



## South Milford Parish Council Annual Report 2015/16

Working together with Selby District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Environment Agency and others

### **Chair's Report:** Richard Coy

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural Parish Council newsletter with my first, and last, Chair's report – it is with great sadness that after three years I will be stepping down as Chair of South Milford Parish Council at May's Annual meeting. It has been a genuine honour to represent the villages of South Milford and Lumby over this period but now feels like an appropriate time to hand over the baton to another Councillor, to take the villages and the Parish Council to the next level.

At February's meeting we signed off a very exiting budget which ring-fences significant monies for capital projects which we hope residents will see delivered over the coming year. It is also worth noting that this has been possible without an increase to the amount you pay to the Parish Council through your council tax bill.

We are always very conscious that much of our work is silent and deals with non-tangible items such as planning. However, over the past year the Parish Council has been proud to support residents' objections to inappropriate development proposals within our Parish and following nail biting planning committee sessions we have been successful in convincing District Councillors to refuse those applications. We still have some immediate challenges with the proposals near the China Palace and on Whitecote Lane, together with monitoring the emerging strategies from the District Council (which will set the number of homes required in the village for the next plan period).

My fellow Councillors have set out below some of the key activities that we have delivered over this past year but my personal highlight was the turning on of the Christmas lights, which is covered separately in this newsletter.

We have recently seen an increase in Councillor numbers but I cannot stress enough that the services the Parish Council delivers are brought to you by volunteers. In addition the great work and events delivered by groups such as the Playing Fields and Flooding committees are also the work of dedicated volunteers trying to make the village an enjoyable place to live. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated their time and effort to South Milford & Lumby, as well as those who have supported me whilst I have been in the Chair.

We are keen to boost Councillor numbers further, so if you are interested and would like to hear more, please contact our Clerk (contact details overleaf). Here's to a great 2016/17.

### **Financial Report:** Ann Rowling

During the last financial year the Parish Council has been proud to provide monetary support to various groups, events and activities. This year's donations have been given to: the Primary School poster competition, the Brownies, the Flooding Committee, Christmas decorations for Grove House, Macmillan Cancer Support and street decorations for the Tour De Yorkshire.

In addition we have acquired the red telephone box near The Swan which will hopefully house the new Defibrillator we have purchased to service the residents of our Parish. We also covered the cost of Class Dynamix who helped the school children write the song which was performed at the successful Christmas Lights "Switch On" event. Finally we also funded the purchase of 30 new trees which have been planted around the Parish.

### **Planning:** Julian Donnelly

As Richard mentioned in his Chair's report, we have successfully dealt with a number of contentious planning applications during the past year. Looking forward, we are starting to feel the impact of major developments in Sherburn and over the next year Selby District Council will be consulting on where the next batch of large housing sites will be. It is highly likely that South Milford will have to accept some allocation of new homes, but please be assured that the Parish Council, with your support, will work to ensure these allocations are in the most appropriate places.

### **Christmas Lights:** Virginia Sibley

For many years the 'Village People' have done a superb job in putting up the village Christmas lights, and in recent years the Parish Council has supported this with funding. Three years ago I took over the Parish Council responsibility for the allocation of funds for the lights and worked with Howard Rhodes and Andy Smith to develop not only the quality of the lights but also to host a "Switch On" event.

South Milford Primary School's Year 5 and 6 pupils are involved with designing the lights and every year we select the three best designs and 'Leeds Lights' turn these designs into actual lights. The winning designers receive a gift token in recognition of their work and are invited to switch on their own lights. In 2015 the pupils surpassed themselves by working with Class Dynamix to produce a song called "Turn on the Lights" and performed this at The Swan on "Switch On" day.



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I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only Andy and Howard for all their hard work, but 'Leeds Lights' and our sponsors over the years:

Mend-a-Hose; Signifik; AMK; Cumin Lounge; D and R; British Legion; Lumby Garden Centre and of course Jim Slater at The Swan for hosting the "Switch On" event.

Of course we welcome anyone else who may wish to sponsor the lights and "Switch On" event in the future.

### **Open Spaces:** Alix Sidall

A lot has been going on with open spaces over the last year. We have set up a new grass-cutting contract in collaboration with Sherburn and Church Fenton Parish Councils. The grass-cutting was previously managed by a number of different parties but we are now working together to make sure that any grass-cutting within our villages is done to the best standard, whilst still making some meaningful cost savings.

The Playing Fields committee is a group of enthusiastic volunteers from the village who do all they can to keep the Memorial playing field in good shape. They organise and run a number of events throughout the year to raise money for repairs and maintenance, as well as holding various community tidy-up days in the park. On the 18<sup>th</sup> July, they held the most successful "Party in the Park" event yet. Having sadly lost money the previous year, due to bad weather, they more than made up for it in 2015 and the money raised has all gone back into the park to cover maintenance and repairs.

It has been good to see the park being used by a number of new people and the free weekly circuits class (10am Sunday morning) has been very popular. Later this year look out for the annual "Pumpkin in the Park" and "Carols in the Park" events. For more details, please follow the park's Facebook page or keep an eye out on the park notice board.

Due to a change in the structure of the Playing Fields committee, they have taken the decision not to hold a "Party in the Park" event in 2016. However, the committee continues to ask for new volunteers and hopes to be able to hold another similar event in the future.

### **Community:** Phil Underdown

The Parish Council have been linking in with South Milford Primary School to help promote community values and encourage our young people to take an active interest in the village. Projects such as Show Racism the Red Card, which teaches about respect and anti-bullying, have been a great

success. This culminated in the Christmas lights "Switch On" event where the pupils performed their own amazing song, "Turn on the Lights".

As mentioned in the financial report, the Parish Council have purchased a Defibrillator for use in emergencies within the village. The old red phone box situated at the Swan will house the unit and the required community training will commence in the summer.

### **Selby District Rail Users Group (SADRUG)** Arthur Cawood

The primary issue in early 2015 was meetings with various bidders for the Transpennine Express and Northern Rail Franchises, due for renewal from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. At the meetings SADRUG stressed the need for improved services through South Milford, together with better facilities at the station. The successful bidders were Arriva Rail North and First Transpennine and SADRUG intends to work closely with these companies to achieve improves to local train services.

In January 2015 complaints were received concerning penalty notices placed on cars parked outside the white lines at South Milford station. At a subsequent site meeting with Peter Myers of Northern Rail, SADRUG successfully argued for the parking patrols to be withdrawn. Recently customer information screens have been installed at the station.

Finance should shortly be available for further enhancements to station facilities. SADRUG will be pressing for superior waiting shelters, provision of CCTV, repositioning of disabled parking spaces and a larger car park. Interestingly, in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, South Milford station had the biggest increase in footfall in the whole district, in spite of the shortage of parking spaces.

Finally I would like to thank South Milford Parish Council for enabling me to be their representative of SADRUG.

### **Useful Numbers:** Ann Rowling

Parish Clerk: 01977 681517

Selby District Council: 01757 705101

NYCC Street Lighting: 08458727374

NYCC: 08452411307

Dog Warden: [karmstrong@selby.gov.uk](mailto:karmstrong@selby.gov.uk)

Roads and footpaths either: 01609536008 or

[Area7.selby@northyorks.gov](mailto:Area7.selby@northyorks.gov) 01609535079

Street Cleaning and fly tipping: 01757 705101

[cleanstreets@selby.gov.uk](mailto:cleanstreets@selby.gov.uk)