

## Update from the Parish Council – June 2022

Parish and district/county council elections were held in May. The Parish Council election was non-contested, with 3 parish councillors standing down and 2 joining. Many thanks to Rita de Faria Dean, Julian Donnelly and George Houston for their input as councillors, and a warm welcome to the new faces Cherry Waters and Ian McAleese. County council elections were held, to elect representatives for the new North Yorkshire Council, and Tim Grogan (our current SDC representative) was elected to represent the area that includes our parish.

All parish residents should have received a hard copy of our 2022 newsletter (also available on our website) which highlighted several key points for residents to consider / be aware of:

- **The Old Quarry** – Funds are available to make subtle improvements to the area under the trees off Westfield Lane. The exact improvements will be decided shortly, after reflecting on residents' feedback, with the improvement works hopefully carried out later this year.
- **Improving the Park** – New adventure play equipment has recently been purchased with aid of a Caird Peckfield grant. Consideration is also been given to improving the uncultivated land near the MUGA (as a minimum making this tidier and more accessible), potentially introducing a sensory garden and most recently looking into whether SDC grants may be available for new play equipment in the main playground. We thank the Park Committee for their support in running and improving the park, and also for arranging the fantastic open-air theatre show on 25 June which was a great community event.
- **Vacant land on Common Lane** – A piece of unused land on Common Lane (which is not owned by any known person) is currently fenced off by a private individual who is trying to claim ownership of it via adverse possession. However, the council would really like to use it for the good of the community and asks for residents' support in this matter, noting that we are currently taking advice on what options we have available to us.
- **Highways** – The council are considering which specific stretches of road would benefit from having a 20 mph speed limit, and would welcome residents' views on this. Once the stretches of road are agreed, will we raise this with NYCC highways department, who will consider our proposals.

In other news:

- **Wild flower verges** – The council are keen to encourage ecological progress and are considering planting wild flowers on some verges. Updates on where and when will follow in subsequent updates.
- **'Incredible edible'** – The council are massively supportive of this initiative, and were pleased to see the latest amazing planter go up near Grove House (it is well worth a visit). Residents can assist in the watering and sample the delicious produce grown in all the planters situated around the village.
- **Grove House** – The council are liaising with SDC to try and allow more access to the building (and facilities inside), to those residents that would benefit from this.
- **Allotments** – The council are keen to try and find/source land which could be turned into a new village allotment site. One option currently being investigated is the old football field (which is owned by the Parish Council) – this is out of the village on Turpin Lane, accessed by turning right after going over the second railway bridge on Common Lane – further updates will follow once feasibility work is complete.
- **Football in the village** – The council are aware that due to governance and relationship issues, the football field off Mill Lane (which is leased by the Parish Council to Swan Croft Sport Association), is currently under used – with no senior teams and few junior teams playing on the pitch. The council have held meetings with Swan Croft (and representatives from the football teams), added two councillors

to the Swan Croft committee, and are working hard to address the issue of football being played in the village.

- **Funding** – The council was delighted to provide funding towards the South Milford Primary School Year 6 leavers party and have also recently provided our annual contribution towards the Sherburn Community Trust library.

With the weather improving let's hope we can all enjoy our village free from restrictions and all have an amazing summer.

Our next meeting is at 7:30pm at Grove House, on 19 July 2022. Please see our website for the agenda and lots of other useful information and updates.

[www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk)