

South Milford Parish Council update - October 2023

Footpath route

At our July meeting we welcomed Mr Batty to talk about footpaths. Mr Batty farms the land between Lumby and South Milford where a footpath runs between Old Quarry Lane and Grove Crescent. The route of the original footpath went diagonally across a large field and has been well-used for many years. This route was originally between two separate fields. With the two fields combined into one large field many years ago, going across the fields was a challenging (and often muddy!) walking route and using this route was damaging to the crops (making it more challenging to farm the land). To assist with this and make things easier for all parties, Mr Batty has created a permissive route that goes around two sides of the field - this is a better route for the farmer and for walkers. There is a large financial expense involved in legally changing the original public right of way (PROW) to match the permissive route around the edge of the field. We are asking all those who use this path to be good citizens and support our local farmers by walking the permissible path route around the edge of the field,, rather than trying to walk the old PROW path across the middle of the field.

Grove House

We hold our Parish Council meetings at Grove House on Grove Crescent in South Milford. This facility is available to be used by local groups during the day or evening for meetings. Please get in touch with Ann Rowling our clerk (annrowling@gmail.com) or contact us via the Parish Council's website (www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk).

Allotments

We are very proud of the new allotment site that has been created this year. Demand has been very strong for the allotments with many of our residents taking up the offer, and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour next year. Thanks to Councillor Glenis Shaw for all her hard work in bringing this to life. Please get in touch with Glenis (07980 214130) if you would like to help out or join the list for an allotment in the future.

Christmas lights

The Parish Council funds our village's Christmas Lights. This year we have seen costs rising significantly for set-up and take-down, power, maintenance and storage. We know that the lights are valued by residents so they will be kept, however to manage our budgets we are planning to reduce the number of lights in future years (from 2024 onwards). To decide which lights will be kept we will be asking members of the parish to vote for their favourites during December whilst all lights are up - look out for this vote on our website and local social media. Separately, if any local businesses or individuals would like to sponsor a current light and allow our parish to have more lights from 2024 onwards, we would love to hear from you (the cost is £160 per year).

Lumby quarry planning application

As many of you are aware planning permission has been sought for a significant limestone quarry to be built near Lumby (on land between Lumby and the motorway). The council feels this has the potential to adversely affect our parish and we facilitated an open meeting in June

to share information about this. We are grateful to the Lumby residents who have formed a group organising action to challenge this application. We would suggest that interested residents ask to join the private Facebook group “Campaign Against Lumby Quarry” for more information, or contact us and we will put you in touch with the group. The application reference is NY/2022/0102/ENV and you can respond to this by email to planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk or by letter to Sam Till, Planning, Community Development, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AH.

Flooding

As I am writing this article, Storm Babet is causing chaos across our country. We are very fortunate to have a group, South Milford ~~Action~~ Against Flooding (SMAF), who are active in trying to prevent flooding in the village. Please follow their Facebook page “South Milford Flood Defence” for up to date information (or contact us and we will put you in touch with the group), including their fundraising efforts to build a ‘slow the flow bund’ near Steeton Hall. The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers related to the flood defence effort, including those who have given up their time to clear the waterways and help prevent flooding in the village.

Poppy displays

As we approach Remembrance day, you will see lots of lovely poppy displays around the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Ceri Loy and her team of volunteers for making this happen again this year.

We wish all our parishioners a happy and peaceful autumn.