

South Milford Parish Council Newsletter 2018

Working together with Selby District Council (SDC), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and others

Who we are?

The South Milford Parish Councillors are currently Chris Gore (chair), Julian Chance, Julian Donnelly, Rita de Faria Dean, David Gigg and Georgina Houston. We are supported by Ann Rowling as the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers. We work hard to make our parish a better place to live, work and play. This is not always an easy task, particularly since we have no direct powers and limited finances, and often require support from SDC and/or NYCC to affect action and change.

Chair's report: Chris Gore

I have been chair since May 2017 and I have recently been re-elected until May 2019.

It has been a busy 12 months for the Parish Council assisting with significant activity in the following areas:

- Supporting the Park Association with their work maintaining and improving the Park.
- Providing funding for various community groups and events
- Progress on various highways issues
- Considered responses to SDC on various 'high interest' planning applications
- Another successful year of village Christmas Lights, including a new venue for the switch on event
- Continued liaison with Sherburn Aero Club regarding overflying planes
- Considerations regarding the future use of a piece of land (on Turpin Lane outside South Milford) gifted to the Parish Council many years ago for use by the football club
- Lobbying various parties regarding the introduction of parking charges at the train station

More details on many of these areas, and other local issues, are included in this newsletter.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their efforts in the past 12 months, including Virginia Sibley, Kathryn Ward and Pete Wallis who have recently stepped down as councillors.

Finally, we are very lucky to have so many residents who help support and improve the parish in different ways, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all!

When and where do we meet?

Our meetings are held at Grove House, on Grove Crescent in South Milford. These are held most months and are often (but not always) on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Check out our website, Facebook page or notice boards for meeting details. Meetings are open to the public and you do not need to book ahead to attend, although only items on the agenda can be discussed. Please contact the Clerk in advance if you wish to add an item to an agenda.

Would you like to be involved?

The Parish Council currently has vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact our Parish Clerk (contact details below) and/or come along to a meeting to meet us and see what it is all about!

Another way of helping is becoming a resident supporter for an area that you are interested about. The most important areas that we work on are detailed in this newsletter. We are open to suggestions about other areas that can help improve the parish. If you'd like to help, please get in touch with us.

Financial report: Chris Gore

Outside of standard expenditure, which includes items such as grass cutting, tree maintenance, maintenance of the park, the Clerk's salary and insurance premiums, we have contributed funding towards the following during the past 12 months:

- A defibrillator for Lumby
- Facilities / equipment at community events – the village bonfire, the 70th Anniversary Park event and the Santa Dash
- New toys and materials for the South Milford Toddler Group
- Design of flood defence works, commissioned by South Milford Against Flooding (SMAF)
- Grove Crescent Christmas Party
- Sherburn visitors scheme
- Sherburn Community Library
- New Christmas lights and the switch on event
- Music workshops at the primary school
- Year 6 leavers party at the primary school
- Hi-vis vests for use by community volunteer groups

We have recently agreed a budget for the 2018/19 financial year. In addition to 'business as usual' items, it includes further funding for Christmas lights, community events, South Milford Against Flooding (SMAF), Sherburn Library and music workshops, together with funds to support gritting of the parish in advance of winter.

Similar to last year, our 2018/19 budget also includes an item to provide small donations to local community groups. If you are involved with such a group and have a specific funding need, please contact the council with your request for funding for our consideration.

How to contact us?

South Milford Parish Clerk (Ann Rowling)
01977 681517 or annrowling@gmail.com

Parish Council website www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk

Follow us and contact us via our Facebook page

SDC and NYCC contact details on back page

South Milford Park (Playing fields): Rita Faria Dean

This year was a bumper year for the South Milford Memorial Park & Playing Fields Association! Thanks to the hard work of the Park Association, and the support of residents, the Park has seen various events and its facilities have been much improved and updated. We have supported the Park Association as members and by contributing financially.

The Park had a new multi-use games area opened last summer and a multi-play unit installed in the toddler play area recently. Recently, the Park got a new trim trail path and a new gate, with new signage to follow shortly. This was mostly funded by WREN (a not for profit organisation who provide grants from the Landfill Communities Fund).

We celebrated the Park's 70th anniversary on 2 September 2017. The Park received 1,350 visitors that day and we all had a fantastic time at the party!

Other events have included: the annual clean-up, the Big Trim Trail Tart Up by the circuits team, Pumpkin in the Park, the Santa Dash and Carols in the Park. The monies raised at these events have helped boost Park funds, required for maintenance and updating/improving the park's facilities.

The Park has received funds/grants from the Bonfire event, Persimmon Homes, the Community Engagement Forum, Tesco and the Co-op. In total, the Park Association raised £10,825 this year!

The Park Association, and particularly Ceri Carter as chair, is to be congratulated for their amazing success in improving the Park. Well done the Park Association!

The Park Association is entirely run by volunteers and is looking for more volunteers to help. Volunteers are welcome on a regular or one-off basis to help with the inspections, clean-ups, events and with fundraising.

If you would like to help the South Milford Park, get in touch via the Park's Facebook page (search for South Milford Park).

Defibrillators: Julian Chance

We are pleased to announce that a defibrillator, funded by the council, has now been installed in Lumby. We would like to thank the electrician and trainer who have given their time and services for free to help get the Lumby defibrillator up and running. This adds to the defibrillator already located at Grove House in South Milford, and we understand that the sports club are looking into the possibility of installing one at the sports ground on Mill Lane.

Tree strategy group: Virginia Sibley

This group was formed following concerns from residents about NYCC's lack of communication regarding the felling of certain trees along Common Lane. We are currently writing a Tree Strategy for the Parish Council to consider adopting, based on the best practice followed by other Parish, District and County Councils. We also wish to identify trees that residents would be sorry to lose as an asset for the villages and consider how best to protect and maintain these. We welcome any residents who would wish to join us.

Highways: Kathryn Ward

Speeding traffic continues to be the main highways concern and is an ongoing issue. We are working with North Yorkshire Highways to address this. The following locations have been identified as speeding hot spots: Lund Sike Lane, Sand Lane, Milford Road / Low Street in South Milford, together with Butts Lane and Old Quarry Lane in Lumby.

North Yorkshire Highways has recommended Community Speed Watch as one option for addressing this issue. This initiative allows residents to be actively involved in addressing speed concerns, with the support of North Yorkshire Police and full training and equipment provided. If you are interested in volunteering to be part of a team in either South Milford or Lumby, please contact us. If there are sufficient numbers we will try set up a Community Speed Watch group later this year.

We are also seriously considering purchasing a mobile radar speed sign to be used in various locations across the parish to help reduce speeding.

Away from speeding, HGVs have caused problems and structural damage on Cass Lane Lumby. North Yorkshire Highways has agreed to erect new weight restriction signs on the A162 to address this. We have also successfully arranged the quick repair of various major potholes around the parish.

Finally, we have lobbied for double yellow lines to stop the parking at the junction of Sand Lane and Low Street, which has led to serious safety concerns. NYCC has agreed to this and we are currently waiting for this work to be carried out.

Fly tipping, litter and dog fouling: David Gigg

We would like to thank the litter picking group who work hard to keep our community tidy. Please get in touch if you would like to help with litter picking. We would also like to thank the vast majority of residents who always keep the parish tidy and clean up after themselves and/or their dogs.

We have added another litter bin to the parish this year, on Grove Crescent in South Milford. Please feel free to suggest to us other places that would benefit from a new litter bin.

Finally, we have sought to deter fly tipping in the area by erecting anti fly tipping signs at various hot spot locations. If you see any fly tipping in the local area, please report it to SDC – there is an automated form on their website (www.selby.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping-or-fly-posting) or you can call 01757 705101, or email cleanstreets@selby.gov.uk.

Footpath access update

The track which runs north from Ingsthorne Lane towards the Railway Cottages (between South Milford and Monk Fryston) was closed off earlier this year by the landowner(s). The closure was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2018. Information from NYCC clarified that the track, whilst it has been regularly used by residents for many years, is not a Public Right of Way. Therefore, the landowner(s) are entitled to close the access way. We kindly ask that all residents respect this.

Planning: Julian Donnelly

We are still awaiting to hear from SDC regarding where their next batch of large housing sites will be in the District, but anticipate that South Milford will have to accept an allocation of new homes. As advised previously, with residents' support, we will work to ensure these allocations are in the most appropriate places in the village.

We have no power to permit or refuse planning applications. That is the role of the SDC Planning Officers. Our role is to comment on the applications as representatives of the parish. The planning applications that have attracted the highest level of resident interest in the past 12 months have been:

- Children's day nursery on Butts Lane, Lumby – significant resident objections, Parish Council objected (largely due to road safety concerns) – application was refused by SDC
- Sand Lane stores conversion to fish and chip shop – differing views from residents, Parish Council did not object subject to sensible opening hours restrictions and sufficient parking – application was refused by SDC (on two separate occasions)
- Whitecote Lane housing development with doctors surgery (near Steeton Hall) – similar to previous application from 2015 which was ultimately withdrawn by the applicant, significant resident objections, Parish Council objected (on various grounds including road access) – currently outstanding with SDC

SDC's planning website is www.selby.gov.uk/planning. Here residents can comment on planning applications via the planning portal and obtain guidance on planning applications. The village design statement for the parish, which is useful to look at when considering a planning application, can be found at <https://www.selby.gov.uk/village-design-statements-vds>.

If you are thinking of making comments to SDC regarding planning applications, please consider attending the relevant Parish Council meeting (where the application is on the agenda) to air your views and obtain guidance from the council regarding your comments.

Grass cutting: Chris Gore

We contract out grass cutting around the parish and this has been running smoother in recent times. However, we appreciate that issues do still occur, and we work to resolve as quickly as possible.

SDC are responsible for cutting certain areas (including around Steincroft Road, Grove Crescent and the Harvesters estate) and the quality and frequency of their cuts would ideally be improved. We are looking into the possibility of including these areas under the Parish Council grass cutting contract to help address this situation.

On a related note, we appreciate that various footpaths around the parish were in need of cutting back earlier this summer. Where these are formal adopted Public Rights of Way, this is NYCC's responsibility. We understand that NYCC have recently carried out this maintenance on footpaths in our parish, so if you are aware of any that still require attention, please let us know.

Sherburn Aero Club: Virginia Sibley / David Gigg

Overflying by planes from Sherburn Aero Club has been brought up as a significant issue by some residents during the last 12 months, and before. We highlighted these concerns to Aero Club Liaison Group meeting last autumn and published a summary of the discussions as a blog on our website.

The club has set flight paths that pilots should adhere to – these do not directly fly over the villages and can be viewed on the Aero Club's website at www.sherburnaeroclub.com (under Airfield then Community). If the Club is made aware that pilots are breaching these set routes, with evidence to support this, they will take this up with the pilot(s).

Email – flightdesk@sherburnaeroclub.com

Phone number – 01977 682 674

Other than reporting planes clearly deviating from the set routes, there appears little that residents or the Parish Council can do about this issue – noting that none of the regulatory authorities (including the Civil Aviation Authority) appear to have any powers (and/or desires) to act in this area. We believe that we should seek to maintain a positive relationship with the Club, working with them in a fair and constructive way to manage this issue going forward.

Independent of the Parish Council, a group of residents have formed to report incidents of overflying to the Club. Please contact the Parish Council if you wish to join this group.

Christmas lights: Virginia Sibley

This year saw a change of venue from the Swan to the British Legion for the Christmas lights switch-on event. This was to enable us to accommodate the Year 6 class from South Milford School and their parents, especially if adverse weather conditions prevail. We thank Jim Slater from the Swan for his fabulous hospitality over the last few years.

Unfortunately this year also saw a big increase in the overall cost of the Christmas lights. To include insurance, maintenance, installation and storage of our lights, and allowing for purchasing new lights each year, overall annual costs have almost doubled. Unless we can get sponsorship for new lights, we may need to limit the number of new lights we purchase each year (currently three, traditionally designed by the primary school children). Please get in touch if you or your business would like to sponsor new light.

Odour update

Thank you to all residents who have complained to the Environment Agency (EA) about the foul odours around the parish. The EA has concluded that the foul odours have multiple sources, namely biodegradable waste treatment, industrial process and agricultural land spreading. It is working with the operators it regulates to ensure that they are operating in compliance with their Environmental permits and to minimise odours. However, the warm weather has been hampering their efforts. We have been in touch with the EA to communicate our concerns, and have invited the operators to engage with the Parish Council about the issue. Please continue to report the foul odours to the EA (stating postcode, type/intensity of the odour and time of the day) by calling 0800 807060 or emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

South Milford Against Flooding (SMAF): Ian Nicholls

SMAF was formed by affected residents after two floods in the village in 2014. There are many similar local flooding groups both locally and nationwide. They act as pressure groups for local preventative action and nationwide initiatives.

In the past year SMAF has concentrated on “slowing the flow” initiatives, designed to allow flood water to pass through at a slower rate and over a longer time. This approach has been very successful across the country in combating flooding.

The prime focus has been clearing the “Old Quarry” of vegetation. Whin Dike flows through the quarry at the junction of Whitecote Lane and Whin Lane (out of the village past Steeton Hall). The intention is to build a barrier (bund) at the eastern end of the quarry to slow the flow. The Parish Council has allocated future funds to help with the construction costs and plans are currently waiting for approval from the Environment Agency and SDC.

The Environment Agency is also funding a silt trap further upstream in Whin Dike, and this will act to slow the flow as well as reducing silt levels in the Dike.

Finally, SMAF would like to thank Get Park Fit’s Sunday morning fitness class, who on 3 June 2018 helped re-bag nearly 300 sand bags in church hall car park. These are now neatly stored and ready for use should the scenario arise.

Train stations and services: Rita Faria Dean

South Milford train station has direct trains to Leeds and Selby. The station in neighbouring Sherburn has direct trains to York and Hull.

The franchise holder Northern Rail has recently introduced car parking charges in South Milford’s station. We wrote to Northern Rail in protest several times, together with our MP Nigel Adams and the Selby District Rail Users Group. Unfortunately, we weren’t successful, and the car parking charges remain.

The franchise agreement signed between Northern Rail and the Government allows for car parking charges to be introduced at South Milford station (which out of interest is not the case at Garforth), meaning there was nothing we could do to prevent this decision.

Some commuters have started to park on Milford Road since the car parking charges were introduced. Car parking on the main road inconveniences residents and can be dangerous for traffic through South Milford. This was one of our arguments against the introduction of car parking charges.

In response to this, starting from 23 July, NYCC has introduced a prohibition order covering waiting, loading and parking on Milford Road for an experimental period of up to 18 months. NYCC have stated that the reasons for making this order were to avoid danger to persons and traffic and to facilitate better passage of traffic. Objections to the indefinite continuation of the order should be made to NYCC by emailing area7.selby@northyorks.gov.uk before 29 January 2019.

Northern Rail have promised improvements at South Milford station – ticket machines, CCTV and new lighting – before the end of 2019. Also, the new timetables introduced from 20 May 2018 include a new early train from South Milford to Leeds 06:01 and a later last train returning at 22:48.

Sherburn train station also has new timetables, with almost hourly trains. The first train to York is at 07:09 and the last train returning is at 22:46

Gritting: Julian Chance

During last winter there were a number of slippery mornings, and residents flagged the need for more grit bins and ideally a plan for spreading grit on pavements (a task previously carried out by a volunteer group called the Grit Squad).

It has been a while since grit bin locations around the parish have been reviewed. The village has grown and pedestrian traffic increased since the current bins were positioned. Therefore, in order to be prepared for winter 2018, we intend to conduct a full review of the grit bins, making sure they are in the best places, and identifying where additional bins are needed. If you have any thoughts on the siting of a grit bin, please contact us. This review, along with any new bins should be in place ready for next winter.

More grit bins is only part of the solution – we need a practical, cost efficient way of keeping the bins full of grit and a strategy for spreading the grit on the pavements when needed. If anyone has any thoughts about options in these two areas, please let us know. We are going to consider launching an “Adopt a Bin” scheme, where residents close to a bin will agree to help out and spread grit on icy days.

Community Engagement Forum: David Gigg

Community Engagement Forums (CEFs) are public meetings at which you can raise any concerns or make any comment about your local area and local services eg policing, street cleaning and road safety. Our parish falls under SDC’s Western Area CEF: www.selby.gov.uk/western-area-cef

The CEF receives an annual budget that it can distribute to local groups and organisations. Representatives from our Parish Council try to attend CEF meetings for information where possible.

Post office update

Following the recent closure of the Post Office at Sand Lane Stores, we have been in touch with the Post Office Ltd to understand of the options for re-introducing a Post Office to the village. These discussions are at an early stage, and whilst we would clearly like to have a Post Office facility in the village, we have no direct power in this area. A location and individual/business would need to come forward to house and run the Post Office.

Selby District Council (SDC)

01757 705101 or www.selby.gov.uk

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)

01609 780780 or www.northyorks.gov.uk