

South Milton Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2024

Report from Cllr Paul Booker, Chairman:

It's been another interesting year for South Milton Parish Council and it's fair to say that once again we've seen the good, the bad and the ugly!

Most recently we've all been impacted by the horrendous signage and parking pay meter installed without permission at the Links Court Car Park – this definitely constitutes 'the ugly' and we hope to see the South Hams District Council Enforcement team dealing with the problem as a matter of priority.

With regard to 'the bad' we would have to mention the increasing number of potholes that have not been filled, the signage on the A381 that was knocked down months ago and of course we've had to deal with the Lane End swimming pool again which these days seems to be more of a permanent fixture. However, it's not all doom and gloom because we've recently received confirmation that the pipes by the Lane End flooding are due to be jetted to clear the drainage blockages and the road signage has been authorised for replacement. With regard to potholes, Devon County Council have an extra £10m to deal with the issue and we're also due to have our own volunteer Road Wardens in the parish in the not too distant future and they will be able to fill potholes when they first appear.

The good news continues...

Councillor Jinks has put a coat of preservative on two of the wooden benches ensuring that they can be used for years to come.

The thermal imaging camera was in near constant use at one point and has been very useful in identifying areas in parishioners properties that are not as environmentally friendly as they could be. If you'd like the opportunity to find out where your property could be improved please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

The wall at the burial ground was rendered with three beautiful mosaics added which brighten the entrance. The mosaics were created by the Women's Institute and are very fitting at this location. The Parish Council has reviewed who can be buried at the burial ground and we have changed the eligibility to say that the South Milton Burial Ground is exclusively for those who were born and/or have lived in the parish (i.e., resided as their main residence with proof if needed via the electoral roll) for a minimum of ten consecutive years. Knowing that the space in the burial ground is limited, we have also commenced some investigations to establish if we can extend the burial ground and we hope to be able to share more about this during the next year.

In April 2023 we said farewell to Cllrs Marion Brice and Graham Collyer who had both served for many years. Fortunately both remain in touch with the council and we thank them for their continued support. Cllr Steve Harding joined us in May and was swiftly followed in June by Cllr Marion Luscombe - both of whom have been an excellent addition to the team!

Cllr Nick Townsend has been working with South West Water regarding the issues at the treatment plant including the regular overflow discharges. Our Ward Cllr, Samantha Dennis is also involved and together they have attended a number of positive meetings and been able to ensure that dialogue continues between both South West Water and South Milton Parish Council. Most importantly, our concerns are being taken seriously.

There are many people I would like to thank for their help and support over the past twelve months:

Our National Trust Rangers, Emma Reece and Vanda Smith have worked with us and kept us updated with the developments on their land.

Kate Ladd and her team of volunteers who check the defibrillator and organise the annual training sessions.

Everyone who has given time to maintain the parish and the village hall by looking after planters, clearing dirt washed onto roads, weeding/planting, dealing with tree issues, helping look after our assets and much more.

Finally, of course, our thanks must go to our Ward Councillors and District Councillor who have supported us every step of the way and to the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their endless hard work and positivity.