

THE RESIDENT – SOUTH MILFORD PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE – JANUARY 2025

Hello everyone and welcome to 2025 from South Milford Parish Council.

Grit bins - As I was writing the article for the last edition of The Resident (which, I might add is going from strength to strength) we were having the first frost of the season. As I am writing this edition we are coming to the end of a period of proper winter where most of us have woken up to the parish covered in snow which looks amazing but does have its consequences such as disrupted travel and closed schools. As a first point to let you know we have recently checked and refilled all of the grit bins across our parish. If you notice one that is running low please get in touch via our website www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk or via our Facebook page where there is also a map with grit bin locations (go to village amenities and grit bins).

Wain Gap - At the end of last year we saw the kerbing at the bottom of Wain Gap changed with some substantial Trief border stones. These are a substantial improvement what existed prior to repair and should prevent damage from large lorries turning poorly and hitting it. So far everything seems to be going well and at the end of January the bridge/wall will be re-built.

Flooding - Last year also saw work commence on our flood defence system from SMAF (South Milford Action Against Flooding), this is a slow-the-bund on Whitecote Lane at Seeton Hall. As a Parish Council we know that worries about flooding are a big concern for many and this is why we put a significant contribution towards the SMAF works. With the snow thawing there were flood warnings for our village and some overflow at the end of the High Street (near the Swan). When the flood defences are completed this year we believe that the risk of flooding in our Parish will lessen. We would like to express enormous thanks to those who worked hard during January to keep the run-offs clear, move sand bags, and protect South Milford.

Christmas lights - Over the festive period we put up our Christmas Lights along Low Street. This year you may have noticed there was a reduced number of lights. This is due to a significant rise in the costs of storage, maintenance and putting up and taking down. The lights that have been kept are the ones that were voted for on our Facebook page last year, and we have offered the excess ones for sale as many of them were designed by children from our local primary school – if you haven't already, please contact us if you would like to have one.

Proposed developments - There are a couple of developments in our parish expected to commence in 2025. A development of 8 dwellings off Well Lane, for which planning has recently been approved. As many of you are aware the parish council has objected to this - our objections focussed around traffic/access concerns, flood risk (as this is an area with springs) and loss of amenity for neighbouring houses. Our objections did help result in revised plans, but these have ultimately been approved. As a reminder, as a parish council we have no power regarding planning (other than to pass comment on applications), that authority is with North Yorkshire Council. The second development is the application for an Agricultural Anaerobic Digestion Facility off the bypass (under the railway bridge toward Sherburn Industrial estate). Full details can be found in their application NY/2024/0200/FUL. This is being discussed at the 20 January Parish Council meeting.

Traveller site - You may be aware of the illegal traveller site on the A63, close to the A1(M) junction, which does not have planning permission. This has been there several years, but has recently been exacerbated by newly constructed and unlawful entrance. We can report

that case papers are being prepared by local authorities for court action and hopefully this matter can be resolved soon.

Litter bins - In a bizarre turn of events we had several litter bins stolen from our areas. Unfortunately we were not able to find CCTV which would have helped us with this. We are in the process of replacing these and over this year we will be reviewing the placement of rubbish bins around the parish. If you have any suggestions about this, please get in touch.

Allotments - And finally a quick update about our allotments. We are very proud to have a full quota of tenants and the allotments are now a self-governing organisation. With the help of Parish Council funding, they have arranged for their log cabin to be rebuilt after it was damaged in the high winds and this will be completed early Spring once we have some decent weather. For those who would like an allotment, we do have a waiting list so please get in touch.

We'd like to wish you all a healthy and happy 2025.