

Update from South Milford Parish Council

Since our last update there have been three meetings of South Milford Parish Council: on 17th November 2020, 19th January 2021 and 16th February. All were via GoogleMeet in line with current guidance due to COVID restrictions. Highlights and key focus areas are below. By the time you read this you all should have received a newsletter from the parish council through your letterbox which contains full details of what we've been up to over the last year.

Proposed unitary council

There are proposals to simplify and streamline the tiered council structure we currently have, where we sit under both Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Under these proposals, the district councils would disappear, with their responsibilities being assigned to the new unitary council (which would be split into different geographic areas). Town and Parish councils would remain, potentially with additional responsibilities, where this is possible and deemed efficient. The decision on this will be made by the Government. We will update you with details as we are informed on them.

Highways & Footpaths

Over the past year the Parish Council has been working on various footpath issues within and around our parish. An overview of 22 public right of way (PROW) footpaths has been produced and reviewed by the council. Over forthcoming issues of this publication we will be highlighting some of these and encouraging you to explore them. The full report will be shared with North Yorkshire County Council and made available on our website. We would like to thank Cllrs Faria Dean, Grogan and the other volunteers for their hard work on this project.

Turpin Lane: The council is supporting a resident's application to make the full length of the track a PROW bridleway – it is currently a PROW footpath, and the legal route of the footpath includes a short stretch at Milford Grange where the path diverts off the track/road and over a field. Note that an article regarding this application was featured in the February addition of the Messenger.

Low Street: The Parish Council have contacted the Cumin Lounge and requesting that they put up a sign asking their customers to park sensibly and to respect the residents and surrounding properties.

HGVs through the parish: We appreciate this is a concern and are looking in to the possibility of additional signage.

Dog Fouling: This is still an issue. If anyone has any information about offenders please provide details directly to Selby District Council who have the power to fine offenders.

South Milford Against Flooding (SMAF)

Works have been continuing on the land near Steeton Hall where, funded by the Parish Council, SMAF are constructing a bund to slow the flow of water. As well as this SMAF also co-ordinates maintaining and clearing the flows through the village and we would like to thank them and those of you who have volunteered over the last few months. The efforts have worked to keep the village safe during the extreme weather we have witnessed. The council has also arranged further funding from NYCC which SMAF hope to use work initial work on considering further slow the flow bunds.

Grit Bins

During 2021 the council will be reviewing the location of grit bins through the parish. A map of all locations is available on our website. If you would like to comment / request a new placement please get in touch.

Park Committee

The statutory annual ROSPA report has set out various items of recommended maintenance at the park, and the Parish Council will work with the Park Committee to prioritise these and help fund the works over the coming months.

Christmas Lights

Unfortunately COVID restrictions meant that we were unable to have our 'switch on event' this year. We look forward to being able to have this in 2021. If any person or business from the village would like to sponsor a light please get in touch.

Other various updates

We have provided financial support during the school holidays to provide free meals for school children via the service offered by the Swan pub.

Book bus stop & Little Free library (Sand Lane): The council are supportive of this as a resource for our residents and hope to move this inside Grove House when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Dog Exercise area: The council are looking into the possibility of using available section 106 money to create a free residents' dog exercising area in the old quarry off Westfield Lane. If you would like to raise your support or otherwise for this potential project, please get in touch.

Aero Club: The council has received further complains about over-flying, particularly effecting Lumby. This is being followed up with the club.

2021 Poppy Display: Following the success in 2020 of the knitted poppy displays in various towns and villages, South Milford is adopting this idea in 2021. Many thanks to Ceri Carter for organising this initiative. Full details were included in the February addition of the Messenger, but if anyone missed this and would like to get involved helping knit poppies, please get in touch and we will pass your details on to Ceri.

Cleaning and refurbishing benches and litter bins: The council are requesting quotes for this work. If you are a local handy person and could help with this, please get in touch with us.

South Milford Community Support

The Parish Council continues to support the South Milford Community Group, formed at the start of lockdown under its original name Isolation Help. The group is supported by volunteers from our wonderful surrounding villages and the council thanks all these volunteers for their efforts.

Contact details for the group are shown below, and you should all have received a leaflet inside your Parish Council newsletter with more information about the support this group can provide.

- Mobile: 07873 963477
- Email: southmilfordcommunity@gmail.com

Meetings

With regard to Parish Council meetings, the guidance has not changed, therefore meetings will continue to be held online, details of which will always be shared along with the agenda ahead of the meeting. Although there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings, these virtual meetings have been well organised and are proving to be a great option whilst the more traditional meetings are not available to us. Anyone can join a meeting, either to contribute or as an observer, you are always welcome 😊

Our next meeting is due on Tuesday 16 March – details will be posted in advance on notice boards, our Facebook page and our website – www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk