

South Milford Parish Council Update – July 2025

The Parish Councillors wish you all well and hope you have been enjoying the good weather. We use this opportunity to give you an update in relation to the village and we are always interested in your views. There are bi-monthly Parish Council meetings held at Grove House – these are advertised on our noticeboards, Facebook page and webpage, and you can message us through our webpage www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk

South Milford Memorial Park and Playing Field (High Street)

As a Parish Council we were glad to support the Viking Fest mentioned in the last update. Thank you to the volunteers on the park committee for organising the event which took place on 10 May. The event had a great community feel and was well attended. The Viking group put on a great show with educational stalls, storytelling and displays of fighting (despite the really hot weather). The event raised around £500 for the park charity. The park committee are looking at the possibility of the Vikings returning in 2026.

Unfortunately, there has been some anti-social behaviour in the park over the last few weeks, including criminal damage to a newly sited water pump and also to a memorial bench. This has been reported to the Police. It's sad that a place used and enjoyed by so many within our community is targeted in this way. Please be vigilant and act on any anti-social behaviour you see in the park, either by confronting this if you are able and/or reporting it to the police on 101.

South Milford Community Allotments

The official opening of South Milford community allotments was held on Sunday the 6th of July. Many years ago, Mr Arthur Cawood (a local farmer), gifted oak tree field to the Parish Council to be used for recreational and leisure. It was a football pitch for some time, until it was deemed to be too far from the village, so stood dormant for several years and used only for grazing.

Three years ago, the Parish Council decided to convert the field to allotments, a much needed addition to the village life. Parish Councillor, Glenis Shaw was tasked with organising this new facility. Now there are 43 plots fully occupied, along with a log cabin, self-composting toilets and an orchard courtesy of a National Lottery grant.

The opening ceremony was conducted by Andrew Cawood, a descendent of the original benefactor. At the opening event allotmenters, family and friends enjoyed pizzas and a celebration cake. A treasure hunt was held for the children and a surprise visit of a beautiful well-behaved shire horse brought a great deal of excitement to all.

These allotments have brought together an amazing, diverse community who grow, chat and offer advice on plants, to both new and established gardeners.

Highways

Parish Councillors joined a North Yorkshire Council Highways Officer to discuss a number of issues raised by the residents – these include:

- The corner of Sand Lane / Low Street where there is a blocked drain, caused by the collection of water/mud due to the dropped curb being below the drain. This was causing a quantity of thick sludge to build up and was a potential danger for pedestrians. Since the meeting, the drains have been cleared, which will hopefully ease the issue. In addition, there was agreement that further work was needed in relation to the kerb and we are currently awaiting an update.
- Road safety on the A63 dual carriageway section, where we have received reports of cars travelling in the wrong direction along the old A1. It was decided that new signs need to be placed near to the junction of Westfield Lane and the A63 (Old A1), to reduce this risk.
- Opposite The Swan on Low Street, a tree has been growing from the beck through a wall, partially blocking the pavement and possibly increasing the flood risk. It was agreed this would be removed. As yet, there is no date for this work.

The Parish Council will monitor the progress regarding all outstanding work.

Footpath usage

We would like to remind footpath users that:

- Dogs must be kept on a lead when using public footpaths across farmland and owners must pick up dog poo.
- Under the Countryside Code and Highways Act 1980 (Section 137), allowing dogs to stray off the marked path and into crops or across land may cause damage, pose risks to livestock, and may be classed as trespass.
- Landowners are legally required to maintain the footpath surface and keep it clear of obstructions.

If residents have any issues with footpaths, please let us know, as we aim to maintain positive relationships with landowners and can work with them to remediate any issues.

Our aim is to ensure access remains safe, respectful, and responsible for all.

Light Valley Solar

The Parish Council are aware of the proposal to build a large solar farm to the east of the village, in fields between the A63 Selby Road and Common Lane, South Milford. The 2,500-acre development covers a number of villages including Escrick, Hambleton, Monk Fryston, Chapel

Haddlesey and South Milford. The site has been selected due to its proximity to the Monk Fryston substation, the availability of suitable land and its accessibility. For more information see www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk

A number of Community Information events are being held by the developers in some of the affected villages and Phase 2 of the statutory consultation is ongoing, with a deadline of 7 August for responses. The Parish Council will discuss this proposal at its 22 July meeting and have liaised with all those that have registered their concerns regarding this proposal.

Let us know your views via the contact us section on our website

www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk