



# South Milford Parish Council Annual Report 2016/17

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

## Chair's Report: Virginia Sibley

After Richard Coy stepped down as Chair in May 2016, I agreed to act as Chair for this past year. That term ended in May when I stepped down and we elected a new chair, Chris Gore, to lead the Council. It has been a challenging but exciting year where I sought to improve council operations and communications with residents. As a result we:

- improved the agenda and minutes so that they were easier for the public to read and understand
- updated our Code of Conduct, Procedures for Public Participation at meetings and Standing Orders
- appointed new councillors so that we were up to full capacity of 9 councillors, and
- improved the administration of our Facebook page and set up our fabulous new webpage - [www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk)

In addition to the above I have fostered better links with the local community groups through contact lists and have also tried to tackle the problems of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping as well as increased traffic and highways issues.

It is not easy as we have no powers of legislation but our main aim is to give the powers of democracy to the residents through support and where possible, if required, finance. I will remain as a Councillor and have been very proud to serve this community in my capacity of Chair.

## Financial Report: Ann Rowling / Chris Gore

Outside of standard expenditure, which includes items such as grass cutting, the clerk's salary and insurance premiums, in 2016/17 the council provided funding for the following:

- Full restoration of the War Memorial in the church yard on Westfield Lane
- Three new Christmas lights

- Music workshops where the primary school pupils wrote an anti-bullying song
- A litter bin in Lumby and a new notice board in South Milford

Our full 2016/17 accounts can be found on our website. The council has agreed a budget for 2017/18 (also available on our website) which as well "business as usual" items includes further funding for Christmas lights and music workshops at the school, together with significant funds to support flood prevention, village events and sports and leisure facilities.

Our 2017/18 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.

Finally, you may recall from last year's newsletter that the council acquired the old red phone box in the Swan car park from BT, with the intention of using this to house a defibrillator. Unfortunately this proved to be impossible (see defibrillator section for an update) and therefore the Council have recently successfully sold the phone box and will use the proceeds towards our budgeted spending for 2017/18.

## Highways: Kathryn Ward

Speeding traffic and its associated dangers have been the main issues during the last year and this is still ongoing. We have lobbied on behalf of residents to try to get the speed limit on Lund Syke Lane reduced to 30mph. Unfortunately NYCC have decided that a 40 mph speed limit is appropriate and will be set. We are now focussing on how we can address and reduce speeding by other means. This is a problem across many roads in South Milford and Lumby and is an issue we will prioritise in the current year.



## **South Milford Against Flooding (SMAF)**

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

- Environment Agency - to have Mill Dike desilted from the playing fields to the "Swan" pub on Low Street
- Yorkshire Water – to have key sections of the culvert under High Street cleaned out for the first time in its 100+ year history
- North Yorkshire Highways Department – to have 3 additional large gullies set into Whitecote Lane to move surface flood water back into Whin Dike.

SMAF is working with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, the Woodland Trust, local farmers and landowners to build "leaky dams and bunds" west of the village. These are relatively low cost and act to both slow the flow of water down Whin Dike and reduce the amount of sediment carried by the flood water. This "slowing the flow" concept is one of the key national initiatives in reducing the likelihood of flooding.

The Parish Council intends to provide financial support to SMAF's slowing the flow projects, since these give the most benefit to the village for the money spent.

## **Planning:** Julian Donnelly

We have yet to be consulted by Selby District Council (SDC) on where their next batch of large housing sites will be in the District, but anticipate that South Milford will have to accept some allocation of new homes. As advised last year, with residents' support, we will work to ensure these allocations are in the most appropriate places in the village.

We did have a decision outstanding from 2015, in respect of a planning application for 62 dwellings off Whitecote Lane; near Steeton Hall. A formal decision regarding this application was never issued by SDC. In October 2016 the applicant withdrew the application but we would not rule out the possibility of a further alternative application for houses on this land.

For anyone considering making any alterations and/or additions to their property, we would suggest that you get in touch with the Parish Council before submitting your application. We do not have the power to permit/refuse planning permission, that is the role of SDC Planning Officers, but we can offer you guidance/support (as appropriate) based on our experiences. We would also suggest that you refer to the village design statement on SDC's website.

Finally, if you thinking of making comments to SDC regarding a planning application, please consider attending the relevant Parish Council meeting (where the application is on the agenda) to air your views and seek guidance regarding your comments.

## **Christmas Lights:** Virginia Sibley

This year's new Christmas Lights were again designed by year 5 students at South Milford School - Katie Turnstall designed the Cat with flashing Bowtie, Bobby McNicholas designed the flying snowman and Hannah Donnelly designed the Candy Sticks. The Parish Council fund three new lights each year and we rely on support from the community to help put on the "Switch On" event. We would like to thank:

- James Slater at the Swan for allowing us to hold the event at the pub and for providing the magnificent buffet for the children
- The children and staff from the primary school for the entertainment at the event which involved the now famous "Turn on the Lights" song and other seasonal songs
- Andrew Robinson for donating the Christmas tree the children gathered around
- Lumby Garden Centre who donated the tree lights which the winners turned on.
- Our guest of honour, the wonderful Father Christmas and his sack of presents.
- Residents Andy Smith and Howard Reynolds who liaise with Leeds Lights to ensure the children's winning designs become reality.

The "Switch On" event this year will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, supported by the school. We welcome suggestions and support for this event, noting that our main challenges are contingency arrangements for inclement weather, lighting and a sound system. Perhaps you know a local celebrity who could star at the "Switch On" event?

### **New Website:** Peter Wallis

As you will have hopefully seen, the PC launched its new and improved website in the New Year. If you haven't visited it yet, pop along to:

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

The purpose of this website is to allow us to engage with you, the residents. You will find all the latest news regarding South Milford, which is fed via our Facebook site, copies of the minutes and details of our accounts. It also features a blog where individual councillors provide updates on their specific areas of interest. There is also the opportunity for you the public to engage with us by submitting proposals that you would like the council to consider. If you would like to see features added to the website, please use the 'contact us' section on the website to submit your requests.

We also have a Facebook page (which links to our new website) and we are alerted when anyone posts on this page so we can respond as quickly as possible.

### **Community Engagement Forum:** Robert Collins

Community Engagement Forums (CEF) 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](http://www.selby.gov.uk/western-area-cef)

The CEF receives an annual budget that it can distribute to local groups and organisations. I attended the 17<sup>th</sup> January meeting which focused on policing and tackling rural crime as a priority. They have a community speed watch scheme where members of community can help to tackle speeding, something we can investigate in South Milford.

### **Defibrillator:** Julian Chance

December saw the installation and commissioning of the defibrillator located outside Grove House on Sand Lane, South Milford. This valuable lifesaving tool is available at any time in an emergency. To access the defibrillator, call 999 and they will provide the access code and help with its use. We are preparing to make an application for a second defibrillator, which we will locate in a different part of our village. Although the

emergency services and the machine itself talk users through its use, we are arranging some training sessions for anyone that would like to attend. Keep a look out on our website once dates are confirmed.

### **Rail Users Group:** Arthur Cawood

Selby and District Rail Users Group (SADRUG) has continued to campaign for a service to fill the gap created by the Transpennine's decision to withdraw the South Milford stop on the 20:22 Monday to Friday service from Leeds to Selby. Northern Rail intends to provide the service from the December 2017 timetable and the appropriate timings are that it would depart Leeds at 20:40.

The SADRUG has also been involved in consultation with Northern rail regarding the improvements in services that were planned for the December 2017 timetable. These include evening and weekend stopping services on the Leeds to Selby route calling at South Milford and additional services between Sherburn-in-Elmet and York.

Finally, the group continues to campaign for more car parking at South Milford and Sherburn stations and will push for planned station improvements to be actioned at the earliest possible date.

### **Playing Fields:** Vicki Webb

South Milford memorial park has been a focal point of village life for 70 years, maintained lovingly by a committee of local volunteers. The committee have worked tirelessly this year to secure funding and implement a number of improvements to the park facilities, most notably the multi-use games area (MUGA) and the equipment in the toddler play area. The improvements don't stop there, there are moves a foot to add additional play equipment to the toddler area and make enhancements to the Trim trail which features in the weekly free circuit sessions run by Rich from Get Park Fit.

The committee would like to invite all of South Milford to join them in celebrating 70 years of Park life with a free family fun day on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



### **Grass cutting:** Chris Gore

Grass cutting around the Parish was not without its challenges in 2016! SDC had problems with their machinery resulting in certain areas of grass being left uncut for a long period of time. In addition, the Parish Council changed its supplier at the start of the season (this contract is now shared with Sherburn and Church Fenton councils to reduce costs) which led to some teething problems and queries regarding who was responsible for maintaining different areas of grass.

These issues are now behind us and we hope that these will run more smoothly in 2017. However, we accept that there is still room for improvement, particularly in terms of quality / frequency of cutting in certain areas and weed control on footpaths around the villages. We are considering the best ways to tackle these issues and will hopefully be able to report progress in next year's newsletter.

Finally a thank you to all residents who kindly maintain the verges outside their property, this is much appreciated and helps make the village look nice and tidy. On this note, we would like to hear from you if:

- you are unable to maintain the verge outside your property, or
- you kindly maintain verges that are not directly outside your property

This information will help us get the best value from our contractor (avoid paying for areas that are already maintained) and will allow us to work towards having all grass areas within the villages well maintained.

### **Sherburn Aero Club Liaison Group:** Kathryn Ward

During the last year there have been an increasing number of complaints from our community to the Aero Club relating to the overflying of aircraft. We have worked together with Julie George who is the club's South Milford Community Representative. We have jointly represented our community on the Sherburn Aero Club Community Liaison Group and attended the meetings with the club to discuss issues and club practices.

Our joint aim is to highlight the concerns raised by residents which have been mainly about overflying aircraft across the villages, along with improving

relations with the club. The club are also committed to improving community relations and during 2016/17 they have introduced a Community Relations Policy and set up a Community Page on their website. This includes the policy document and a new electronic form for residents to submit complaints. They are also introducing an automated phone line for residents to make complaints and observations.

All complaints and observations relating to overflying aircraft should be reported to the Aero Club either by telephone or using the new form on their webpage.

[www.sherburnaeroclub.com/community](http://www.sherburnaeroclub.com/community)

Telephone 01977 682674

We will continue to work together with the club to try to address and resolve issues raised by residents of our Parish.

### **Useful numbers / email addresses:**

**Parish Clerk (Ann Rowling):** 01977 681517

[annrowling@gmail.com](mailto:annrowling@gmail.com)

**Selby District Council (SDC):** 01757 705101

**North Yorkshire County Council(NYCC):** 08452411307

**Dog Warden:** [karmstrong@selby.gov.uk](mailto:karmstrong@selby.gov.uk)

**Roads and footpaths:** 01609 536008 or 01609 535079

[Area7.selby@northyorks.gov](mailto:Area7.selby@northyorks.gov)

**Street Cleaning and fly tipping:** 01757 705101

[cleanstreets@selby.gov.uk](mailto:cleanstreets@selby.gov.uk)

### **Want to get involved?**

At the time of writing we have one vacancy on the Parish Council. So if this newsletter has sparked interest and you would like to be considered as a Councillor, please contact the Clerk in the first instance to get more information.

