

# North Mundham Parish Council

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The rain in recent weeks has really tested the drainage network that is so important in a flat landscape like ours. Thanks are due to all those local volunteers who have helped to make sure drains and culverts are kept clear and free of litter. You will of course have noticed the flooding in North Mundham. I am pleased to say that, with local help, a problem has been identified where a ditch has been filled in without proper authorisation. The District Council's Water Management Engineer has written to the land owner asking them to reinstate the watercourse, which we hope will happen soon without recourse to the County Council taking action for a breach of the Land Drainage Act.

Meanwhile, if there is a flooding problem again, it is important that the responsible organisations get to know about it, and I thought it might be useful to share some of the contact numbers.

For road flooding, where the gullies are not draining the water, the organisation to contact is West Sussex County Council Highways on 01243 642105. This is the number to call for any emergency road problems, such as manhole collapse, fallen trees and road signs, and flooding.

For a sewage problem, such as blocked drains or pollution, the responsible body is Southern Water on 0330 303 0368. If there is a risk of sewage contamination you should also call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

The Ramblers' Association has recently alerted us to a campaign they are running called 'Don't Lose Your Way'. They want to identify any lost rights of way, which were shown on old maps as footpaths but which are not currently recognised as a public right of way. The particular difficulty is that, until the 1960s, Ordnance survey maps used to mark footpaths, but with a note that the existence of a footpath on the map did not necessarily mean that it was public. If you know of any paths that you believe are lost rights of way please let me or the Clerk know.

One of the important things the Parish Council does at this time of year is set a budget for the coming year. We have been able to make a small reduction for next year. The effect will be to reduce the Parish Precept part of your Council Tax by just over 3%, so that the Parish element for a Band D property will be £63.75.

Once a year, the Parish Council calls a Meeting of Electors, which is the Council's opportunity to tell you what we have been doing in the past year, and for you to ask questions. This year the meeting is due on Tuesday, 9 March. Normally we would hold the event in the village hall, but it would be foolish to plan for that this year, and we will hold a meeting on-line. To keep the meeting short we will not have a guest speaker, but limit the meeting to the Council's report and answering your questions. Please visit the Parish Council's website nearer the time to see the agenda and the link to join the meeting. Tim Russell, Chairman. 01243 781052. [t.russell@northmundham.org](mailto:t.russell@northmundham.org)

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