

The Resident – South Milford Parish Council update – October 2025

An autumnal greeting from the Parish Councillors. With this being the last publication before Christmas, we would like to offer our best wishes for the festive season. We hope you have an enjoyable and peaceful end to 2025 and would like to wish you a healthy and happy 2026. We also hope you enjoy the Christmas lights on Low Street this year, with many more lights on display than last year due to generous local sponsorship.

Planning application

You may be aware of the recent planning application for 180 homes on the land between Lund Sike Lane and the Southlands estate. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in November. The time, date and location will be published nearer the day but as usual everyone is welcome to attend.

Public Rights of Way

We are aware of issues relating to some public rights of way in the village. Recently, the footpath between Mill Lane and Well Lane was closed by North Yorkshire Council due to access and safety issues - the legal route of the path goes through dwellings / gardens (and has been unpassable for many years) and recently the footbridge over the stream has been deemed unsafe. There is no information as to when this may be resolved but we are engaging with the relevant Council Officer. With regards the path from Grove Crescent to Old Quarry Lane, we continue to encourage residents to use the permissive path around the edge of the field (as opposed to the legal route through the middle of the field) and are in contact with the farmer to ensure this alternative route is maintained.

Light Valley Solar

For those not aware, Light Valley Solar are proposing to build a very large scale solar power development, stretching east from South Milford, past Monk Fryston, Hambleton and beyond. The type of development, and the large scale nature of it, are different to most solar farms you will have seen in the UK to date - so you may wish to familiarise yourself with the proposals if you haven't already.

The latest news in relation to the proposals is that Light Valley Solar are currently conducting a targeted consultation following some amendments to the original proposal. This round of targeted consultation will take place between 16 October and 20 November.

During this time, you have the opportunity to comment on the 40 specific changes to the proposed development, which relate to: - access points; visibility splays; passing places; abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) access; cable routes and permissive paths.

We would like to encourage everyone to review the proposals and have your say. All information regarding the proposal and the recent changes, and how to provide feedback, is on the website www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk.

We would like to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to provide feedback to us, so please let us know your views by contacting us via www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk or email our clerk at annrowling@gmail.com

South Milford Memorial Park and Playing fields

We continue to support the volunteers on the Park Committee and would like to thank them for the work they do.

Sadly, there has been some further damage committed in the park and one of the sets of goal posts were pulled loose from the footings and snapped. It may not be possible to reset them due to the cost but the committee are seeking your views about this, so please feel free to comment on their Facebook page.

On the brighter side, a park clear-up day took place on Sunday 5 October and we would like to thank all those involved. I am sure the regular users will have noticed the difference around the junior play area. The committee is always seeking funding opportunities to improve the facilities, and it is hoped that one piece of equipment in the junior playground will be replaced in the near future, using funds secured from various sources.

To raise funds, the Park committee is busy organising this year's 'Carols for the Park' event. This is a 'free', festive singalong for everyone.

This year, the 'Carols for the Park' event will be held in St Mary's Church in South Milford, between 4pm-6pm on Sunday 14 December. The park committee would like to thank the church for offering the church building and the church hall for this event.

In previous years, we have held the event in the park but have had to change the venue at short notice due to bad weather - hence the move indoors. This year, we are very pleased to announce that the singalong will be led by Liz Welburn (Singtasia), supported by members of Garforth Community Choir. They would like to extend a very warm festive welcome to everyone.

Please note that there will be limited seating available in the Church due to the Christmas Tree Festival, so most of those attending will be standing. As the park is a local charity, we will be collecting donations during the event and in exchange will be offering festive refreshments in the Church Hall. Proceeds will go towards the general upkeep of the park.

Funding provided

Below are a number of things the Parish Council has provided funding for during the past 12 months. If you are a local community group and require specific funding, please free feel to contact us, noting that we are spending public money and so all requests have to be carefully considered and meet certain criteria.

- A very significant contribution towards the 'slow the flow' bund near Steeton Hall, which will reduce flood risk along High Street and worked a treat during the recent heavy rain.
- Contributions towards the Sherburn Visitors Scheme and Sherburn Library (which we aim to make annually) which are used by some residents in our parish.
- We have offered a contribution to South Milford Primary School Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) to help fund the construction of a shed at school to safely store pre-loved uniform (which the PTA pass on to new owners in exchange for small donations) and other resources which they need to run fundraising events.