

South Milford Parish Council Monthly Ordinary Meeting Parish Councils Act, 1894

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of South Milford Parish Council at Grove House, Grove Crescent, South Milford 7.30pm on 22nd July 2025

1. Apologies – Cllr McAleese and Clerk A Rowling

The Chair welcomed the 21 residents, largely present for the Light Valley Solar proposal.

2. Declarations of Disclosure Pecuniary and Other Interests

In relation to the funding bid from South Milford Primary School's PTA, Cllr Gore noted his daughter attends the school and his wife helps with some PTA events (but is not on the PTA).

3. To approve Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th May 2025

Proposed Cllr Gore, seconded Cllr G Carter, all agree.

4. Items for consideration and discussion - with proposals and votes where relevant

- **Light Valley Solar - proposed solar farm**
 - Updates from Parish Council representatives
 - Gather main views from residents
 - Agree Parish Council actions

Cllrs C Carter and C Parkin gave updates on the phase 2 consultation and their research and investigations to date. So far, the Parish Council has received 23 emails, which include 21 objections. We have received no communication from the farmers who own the land, but we understand that certain farmers have signed 3-4 year option agreements, such that if the proposals get planning approval, the farmers would sign long term leases to allow Light Valley Solar to use their land.

The Chair invited thoughts and views from residents - many useful points were raised, which will help the Parish Council respond to the consultation and the likely subsequent planning application. Cllr Grogan informed residents that they should respond to the consultation individually and personally, copying in the Parish Council for information.

It was agreed that The Parish Council will respond to the consultation, but only with brief comments, highlighting: the lack of meaningful consultation, the cumulative infrastructure burden on the area and the loss of farmland and countryside. We expect to provide more detailed comments at the formal planning application stage.

It was noted that the deadline for providing feedback on the consultation is 8 August. Formal planning application expected in early 2026, and given this is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), it will not go through North Yorkshire Council, it will be dealt with by the government's planning inspectorate. The Parish Council will hold another open meeting before it responds to the formal planning application.

- **Funding requests**
 - **Sherburn & Villages Community Library** – approve the yearly request for donation - £777.00 – **proposed Cllr Grogan, seconded Cllr Gore, all agreed.**

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- **South Milford Primary School** - contribution towards year 6 leavers party - £10 per child - **Proposed Cllr Grogan, seconded Cllr Gore, all agreed.**
- **South Milford Primary School (PTA)** - funding for replacement shed for second hand uniform and other PTA resources - The Parish Council were keen to support this initiative, and a few years ago had previously agreed to provide funding for a uniform shed, which never went ahead. However, it was agreed that before a decision is made, more information is needed about the total project costs, the exact funding request for the Parish Council and the PTA's finances. Clerk to request this from the PTA.
- **Highways / footpath updates**
 - **Footpath Grove Crescent to Old Quarry Lane** - The Parish Council confirmed its previous documented position, that it supported the use of the permissive path around the edge of the field, and encourages users to walk this route not the legal public right of way across the middle of the field. The Parish Council is aware of the risks of this approach (noting the permissive route could be withdrawn at any time), but it was a trusting relationship with the landowner and is keen to maintain this.
 - **Footpath Well Lane to Mill Lane** – Cllr G Carter to liaise with North Yorkshire Council about the unsafe bridge on this route and the longstanding issue that the legal route of the public right of way runs through private gardens and properties, noting that the regularly route used by walkers is along a private drive which is not a public right of way.
 - **Impact of building works on the Memorial Cross site on London Road** - Cllr C Carter to investigate further and report back to the next meeting
 - **Adoption of roads in the Southlands estate** – Cllr G Carter is waiting to hear back from North Yorkshire Council and will report back to the next meeting.
- **Park**
 - **Raised rubber flooring in toddler area** - This is a trip hazard, although given the surfaces around it and users of this area, the risk of serious injury is deemed low. Quotes to repair the rubber flooring are around £7.5k. Park committee to consider again once this year's ROSPA report is done in autumn.
 - **Goalposts** - Goalposts are loose and need resetting - £350 quotation received from Liam - Parish Council to fund the repair. **Proposed Cllr C Carter, seconded Cllr Grogan, all agreed.**
- **Parish Council notice boards** - Cllr C Carter is kindly renovating the noticeboards – Parish Council agreed to cover any small costs incurred in respect of this work.
- **Christmas lights**
 - **Lamppost repairs** - £255 plus VAT quoted by Leeds Lights to carry out the repairs, Parish Council to fund this - proposed Cllr Grogan, seconded Cllr C Carter, all agreed. Clerk to inform Leeds Lights to go ahead.
 - **Sponsorship** - Dewi Thomas has very kindly offered to sponsor 12 Christmas lights this year and he will look to seek other companies to do the same for following years. This means that we can put up all the lights we own. The Parish Council expressed our sincere thanks to Dewi for his sponsorship.

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- **Allotments** – official opening Sunday 6 July was very successful and a piece about this will be in The Resident.
- **Neglected land** – complaints from residents regarding the area of land at the junction of the B1222 and the south bound entrance to the old A1 (raised by Newthorpe Parish Council but within our Parish boundary) – The Chair of Newthorpe PC, he has now emailed North Yorkshire Council 5 times and received no reply - he will report them to the ombudsman. Cllr Grogan informed the Parish Council that he believes Planning Enforcement are awaiting a reply from the landowner.

5. Planning – This should include a brief list of all planning applications to be discussed.

Cllrs to briefly outline the application and note any comments regarding the following applications:

ZG2025/0171/CPE

Certificate of Lawful use or Development

Stone House, Old Quarry Lane, Lumby – No comments

ZG2025/0584/FUL

Erection of single storey side extension Ridings Equine Vets

Fields Farm, Butts Lane, Lumby – No comments

Granted

ZG2025/0219/HPA

Widening of access and drop kerb

Quarry Bank House, Old Quarry Lane, Lumby.

Refused

ZG2024/1058/HPA

Erection of a two storey and single storey extension to rear, first floor extension to front and new roof gable to the front.

Stone House, Old Quarry Lane, Lumby

6. Finance - To consider and approve forthcoming payments to be made:

- Clerk stipend, HMRC paye
- Shed Grounds Maintenance – £1,424.34 (total of 3 invoices)
- Sherburn & Village Community Trust - donation £777.00
- Creative Shed - May issue of The Resident - £144.00

Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Parkin, all agreed.

Remittance - NYC – Community Infrastructure Levy received (in respect of 16 Low Street development) - £2703.30

7. Communications and Correspondence

Various correspondence from residents – Clerk/Chair to summarise and confirm replies have been sent where needed:

- NYC – North Yorkshire Local Plan: our first conversation – consultation period expires 15th July 25

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- Emails from residents – registering their concerns and objections to Light Solar Valley proposal.
- Email received from resident about the blocking of a right of way on Whin Lane (off Westfield Lane, before flyover) - clerk emailed back, this is temporary whilst Yorkshire Green works are done.
- Email from resident – info re Stopping up order dated 16th June 2025 – Turpin Lane, South Milford
- Email received from resident re litter bin versus dog waste bin in Lumby
- Light Valley Solar – Launch of the Phase two consultation
- NYC – Gary Lumb response regarding poor state of footpath from Cumin Lounge to High Street - reply passed onto the resident who complained.
- Date change – NYC – planned road restriction notification – Westfield Lane – National Grid Works – new dates 11th August to 14th September 2025.

8. Date of next meeting September 2025