

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held in Scarning Village Hall on April 11 2022**

Present: F Bradford (Chair), M Blackburn, S Bunn, C Farnham, C Geary, C Hewson, T Mallard. In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk) Four members of the public.

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Steward, Cllrs P Hewett and L Turner (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

**2 Minutes**

The meeting confirmed the minutes of the meeting held 19 April 2019.

**3 Parish Affairs**

None.

**4 Chair's Report**

This Report covers the activities of the Parish Council over the last 12 months.

Following Chris Farnham standing down as Chair of the Council it was a pleasure to be appointed to the position. During the year Councillors Chris Druce, Ian Semmons and Neil Parsons, resigned with Melanie Blackburn, Cathy Geary and Tina Mallard being appointed. The Council is at full strength with each Councillor bringing differing experiences and strengths which are utilised for the benefit of the Parish.

The Councillors undertook a tour of the Parish to view its varying assets, and this was extremely beneficial to both new and long-standing members of the Council.

The business of the Council over the course of a year can in some ways be anticipated and all the usual activities have been undertaken, with Standing Orders, policies and procedures having been reviewed and if necessary, amended and various risk assessments having been carried out. The budget for the current year was reviewed and discussed, resulting in the precept remaining the same as the year just gone.

There are also issues which arise each year for the Council to consider and last year was no exception, there was the parking at the school, speeding through the Parish, the state of the path and the hedges running from Blackthorn Close to the School. The Council has been pro-active in trying to tackle these issues and we have, and will continue to work closely with, the relevant agencies in order for improvements to be made.

During the year we have seen the establishment of a Speed Watch Group, its volunteers are fully trained and within the first few weeks of the Group being in action a number of drivers have been caught speeding. The Group works closely with the Police, and we are very thankful for the time that the volunteers give to carry out this activity.

The Parish in the last year has seen some new additions such as a bus shelter by the Village Hall, LED lighting, together with play equipment in both the Blackthorn Drive and Shipdham Lane playing fields. New welcome to Scarning signs have been erected which include the Beacon logo and very smart they look too. The signs are complimented by our flower boxes which are lovely and the Council thanks Sharon Goldsworthy for the effort she puts in to ensure they are maintained.

The Beacon magazine has gone from strength to strength with its content being educational, informative and witty. It is also able to raise funds which are distributed to appropriate charities as voted upon by its readers. Many thanks to Chris Farnham for his commitment to the magazine.

Litter picks have been carried out during the year and it is so encouraging to see the number of volunteers who turn up for these events and they are bolstered by the Dereham group joining us. Again, thanks to all those who have picked their way through the Parish and also to those who continue to litter pick on a regular basis.

The Council has organised defibrillator and mini first aid courses which are open to all and held in the Village Hall we will continue to do so on a six-month basis for as long as a need remains.

We saw our first externally organised Maui Wauai Festival in August which brought with it both e-mails of concern and praise, the Parish Council has no actual involvement with the event other than to try and ensure that the interests and concerns of the Parish are understood by its co-ordinators.

We have seen the instigation of the Bright ideas for Scarning forum whereby the Council receives e-mails with suggestions for the improvement of the Parish and its amenities, these are considered and where possible taken forward. This is an ongoing project to which the Council is committed.

In December last year the Council was presented with a plaque by a representative of the Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk to commemorate our community's resilience in the year to the pandemic. The plaque will be displayed in the Village Hall.

In relation to the Queen's Jubilee the Council has two events planned the lighting of the beacon and the holding of a big tea, many thanks to all those who are and will help to make these events a success.

A Council works as a team endeavouring to do the best that it can for the community, and I would like to thank the Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council's representatives for their input and assistance to the Parish Council over the last year and obviously the Council's thanks go to the Clerk, Nick Hartley who ensures that

decisions are enacted and that the Council works within its guidelines which is no small task.

## 5 County Councillor's report

### Norfolk County Council highlights for 2021/22

- 70% of Norfolk streetlights converted, or work underway to convert to LED
- 96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale
- 99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan
- 94% of Looked after Children (LAC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan
- Completed 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for 20,700 people.

### The 2022/23 Budget

A **£464 million** net revenue budget, a **£25m increase** from last year, with increased spending across key service areas and capital programmes, along with a 2.99 per cent Council Tax rise has been agreed to enable Norfolk to build back better after the pandemic.

**Adult Social Services** will see an additional **£35.4m** of investment, against savings of £10.5m, **Children's Services** will receive **£23.2m** of further investment, with a further **£10m** this year for the **SEND School Programme**, with £12m against planned savings and **Community and Environmental Services** will see an additional **£11.2m**, against savings of £3.5m.

Within Community and Environmental Services there will be the **£10m pothole fund** to draw upon, **new recycling centres** across the County, **£5m on library upkeep** and extension of services and **£12m on the Better Broadband project**.

There has been substantial **Beryl Bikes and E-Scooters** uptake during the past year, with the average journey being over 3.5km (taking multiple car journeys out of the City) and multiple Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS) plans being developed across the County (including Greater Norwich, King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Dereham).

These commitments are in keeping with my Conservative Groups 2021 Manifesto pledges to deliver a better future for Norfolk through:

- Protecting valued services
- Investing in care services
- Strengthening community resilience

- Leading on economic development
- Supporting families and young people
- Caring for our environment

### **Protecting Valued Services**

#### **Love Norfolk, Hate Litter – boost for pickers as litter can now be accepted at recycling centres**

As the national Great British Spring Clean launched on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021, there was good news for litter pickers as the county council announces that it was able to accept litter at any of Norfolk's recycling centres.

From the 28<sup>th</sup>, anyone who picked a small amount of litter in the county was (and is still able to) bring up to three bags of the waste to a recycling centre for disposal. People looking to organise a group litter pick are still urged to contact their district council who can help provide bags, grabbers and arrange for collection of the waste collected.

#### **£29m 'pothole prevention' work now well underway across Norfolk**

Pavements, cycleways and roads all benefited from the county's £29m maintenance programme taking place right across Norfolk this year.

The crucial upkeep work is a key part of the £42 million budget for roads and infrastructure that was agreed in February 2021.

This year £4.5m is being spent on maintaining pavements and paths, for example a £167,000 scheme to remove the existing worn and uneven pavement surface on Kennedy Avenue in Gorleston and replace it with a new smooth asphalt surface will be getting underway in late July.

#### **Brand new £1.9m Norwich South recycling Centre opens today**

Norfolk's newest recycling centre opened to the public in December.

The £1.9m recycling centre is the sister site to the new Norwich North recycling centre that opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Together the two sites will provide improved recycling facilities for the growing greater Norwich area.

As the new Norwich South recycling centre opens at Harford, just off the A47/A140 junction, staff bid farewell to the old site at Ketteringham that closed yesterday.

The move to a larger site allows room for a one-way traffic system to smooth traffic flow and reduce queues, low-level bins meaning people will not have to climb steps to recycle their waste, and there is plenty of parking for cars, bicycles and vehicles with trailers.

## **Fire and Rescue staff presented with awards**

The achievements of staff across Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service have been recognised through employee awards.

A ceremony to present the awards was cancelled due to the pandemic, so senior leaders have visited some of the recipients of the 2021 awards individually and will continue to do so when Covid-19 restrictions allow.

As well as honouring staff with long service awards, categories also included fundraiser of the year, making a difference awards and leadership accolades.

## **Council wins national award for its work with the armed forces**

Norfolk County Council has been recognised for its outstanding support of the armed forces community in Norfolk, following an announcement from the Ministry of Defence.

The local authority has been given the Gold Award, the highest honour handed out through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The award is given to organisations that employ and support those who serve in the armed forces, service leavers, veterans and their families, with the Gold Award also acknowledging the Council's partnership working through the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board.

This includes successfully addressing a significant gap in the dental service provision in the West of the County. It negotiated with the Ministry of Defence and NHS England, to ensure the opening of a new dental practice for serving and civilian families at RAF Marham and the surrounding area.

## **Investing in care Services**

### **Plan to tackle adult social care's winter pressures**

Plans to support Adult Social Services with the expected "winter pressures" have been unveiled.

A report was heard by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet in December saying that Adult Social Services across the country are facing unprecedented challenges. However, here in Norfolk practical solutions are being put in place.

The report said: 'Norfolk Adult Social Services face a level of unprecedented challenge in 2021/22 as a result of the pandemic, with national and local workforce shortages, rising demand in hospitals and the community and the continued infection risk posed by COVID-19 as well as other recurring respiratory viruses such as flu.'

Adult Social Services received 20,279 calls for support between April and October this year – an increase of 9,400 over four years.

Action being taken by the Council includes:

- Expanding action to support people at home or, where appropriate, in short term residential settings
- Stepping up the council's care recruitment campaign, to tackle staff shortages
- Providing wrap-around support for care settings
- Providing assistive technology, with 100 video phones sent out to homes
- Improving capacity in the Norfolk First Response service
- Supporting mental health services, with three new step down services

### **Norfolk to take a step closer to new integrated approach to health and care**

Norfolk County Council has agreed their support for new local Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, putting local communities at the heart of health and care in their area.

Under the Health and Care Bill, Integrated care systems (ICSs) are being established in all areas of the country to drive changes that are intended to lead to better, more joined-up care for the population.

Much of the activity to deliver integrated health and care and improve the population's health will happen more locally in the places where people live and work, meaning the new Health and Wellbeing Partnerships will play a key role in driving forward this activity.

### **Strengthening community Resilience**

#### **A new single point of contact for flooding in Norfolk has been launched, allowing residents to report any sort of flooding quickly and efficiently**

In the event of flooding residents can call 0344 800 8013 to report it.

Alternatively, residents can continue to report flooding online via [our flooding pages](#).

The new number gives residents a single point of contact and allows reports to be made swiftly.

Different agencies respond to different types of flooding, which has historically made reporting a flood by telephone more complicated when and where it is not possible to ascertain the source of floodwaters. The new number provides a single point of contact making the reporting of flooding quicker and easier.

Where there is a potential risk to life from flooding people should still call 999 immediately.

### **Flood Reserve Fund spending agreed**

Norfolk's Cabinet considered the allocation of the council's £1.5m Flood Reserve Fund to support urgent works, repairs and to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports.

The Reserve Fund was set up in the annual budget for 2021/22 agreed by the County Council in their budget meeting in February.

The Cabinet meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, discussed the proposed allocation of the funding, including £695k for additional highway and ditch maintenance and £365k for drainage asset improvements.

This funding will be used for work on the 285,864 metres of drainage grips and 31,037 metres of kerb drains on Norfolk's highways, as well as operations to clear some of the county's 145,305 gullies that help drain rain water.

### **Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance formally adopts Strategy**

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) has formally adopted an overall Strategy, designed to enable county wide responses to flooding across all agencies involved.

The Strategy, which lays out the NSFA's vision, objectives, approach and structure, is a major milestone in the development of the Alliance, which was founded earlier this year to bring together all agencies and partners involved in planning for and responding to flooding in Norfolk.

### **£1million awarded to community groups across Norfolk**

Community and voluntary organisations across Norfolk were set for a major cash boost as the recipients of the [Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund](#) were announced.

Norfolk County Council has handed out £1.02 million to 25 different organisations, with grants ranging £3,400 all the way up to £250,000.

In total, the fund saw 64 applications with funding requests that totalled almost £5million. This was more than double the number of applications received last year.

### **Leading on Economic Development**

#### **Ground-breaking partnership to provide Covid-19 recovery support for Norfolk**

Norfolk County Council and New Anglia LEP were part of an ambitious cross-border project which helped to deliver a unique package of Covid-19 recovery support for local businesses and people.

The C-CARE (Covid Channel Area Response Exchange) initiative, funded by the Interreg France (Channel) England programme which has allocated €2.2m for C-CARE in Norfolk, was set to reach businesses and people that were been hit hardest in the pandemic.

Drawing on a range of expertise from local government, enterprise and tourism in the UK and France, the project supported people at risk of exclusion from the labour market and businesses at risk of closure.

C-CARE aims to reach 4,500 people and almost 2,000 businesses through its pilot initiatives which include skills training to help individuals find new routes into employment or starting a business, and advice and grants aimed at helping companies reset their business models in response to the pandemic.

In Norfolk the project will work to support over 600 people into employment or self-employment and provide support for up to 800 businesses.

### **Norfolk to get faster broadband thanks to new Government funding**

Hard to reach premises in Norfolk are to receive between £115m and £195m of funding as part of the Government's Project Gigabit to provide 1GB per second broadband to up to 119,000 premises. Contracts will be awarded from February 2022.

Rural homes and businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk will get next-generation gigabit broadband brought to them under a £5 billion plan to level up internet access across the UK.

It means families no longer having to battle over bandwidth and will give people in rural areas the freedom to live and work more flexibly, with the speed and reliability needed to start and run businesses.

### **Supporting families and young people**

#### **Vulnerable young people in Norfolk have chance to take New Roads with launch of dedicated support service**

A new service to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable young people to live within families and achieve their full potential launched on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

New Roads was set up by Norfolk County Council with significant investment to give young people access to a dedicated support team that sticks with them, understands them, and helps them to achieve and succeed.

Based out of two hubs, in Dereham and Norwich, the service provides young people with education, life coaching and speech and language therapy, as well as access to short term residential beds and foster care placements to help meet their needs.

The aim is to give young people stability, reduce risk-taking behaviour and help to avoid the need for long-term residential care, as well as longer term costs to themselves, the wider system and communities.

### **Hundreds of free activities available for children and young people this Easter**

Bookings are now open for [The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun](#), a programme of free activities that will run over the Easter holidays for 5–16-year-olds across Norfolk.

The scheme is provided as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and is being delivered by Norfolk County Council in partnership with Active Norfolk.

After the success of HAF over the Christmas break and some brilliant feedback from parents, it's returning from 4 April though till 19 April with free activities for children eligible for means-tested free school meals. There'll be a fantastic range of activities taking place including outdoor adventure sports, dance and drama and circus skills across the county. With so many activities on offer, children will have an excellent range of ventures to take part in and may even discover a new passion.

### **Free online business summer school for 16-25-year-olds in Norfolk**

There are so many options to choose from when leaving school - like apprenticeships, university, work experience, getting a job...

Or how about starting a business? It may seem a daunting idea at first, but there's lots of free help on offer.

Started in August 2021, the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, ran a free online Summer School for 16-25-year-olds to help them decide whether starting their own business might be right for them.

### **Plans for thousands of new school places in Norfolk**

More than a dozen new primary schools could be needed in Norfolk in the next decade, to cater for growing pupil numbers in areas of development.

A report to Norfolk County Council's Cabinet highlighted the scale of school development that is likely to be needed to support Norfolk's growing communities. It addresses both demographic changes and population growth from new housing.

The report, discussed by members on 31<sup>st</sup> January, provided a snapshot of the council's plans to ensure there are sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged four to 16.

Alongside district councils, the County Council expects to secure nearly £100m in developer contributions for the proposed new and extended schools but if all of the places are needed, a further £191m would need to be found.

Some of this will be met by Community Infrastructure Levy and government grant contributions.

### **Inspectors praise support for children in care in Norfolk**

Most children in care in Norfolk are well looked after and receive good support for their emotional and mental health and education, Ofsted inspectors have found.

A team of Her Majesty's Inspectors visited Norfolk County Council in October for a two-day focused visit of the council's services for children in its care.

In a letter detailing their findings, inspectors said that social workers know their children well, listen to them and help them to understand their experiences.

Ofsted's visit follows a [similar focused visit in 2019](#), which looked at how the council responds to child safeguarding calls and referrals. Following that visit, inspectors described the quality of decision making as "consistently strong".

### **Caring for our environment**

#### **Carbon cutting commitment central to new county transport plan**

A plan set to drive the county's transport policy for the next 15 years was discussed by County Councillors in August.

The ambitious Local Transport Plan has at its heart the aim to support a growing economy, strengthen communities and reduce our impact on the environment.

A carbon cutting commitment is central to the transport plan which supports the county council's pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, which Councillors adopted as part of the authority's Environmental Policy in November 2019.

#### **Buzz created as pollinator paradises set for Norfolk roadsides**

Tripling the number of Roadside Nature Reserves in Norfolk were among a range of green measures considered by County Councillors last July.

Fewer cuts for rural roadsides, a pollinator action plan, and 188 more roadside nature reserves are all on the cards as part of plans to boost biodiversity along roads and paths across the county.

Also on the agenda were plans to help boost cycling and walking across the county, and development of a new verge management policy which will include information for parish and town councils wishing to take on responsibility for verge cutting in their local area. The aim is to help involve local communities more in decisions about verge management near them.

## **6 Breckland Councillor's report**

Breckland District Councillors report for Annual Parish Meetings in Shipdham, Scarning and Cranworth 2022

During the continuing pandemic Breckland Council has continued to prioritise supporting individuals, local businesses and the wider community through a number of initiatives. The Council has maintained all front line services, whilst deploying officers to work more agilely in supporting the community.

The Corporate Plan identifies four key themes, which have been the basis of the Council's priorities: Inspiring Communities, Thriving Places, Breckland 2035 and Working Smarter

Inspiring Communities highlights

New Waste and recycling contract with councils in north and west Norfolk

New temporary accommodation in Thetford for homeless or at risk of homelessness

Grants and Adaptions Team to enable residents to stay in their own homes

Disabled Facilities Grants

Trained 100 Mental Health Champions

Supported Breckland Youth Advisory Board

Worked with programmes such as Daisy and Leeway to support survivors of domestic abuse

Provided and supported Vaccination centres

Employed Covid officers, managing infection control

Thriving Places highlights

Replacement of streetlights with LED bulbs

Increased housing stock with new developments in Attleborough and Mileham

Rent deferrals and lease variations during difficult times

Transformed waste space in Dereham to communal space Ellenor Fenn Garden

Supported over 300 businesses to become Covid safe

Digital Breckland Fund

Launched new Commercial Waste service

Supported 45 enterprises with Start-Up Scheme

Spring back programme

Breckland 2035 highlights

The Breckland 2035 Sustainability Strategy sets out how the Council will work with all agencies, residents and businesses to become a sustainable rural district council

Growing garden waste service  
Community Green Grants scheme  
Working with leisure centres to become more environmentally friendly  
Tree Planting scheme across the District

Working Smarter highlights

Significant transformation programme to change the way in which officers and elected members undertake their roles.

On line chat-box

Agile Working Policy

Addressed health and wellbeing (including mental health) for staff working remotely

Making website more accessible for all

Reviewed a number of officer teams to ensure best possible service for residents

In addition the Council have passed on all the Covid generated grants and financial aid from Central Government and still operate a number of assistance initiatives including the Household support grant

Further details of all Breckland community initiatives, facilities and work programmes are on the Council website

Parish councillors are encouraged to attend the Town and Parish Forum on 23rd May at 17.30 in Elizabeth House

Lynda Turner and Paul Hewett

## **7 Scarning Parochial Church Council's report**

We are all aware of how much the world has changed since the last report to an annual parish meeting. The Covid pandemic has had a major effect on all aspects of society.

As far as the Church of England was concerned, services were suspended from April to July 2020 and from Christmas 2020 to March 2021. Those services which did take place were subject to strict social distancing measures. Who would have thought that places in the pews would need to be pre-booked for services at Christmas 2020?

There was some controversy about the Archbishop of Canterbury's rulings on church closures at a time when many people might have wished to seek solace in their local churches.

Scarning Church has an open door policy and we ensured that the building was open as much as possible. We know that this was appreciated by a number of visitors during those particularly stressful times.

Canon Paul Cubitt became Rector of Dereham and Scarning in the summer of 2020. During the closures he and Team Vicar James Rosie ensured that services were available by Zoom and live streaming. The services were popular and it was clear that they reached more people

than would have been in the congregations in normal times. Streamed services are continuing.

In 2020 the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday service and children's Carol Service all took place out of doors.

From March 2021 services resumed their usual pattern. There were good attendances at the Remembrance Sunday and Christmas services, but people remain cautious. We have sadly lost a number of members of the congregation over the last two years.

We are pleased to have paid our parish share to the Diocese in full for the last two years. With a generous legacy we also completed the refurbishment of the final window in the nave.

The famous monthly coffee mornings were suspended for part of 2020 and from April to September 2021 but are now up and running again. The PCC is very grateful to everyone who runs and supports the coffee mornings. As well as providing much needed funds for the church, the gatherings have become a key part of the life of the village.

The band of bellringers continues to play and practise regularly. Revd Cubitt is an enthusiastic ringer and occasionally joins in. Again, we are grateful to the bell ringers for their support of the parish church.

We would like to thank the council for funding the cutting of the grass in the churchyard. We considered the suggestion that part of the churchyard might be turned into a wild flower meadow and consulted the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. However, to establish such a meadow takes a great deal of work and we do not have the resources to contemplate such a project at the moment.

We would also like to thank Keith Walpole for the upkeep of the garden of remembrance at the front of the church.

Some things have not changed in the pandemic. Over the last two festive seasons, it was, as usual, a delight to have the Christmas tree in the churchyard to complement the lights on the Village Hall. Thank you to the Parish Council for providing the tree.

Sue Rockley

Tim Farnham

Churchwardens

## **8 Scarning Playing Field Committee's report**

Charles Hewson noted that, like other organisations, the Playing Field Committee had suffered as a result of the pandemic. He noted that money was spent on the tennis courts last year and that the courts were being well used. The table tennis table was being used. The football club was using the playing field, but may stop from the end

of this season at which point Scarning FC may return. The Bowls Club continues to thrive. He noted that money will need to be spent on the pavilion.

## **9 Scarning Village Hall Trust's report**

Scarning Village Hall & Estate Trustees and staff have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid period to bring Scarning Village Hall, its premises and facilities up to a very high standard. It is a perfect medium sized letting hall for the village and surrounding district.

Village and Community Halls provide an important focal point for local residents and host a wide range of events and activities. Scarning Village Hall regularly hires out its facilities for monthly Coffee Mornings (a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends and raise much needed funds for the Church), weekly Table Tennis Clubs, Village Hall, Parish Council, PCC and WI Meetings, together with The Dirty Donkey Do, children's parties and other private events to name but a few.

With the Government having removed the remaining domestic COVID restrictions in England, guidance suggests there are still easy and effective actions which we can all take to minimise the risk of catching COVID and keep ourselves and others safe. Scarning Village Hall & Estate Trust takes a sensible, proportionate approach to Health and Safety which is key to ensuring that the Hall provides a safe and healthy place for people to use. During these challenging times the Trust has continued to work for the benefit of the local community and continues to make every effort to ensure that Scarning Village Hall, with its excellent facilities and attention to detail, is a safe and welcoming environment. This means that, once again, everyone has the opportunity to embrace and enjoy regular village activities.

Spring is on its way, evenings are getting lighter and we look forward to days filled with sunshine, laughter and exciting events including Village celebrations over a period of four days for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June - a once in a lifetime opportunity for everyone to enjoy.

Our new extended kitchen with dishwasher, microwave, oven and hob, a large fridge and serving hatch, together with small meeting room and spacious main hall makes this an ideal venue for informal gatherings and parties. With the added facility of Wi-Fi this now opens the doors for business meetings, seminars and other presentations, courses etc.

The Trustees are planning with the Playing Field Committee and Scarning Parish Council to work together to improve off road car parking. This will be a new and exciting development and we look forward to helping to make this project a reality sometime in the future.

The Trustees of Scarning Village Hall and Estate Trust

## **10 Scarning VC Primary School's report**

Over the last two years the staff and wider school community have risen admirably to the challenges presented by the pandemic. At the time of writing, school life is pretty much back

to normal. Essentially the experience for the children since September has been fairly untroubled by Covid, except of course when the children themselves have had had it, or when their teacher or the wider class team have been sick.

We have had peaks and troughs with this - arguably our most challenging time staffing wise occurred in the weeks before this Easter break. We look forward to more settled Summer Term as regards staff and pupil sickness.

The school roll is now 420 and we remain popular with an intake of 60 anticipated in September. This is effectively our capacity. Growth in the future is not anticipated.

We are very far from the time when legend has it the entire school could fit on to one coach. Indeed, one of our staff reckons this may have occurred as relatively recently as 30 years ago. Drop off and pick up times continue to prove problematic from a parking and congestion point of view. We have staggered slightly these parts of the day and hopefully this does have some impact.

The police have attended from time to time to re-inforce sensible parking practice, and we are in touch with them when we need to be.

Whilst the overall staff has grown - in keeping with growth in roll - we have seen very good staff retention. This is very useful in ensuring standards remain high, behaviour good and practice consistent.

The governing body has continued to provide invaluable support to the leadership of the school. They have been worried about low governor numbers, but happily, two new governors with much experience have recently been co-opted on.

Since I last wrote a report to you (2019) our Early Year Foundation Stage have grown to love life in their new, purpose built classrooms. It has provided them with a gentle start to school life, away from the relative hustle and bustle of the main school. We feel it offers a good half-way house between pre-school and the national curriculum that, for them, starts in Year 1.

I note in my last report to you in that we had made use of the Church for Christmas and Easter services. It is our intention that these return next academic year, with a Christingle for the younger children - an event to look forward to. Sports, arts and cultural activities have continued to take place throughout the year.

Highlights since my last report have included:

- The continuing success of the Children's University at Scarning.
  - 47 external sports events scheduled to have been completed by the end of the year
  - 'Inspire Days' based around a variety of themes e.g. 'Comedy' and 'The Jubilee'
  - Our re-vamped curriculum delivering a broad and balanced curriculum to the children with many exciting features e.g. Forest School for Reception, the Key Stage 2 Lecture programme
- The school has continued to enjoy great support from the Secker Trust. During the pandemic they supported us in many ways e.g. funding extra lap-tops for children who did not have

access. Finally, despite the trials and tribulations of recent times, it remains an absolute pleasure to lead the school, as well as to work within the welcoming and supportive community of Scarning.

Nick King, Headteacher

The meeting was closed at 7.20pm.