amazing work in the parish.

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain the work that has been carried out on the canal and Camic pond, the Group's next working party meetings for North Mundham are 4th April and 2nd May.

To find out more information sign up at <http://mwhg.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

## Councillor Vacancy

**If you care about where live  
and are passionate about your  
community.  
We need you!**

Come along to a council meeting or call one of your councillors to find out what is involved.

Or contact the Clerk on [clerk@northmundham.org](mailto:clerk@northmundham.org) or call 01243 203050 to obtain an application form. North Mundham Parish Council propose to fill this vacancy at it meeting on 5th May. Closing date for submission application form 23rd April 2020

## Useful Contacts:



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NHS 11 can help if you have an urgent medical problem or you are not sure what to do T: 111 or 111.nhs.uk



**Sussex Police**

101 is the number to call when you want to contact your local police when it is not urgent.

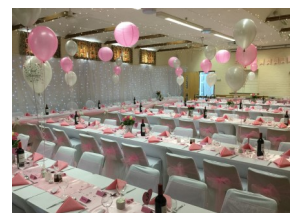
## NORTH MUNDHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

**Having a family celebration?  
North Mundham Village Centre is an ideal venue.**



**We have available for your use:**

- **Projectors & Screen**
- **Hand held and radio microphones**
- **Blu-ray Player and surround sound**
- **Portable stage**
- **Commercial kitchen**
- **Large car park**



**[email nmvh.bookings@northmundham.org](mailto:nmvh.bookings@northmundham.org)**

### Ditches and Culverts



We live in a flat parish, and getting rid of surface water is an obvious problem –there are not many gradients to help it run away. People often assume that it is ‘the Council’ who look after the ditches and culverts,

particularly the ones that run beside the road. But this is not the case. West Sussex County Council – the Highways Authority – only look after the drains and culverts that run under the road. In nearly every case, the Highways Authority’s ownership only extends to the edge of the road. The ditches at the side of the road are the responsibility of the landowner. So if there is a ditch that runs along the front of your property, or if a previous owner got permission to lay a pip and fill in the ditch, or there is a culvert under your driveway – in all these cases it is your responsibility to keep them clear.

### North Mundham Village Hall

As you can imagine it causes a lot of confusion to users of the different rooms being billed by two different organisations. That is to say nothing about the financial implications, with both buildings having to operate under different sets of governing guidelines. Some costs have to be shared between the two different organisations, and some have to be separate, such as insurance policies, and contracts for the caretaker, booking hall secretary and cleaning, etc.

Currently the two organisations are looking at the possibility of both buildings being run by one organisation. The Parish Council has taken legal advice on relinquishing the lease and thereby “giving up” the village hall to be run by the Playing Field Trust. The Parish Council will not take this decision lightly and will continue to investigate all the advantages and disadvantages prior to any decision being made.

As this is such an important decision that will affect the parish in the future, we will be seeking your views at the meeting of electors on 5th March 2020

#### Meeting Schedule:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Planning Committee & Employment Committee   | 7th April     |
| Planning Committee & Annual General Meeting | 5th May       |
| Planning Committee                          | 2nd June      |
| Planning Committee & Full Council           | 7th July      |
| Planning Committee & Full Council           | 1st September |
| Planning Committee                          | 6th October   |
| Planning Committee & Full Council           | 3rd November  |
| Planning Committee                          | 1st December  |

Planning Committee Meetings will commence at 19.00 at North Mundham Village Hall unless advertised to the contrary.

Full Council will commence at 19.30 or immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

### Your Parish Council

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#### VACANCY

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## Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/northmundhamparishcouncil/>

We are trying to set up an email service to keep you abreast of council matters. If you haven’t done so already, give us your email address by visiting <http://eepurl.com/gIUH5j> we will not share your contact details and we will not bombard your inbox.