

## **The Resident – South Milford Parish Council News - January 2024**

Hello, as I am writing this the thermometer reads minus five degrees, some of the coldest weather we have had so far this year. Therefore, it's a good time to remind residents about the grit bins we have available for you to use on the paths around your homes. Please be helpful and do those for any neighbours who may not be able to do for themselves.

For your information in our parish North Yorkshire County Council only grit main roads (see [www.northyorks.gov.uk/road-gritting](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/road-gritting) for gritting routes), meaning that the majority of roads in our Parish and all pavements will not be treated by the authorities.

However, the Parish Council has funded a significant number of grit bins throughout the Parish, available for residents' use. A map showing the location of the grit bins in South Milford is available at the village amenities section of our website [www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk), and there are also a few bins in Lumby. If you go to use the bins and they are nearly empty please get in touch with us via our Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SouthMilfordPC](http://www.facebook.com/SouthMilfordPC)) or via our website.

These freezing conditions were preceded by some of the heaviest rains we have seen in a long time with the area receiving an amber flood warning. The council would like to thank the SMAF volunteers who work so hard on flood prevention measures and culvert cleaning to keep us all safe. The Parish Council will be continuing to work closely with SMAF on further prevention measures in 2024, including providing significant funding towards the 'slow the flow' bund near Steeton Hall (see below). If you have a spare few hours and can help the SMAF team please contact them here [www.facebook.com/smafflooddefence](http://www.facebook.com/smafflooddefence).

At this time of year we have to set our precept for the coming financial year - the precept is the Parish Council's only material source of income and comes from residents through a very small component of your Council Tax bill. For 2024/25 there will be a 15% increase in this component of your Council Tax bill - this increase is about half inflationary and half to allow Parish Council to provide a large contribution towards SMAF's 'slow the flow' bund near Steeton Hall. This increase will be a maximum of £7.67 for the full year, and much less for most properties. Also the expectation is that this one-off amount would be excluded from the precept in future years, leading to a possible reduction in precept in 2025/6 (subject to inflationary pressures and any other funding needs at the time).

In our last article we announced the 'Vote for your favourite Xmas lights' campaign as a way to manage our costs. Many thanks to all that have voted, results will be shared on our website and Facebook page soon. And remember there is still the opportunity for businesses and individuals to sponsor a light (£160 per year) to enable us to retain as many lights as possible.

Towards the end of 2023 our council volunteers planted sets of wild bulbs and wild flower seeds in certain locations around the village. We look forward to hopefully seeing these pop up as the first signs of spring. For those of you walking the footpath from Old Quarry Lane in Lumby and to Grove Crescent in South Milford, a reminder to use the footpath around the field than the original route across the field. Please keep warm and safe and keep an eye on anyone who might be vulnerable in winter.

Finally, we've recently lost two parish councillors who have moved out of the locality. If anyone would like to join us and become a parish councillor we'd love to see you and/or hear from you - please contact us via our Facebook or via our website.