



South Milford Parish Council - Newsletter 2022



About South Milford Parish Council

South Milford Parish Council covers South Milford, Lumby and surrounding areas. The Councillors are Chris Gore (chair), David Gigg (vice-chair), Glenis Shaw, Kelly Diamond, Simon Brooksbank, Tim Grogan, and from 5 May 2022 our new councillors Cherry Waters and Ian McAleese. We would like to thank our departing councillors Rita de Faria Dean, Georgina Houston and Julian Donnelly for their hard work during their time on the Council.

What does South Milford Parish Council do?

We are responsible for maintaining and improving local amenities, supporting local groups and activities, and liaising with other local authorities and institutions on behalf of residents. This newsletter tells you about our latest activities. For more information, have a look at our website <https://www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk/>

South Milford park

South Milford Parish Council owns the land where the main playing fields on High Street sit, and funds most of its maintenance (e.g. grass cutting and maintenance of playing equipment). The South Milford Memorial Playing Fields Association (also known as the Park Committee) provides vital support in respect of running the park and organising community events. Recently, the Park Committee secured funding from the Caird Peckfield Community Fund to replace the adventure play equipment, with the new equipment being opened in March - excellent work Park Committee! The Park Committee is also organising the Theatre in the Park event (Peter Pan) on 25 June 2022 - we hope many of you will be able to enjoy this, please visit www.illyria.co.uk for more info and tickets.

Improving the park

The Parish Council and the Park Committee are working together to improve the park, including the area at the eastern end of the park (to the right of the fenced multi-use games area as you look from the road), which is currently overgrown with vegetation.

One proposal is to develop part of this area into a sensory garden, which would be dementia-friendly. A sensory garden is a garden which aims to stimulate the senses and be welcoming to everyone. The area closer to the stream would be left undeveloped, except for tidying up and potentially new planting to create a wildflower area. The plan would be to leave a relatively wild area in this location on the advice of the Environment Agency so that the sensory garden would have no adverse impact in terms of flood risk. For more details about this proposal, please see a document available on the front page of our website.

An alternative option would be to improve the area at the eastern end of the park by focusing on removing brambles and overgrown vegetation, improving access to the land and potentially carrying out some wildflower planting. Under this option, we could perhaps consider a sensory garden in a different location in the park.

We would really value your opinions on these proposed improvements, so please share your thoughts on these options, ideally via email, using our contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Vacant land off Common Lane

We have received various queries about the plot of vacant land on Common Lane (nearly opposite Burley Close) and therefore we thought it would be worth providing the following information. Based on our solicitor's investigation and other research, this plot of land is not owned by any known person. We are aware that an individual has installed fencing and 'private land' signs with the view to claim it via adverse possession.

Adverse possession is a legal way for a person, who does not own a plot of land, to become the legal owner by being 'in possession' of it for long enough (at least 10 years) such that they effectively oust the title of the 'true owner'.

If nothing is done the individual is likely to ultimately become the legal owner of the land, and could potentially develop it. The Parish Council could attempt to start its own claim for the land via adverse possession, with the view of creating a public asset for the Parish, however it is important to note that such a process is unlikely to be straightforward.

Highways and paths

North Yorkshire County Council (soon to be replaced by the new North Yorkshire Council) is the local authority responsible for highways and paths, but we frequently contact them to raise concerns and propose solutions.

To help reduce the frequency of vehicles speeding through the parish, we have obtained a grant for a vehicle-activated speed sign, which will be installed on Low Street in due course.

The Parish Council recently agreed that they did not see a need, or believe there would be a material benefit, in having 20mph speed limits on all residential streets within the parish. In line with this, the Parish Council has decided not to support North Yorkshire 20's Plenty campaign, noting that this is not supported by Selby District Council or North Yorkshire County Council. However, the Parish Council is considering which parts of the village may benefit from a 20mph limit, and is open to hearing residents' views about this.

Regarding paths, we have published a survey of the condition of all paths, engaged with North Yorkshire County Council on multiple occasions to address issues with paths, and created a volunteer group to improve paths. For more information, please see the public rights of way section of our website. If you'd like to join the South Milford Path Group, contact smpathsgroup@gmail.com.

Other activities

We are working to utilise some available funding to improve the area known as the Old Quarry - to the right of Westfield Lane, under the trees on the way out of South Milford. There is a document available on the front page of our website which provides details of the type of improvements we are considering.

To help wildlife and improve the local amenity, we have decided to create wildflower verges in the area between Lund Sike Lane and the BP Garage, and in the two small plots of land at the junction of Sand Lane and Westfield Lane.

The WI are hosting a 1950's themed Platinum Jubilee event in the WI hall on Sunday 5th June, 2-5pm. There will be tea, coffee & cakes plus music and maybe even a quiz! The event is free of charge and open to all but donations (towards the upkeep of the hall) would be welcome. Please pop along to support this if you can.

Contact details

To contact South Milford Parish Council, contact our Clerk Ann Rowling at annrowling@gmail.com or 01977 681517 or Stewards House, Lumby, Leeds, LS25 5JA.

To report fly tipping, get in touch with Selby District Council at <https://www.selby.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping-or-fly-posting>

To report roads in poor condition, get in touch with North Yorkshire County Council at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/report-online>

To report aeroplanes flying over the village, get in touch with the Sherburn Aeroclub at flightdesk@sherburnaeroclub.com or 01977 682674.

To report foul smells, get in touch with the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

To comment on planning applications, please use the Selby District Planning portal at <https://www.selby.gov.uk/view-planning-applications>